Chronology: see the handout

- China: Sui (581-618), Tang (618-907), Five Dynasties (907-960)
 - International Period (7 & 10 different musics)
 - Tang: culmination of Chinese court culture, respected
- Northern Song (960-1127), Southern Song (1127-1279), Yuan (1271-1368)
 - Democratization of music (Rise of secular culture)
 - Emergence of "Chinese-ness" (Vernacular cultures)
- Ming (1368-1644), Qing (1644-1911)
 - National period
 - Last golden era of the imperial tradition

- Korea: Unified Silla Period (669-936)
 - Cultural influences from Tang China
 - Distinction between hyangak (Korean music) and tangak (Chinese music)
- Goryeo (Koryŏ) Dynasty (936-1392)
 - Institutionalization of ceremonies from Silla period
 - Gift of court music instruments from China
- Joseon (or Chosŏn) Dynasty (1392-1910)
 - Adoption of Confucianism as National Ideology
 - Korean alphabet invented in 1443
 - Akhak Kwebŏm: First music treatise written in 1493
 - Reform and systemization of music; introduction of indigenous compositions to Korean court
 - Rise of indigenous secular (folk) music

- Japan: Nara Period (553-794)
 - First international period
 - Adopted Chinese social and intellectual order
 - Embraced Buddhism and Confucianism
 - Court music imported from China, Korea, India; played primarily by foreign musicians
- Heian Period (794-1185)
 - Chinese influences assimilated and modified
 - Heyday of Japanese court music and culture: gagaku
 - Native influence on imported music
- Kamakura Period (1185-1333)
 - Decline of international character of music
 - Beginning of native tradition
 - Decline of court
- Muromachi Period (1333-1615); Edo Period (1615-1868)
 - Beginning of shutdown from the West
 - Growth of native traditions
- Meiji Restoration (1868-1912): Imperial court restored