

Course Syllabus: A History of Modern Asia 1800-Present

History 5312: 001

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Course Objective: The objective of this course is to learn about the history of East Asia from 1500 to the present, with strong emphasis on the 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries. The nation-state focus will emphasize the histories of Japan, China, Korea, and Vietnam. This course will also focus on the cultural and social history as well as the political and economic developments of this vast region.

Required Readings

Modern East Asia: A Brief History by Conrad Schirokauer and Donald N. Clark 2nd edition. Cengage Press, ISBN # 978-0-618-92070-9

The Opium Wars: Drugs, Dreams, and the Making of Modern China by Julia Lovell, 1st edition. Harry Adams Press, ISBN # 978-1468311730

The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II by Iris Chang, Basic Books Reprint 2012, ISBN # 978-0465068364

Hungry Ghosts: Mao's Secret Famine by Jasper Becker, HenryHolt Press, ISBN #9780805056686

Course Requirements

There are a number of requirements for the successful completion of this course.

1. In the first week of class—or before---send me an email through the Sul Ross email server and let me know that you have read the syllabus and that you understand the requirements for the course and have obtained the books or are in the process of obtaining the books. You will also agree to maintain semi-regular contact with me, when I do not hear for a student in a number of weeks I cannot be expected to figure out what the problem is, it is up to you to maintain contact with me, I can only meet you half-way.
2. You are required to read the books, and write weekly summaries of the readings and submit those reviews through Blackboard. The reviews should be three pages per assignment, and provide a summary of the readings as well as an analysis of why it is important to the history of the Modern Asia.
3. Each assignment is worth 100 points; therefore, your total grades for the written weekly assignments is potentially 1,200 points. For each assignment; 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F.
4. At the end of the course, you will be required to write a ten page research paper on a topic of Modern Asian history (a topic that I must approve). The paper must be formatted according to the MLA handbook, properly cited (I prefer footnotes but endnotes are acceptable) and a proper bibliography. Potential topics could include a wide range of subjects—

5. The total number of points for the paper will be 800 points. 710-800=A; 620-709=B; 530-619=C; 440-529=D; 0-439=F.

At the end of the course, you will have a potential of 2000 points; 1,800-2000=A; 1,600-1799=B; 1,400-1,599=C; 1,200-1,399=D; 0-1,999=F.

Course Outline

Jan. 13—send me an email and let me know that you read and understand the syllabus as well as you having obtained the books or are in the process of obtaining the books.

Jan. 18—Chapters 1 and 2 in “Modern East Asia”

Jan. 25—Chapters 3 and 4 in “Modern East Asia”

Feb. 01—Chapters 5 and 6 in “Modern East Asia”

Feb. 08—Chapters 7 and 8 in “Modern East Asia”

Feb. 15—Chapters 9 and 10 in “Modern East Asia”

Feb. 22—Chapters 11 and 12 in “Modern East Asia”

Feb. 29—Chapters 13 and 14 in “Modern East Asia”

March 07—Chapters 15 and 16 in “Modern East Asia”

March 14—spring break, no assignment due

March 21—Chapters 17 and 18 in “Modern East Asia”

April 04—book review over “The Opium Wars” due

April 18—book review “The Rape of Nanking” due

April 25—book review “Hungry Ghosts: Mao’s Secret Famine” due

May 4—Final paper due

DIS TANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based

courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Marketability Skills

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.
Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.
Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.
Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.
Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.
Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.
Students can manage the absorption of data.