

## **Course Syllabus: History 5303: W01**

### **The History of Modern Asia**

**Fall 2025: Sul Ross State University-**

**Dr. Mark Saad Saka**

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**Office Hours: by arrangement**

### **Course Objectives:**

**The objectives of this course are to:**

- 1. Examine the history of modern East Asia from 1800 to the present, focusing primarily on China, Japan, and Korea.**

### **Required Texts:**

**There are five required texts for this class;**

- 1. the first is an online free resource (OER), A New Modern History of East Asia, and can be located at**

**<https://www.vr-elibrary.de/doi/book/10.14220/9783737007085>**

- 2. “The Japanese Empire: Grand Strategy from the Meiji Reforms to the Pacific War” by S.C.M. Paine, Cambridge University Press, 2017, ISBN #978-1107676169**
- 3. “Korea: A New History of North and South” by Victor Cha, Yale University Press, 2023, ISBN # 978-0300259810**
- 4. “Mao’s Great Famine: A History of China’s Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-1962,” by Frank Dikotter, Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2018, ISBN #978-1408886366**
- 5. “The Cultural revolution: A People’s History 1962-1976” by Frank Dikotter, Bloomsbury Press, 2017, ISBN # 978-1632864239**

### **Course Requirements and Grading Structure:**

1. Obtain the books, read the syllabus, and email me that you have completed both tasks and let me know if you have any questions or issues.
2. There are 32 reading and writing assignments. These are to be found under the on Blackboard. Each reading and writing assignment correlates with a chapter in one of the books. Read the chapter and write a three to four page answer and turn it in THROUGH BLACKBOARD. MLA style is required.
3. 90%-100%=A; 80-89%=B;70-79%=C; 60-69% =D; 0-59%=F.
4. This is an asynchronous course which means there are no formal class meetings nor are there specific dates for the completion of the assignments. If you look at the Assignments, all are due by December 5, 2025. I do this for convenience sake so that Blackboard does not set a date. However, please do not (obviously) wait for the last minute to turn in all of your assignments at once. Self pace yourself.
5. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any issues or problems that may develop.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 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skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.
- The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.
- The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

#### **Marketable Skills of a History Major**

- 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.
- 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.
- Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

### Course Policies:

Contacting the Instructor: The instructor's email is the preferred method of contact. [Msaka@sulross.edu](mailto:Msaka@sulross.edu). Please contact me only through the Sul-Ross email as I do not respond to private email such as yahoo, gmail, Hotmail, etc. This is for yours and my security.

I do, however, have a backup email, [mark.saka1@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.saka1@yahoo.com). This is a backup in the event of a malware attack or if for some other reason the system goes down. I rarely check it as I want you to only use my yahoo account for emergencies. I check my Sul Ross email regularly. Please stay in contact if you are ill or cannot make class for a legitimate reason.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Turning in work as original that was used in whole or par for another course and/or for another course and/or professor.
- Turning in another persons' work as one's own.
- Copying from professional works or internet sites without citations.
- Collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

### Classroom Climate of Respect:

### ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services, SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans Disability Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable

accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick at (830) 279—3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde Texas 78801. [Kbiddick@sulross.edu](mailto:Kbiddick@sulross.edu)

**Library Information:** The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through the SWTJC website. <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document delivery from the Alpine campus.

**SRSU Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based or distance education courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complain are located in the student handbook.