

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY
NORMAL, AL 35762**

COURSE SYLLABUS – HIS 305: Modern Asia
Spring 2023

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| Course Number | 305-01 |
| Course Title | Modern Asia |
| Call Number/Section | 12094 |
| Class Times | 11:00-11:50 AM MWF |
| Class Location | Drake Hall Conference Room |
| Prerequisites | None |
| Textbook | None |
| Instructor | Dr. Matthew Bowser |
| Office | Drake Hall 006 |
| Office Hours | MWF 7:30-8:00 AM, 10:00-11:00 AM, & 12:00-2:00 PM or by appointment |
| E-mail address | matthew.bowser@aamu.edu |
| Telephone number | 256-372-5351 |

AAMU Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP):
“Enhancing Students’ Critical Thinking Skills”
Critical Thinking Definition:

Critical thinking is analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information into logical conclusions.

I. Course Description

This course is a study of the interrelationship of the Western nations with the countries of Asia.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course are expected to demonstrate the ability to read and comprehend material at a college-level, recognize the diversity of human societies over time, and perform higher level thinking skills, including but not limited to drawing comparisons and contrasts between different societies, identifying change over time, and establishing cause and effect relations.

These competencies are assessed through the assignments described below which require students to:

1. Examine the ways that the struggle against Western imperialism shape the Asia (and the world) of today.
2. Understand the societies, cultures, and ideologies of modern Asia and how they were influenced by the process of achieving independence.
3. Learn critical thinking skills; recognize that past and present events are interpreted and learn how to critically evaluate different viewpoints on those events.
4. Construct a scholarly argument and defend it using evidence, both in written and oral form.
5. Express oneself clearly, articulately, and correctly in written and oral work.
6. Efficiently negotiate the demands of college-level reading and writing.

III. Class Format

This class is a regular, in-person course that uses a combination of lectures and class discussions to encourage critical-thinking and foster active learning through student-instructor and student-student interaction. Lecture and discussion will be supplemented by the assigned readings on Blackboard. The professor uses lecture, class discussions, flipped classroom techniques, primary-sources, multimedia clips, PowerPoints, YouTube videos, online Blackboard material, and audiovisual technologies as experimental learning tools. Student learning is evaluated through written assignments and participation.

- ALL COURSE MATERIALS (class announcements, materials like Powerpoints and readings, and the assignments) will be placed on the University's Blackboard. Students are responsible for learning Blackboard to gain access.
- Course grades will be posted on Blackboard in the Grade Center. The "Weighted Total" will provide a running total of your current grade in the class so far.
- I will keep track of student attendance throughout the semester. For financial aid purposes, students must attend at least 3 class sessions to qualify, and compliance will be recorded in GradeFirst. Students should contact Dawn Miles if they would like to view their GradeFirst accounts. Her office telephone number is 256-372-5494.

IV. Required Texts

There are no required textbooks to purchase for this course. All of the required readings will be posted to Blackboard.

V. Grade Determination & Policies

Grades for all assessments will be calculated as percentages (0-100%) and will contribute to the overall grade in the weighted/running total according to the weights in the table below. Assessments in this class will consist of four regular exams (no midterm exam), a final comprehensive exam, and a grade for attendance & participation. Grades will not be curved, and no exam score can be dropped. Grades will be posted to Blackboard under the Grade Center. Overall grades are based on the following scale:

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 94-100 A | 90-93 A- | 87-89 B+ | 84-86 B | 80-83 B- | 77-79 C+ |
| 74-76 C | 70-73 C- | 67-69 D+ | 64-66 D | 60-63 D- | >59 F |

Overall Grade & Weights:

| Assignment | Weight |
|------------------|--------|
| Discussion Board | 30% |

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| Two Response Papers | 40% (20% each) |
| Attendance & Participation | 40% |

Discussion Board (30%): In most weeks, students will complete a discussion board post (for a total of 8 posts). For each post, students will respond to discussion prompts in no less than two paragraphs (roughly 400-500 words), critically analyzing the assigned readings for that week and exploring the readings' connections with the course material covered that week. Assigned readings and discussion posts are due Thursday nights by 11:59 PM CT for each week they are assigned.

Two Response Papers (40%): During the course of the semester, there will be TWO (2) response papers that correspond to the two halves of the course. The first will be due in Week 8 on Thursday, March 2 at 11:59 PM CT and the second will be due in Week 15 on Thursday, April 20 at 11:59 PM CT. Response papers will be five double-spaced pages that address the process of anti-colonialism (first paper) or decolonization (second paper) in a region of your choice, answering particular prompts that demonstrate mastery of the region. Therefore, the response papers will not only test your knowledge of the assigned readings, but also your comprehension of the course materials and lectures as a whole.

Attendance & Participation (40%): Attendance is mandatory, but each student will have a total of THREE absences available WITHOUT an excuse or a penalty to their grade. Please use these three absences for sickness, doctor's appointments, mental-health days, social life, etc.; they are yours to use and there's no need to send me an e-mail to let me know. Any more than these three free days, and students must submit authentic documentation from a lawful medical, professional, or school authority in order to receive an excused absence determined by the professor. Each additional unexcused absence beyond three will lower your participation grade by 5%. The other half of this grade is for class discussion. Discussion sections will feature heavily in this course. This participation half of the grade will be determined by your level of engagement with the course materials (for example, if you speak well and substantively, you will get an "A"; if you don't speak much or are shy in public settings, make sure your discussion posts are spectacular and demonstrate a critical engagement with the readings and you can still get an "A"; if you speak little and your discussion board contributions are passable, you will get a "B"; total or partial disengagement is what will merit a "C" or below). A student who misses class should not expect to receive lecture notes from the professor. Only students enrolled in the course may attend the lectures and earn grades for exams and course work. Students that do not sign the sign-in sheet in-class during class-time will be marked absent. Students more than 5 minutes late will be marked absent.

VI. Academic Misconduct

Students who cheat or plagiarize on an exam or assignment will earn a score of 0 (F) for that course requirement. The professor reserves the right to report the incident to the proper administrative authorities for further disciplinary action.

The current AAMU Undergraduate Bulletin reads that "All students in attendance at AAMU are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. All acts of dishonesty in any academic work constitute academic misconduct. This includes but is not limited to the following: 1. Cheating – using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. 2. Plagiarism –

representing the words, ideas, or data of another as one's own in any academic exercise. This includes plagiarism of works taken from the internet. 3. Fabrication – unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. 4. Aiding and abetting academic dishonesty – intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.” Cited from AAMU Undergraduate Bulletin Pages 33-34.

VII. University Policies

Disability Statement

The University provides environmental and programmatic access for persons documented with disabilities as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student who desires information or assistance in arranging needed services for a disabling condition should contact Ms. Sanoyia Williams, Director of Special Students Services in Carver Complex South, First Floor. Her telephone number is (256) 372-4263.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As stated in the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, “An “I” grade is intended to be only an interim course mark. It is to be used only if a student has satisfactorily (hereby defined as a C average or better) completed at least 75% of the course requirements, and there is an excusable and acceptable reason for his/her not having completed all requirements prior to grade reporting time.” Therefore, an “I” cannot be given for failing or poor work. It is therefore the student's responsibility to drop the class if they feel they cannot make a passing grade in the course prior to the drop/add deadline.

Classroom Code of Conduct

Students are expected and required to abide by the Classroom Code of Conduct. Individual breaches of codes of conduct or dress codes will be dealt with by the instructor, on a case-by-case basis, based on the severity of the infraction. Punishment can range from being marked absent for that day to being dismissed from the class. Severe or repeated infractions may be turned over to the appropriate body for judiciary action.

General Decorum

1. Students must be able to present their ID cards for inspection. It is recommended that the card be visibly displayed, whether clipped to a waistband or breast pocket or worn on a lanyard.
2. Students must attend class regularly, missing no more than the allowed number of absences:
 - a. Absent 1 hour for a 1 credit hour course
 - b. Absent 2 hours for a 2 credit hour course
 - c. Absent 3 hours for a 3 credit hour course
 - d. Absent 4 hours for a 4 credit hour course
3. Students whose absences exceed the above will receive a reduction in their final course averages as determined by the faculty member. Exceptions to this policy on point reduction may be granted by the faculty upon presentation of documentation from the Vice President of Academic Affairs that an official excuse has been granted for the student's absence. Conditions warranting such an approval include cases involving death in the family, illness of the student or his/her immediate family members or for military duty. It is the student's responsibility to provide legitimate, official documentation of excused absences to the instructor(s) of the courses involved. Other reasons for absences not covered here must be cleared with the appropriate Dean of the College.
 - a. - Undergraduate Catalog, p. 57.
4. Students must be on time to class and must remain until dismissed.

5. Students must prepare for each class meeting by reading assignments and completing any required written work. It is thus imperative that students purchase their books in a timely manner (i.e., within the first two weeks of the semester).
6. Students must meet all deadlines, including those established by the instructor and those set by the University.
7. Students must never have electronic devices such as cell phones, PDAs, iPods, or similar items in use during class time unless recommended or approved by the instructor.
8. Students are expected to act with courtesy and respect to instructors, guests, staff members, and fellow classmates and may not disrupt a classroom or a faculty member's conduct of a class. For example, students should refrain from talking during class while the instructor or another student "has the floor." Failure to behave with proper courtesy and respect could result in disciplinary action. A student who disrupts a classroom may be removed or ejected from the class or classroom.
9. Students must not come to class under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom, lecture hall, or lab. Cited from AAMU Student Handbook Pages 23-24.
11. Of course, cheating in any form is not allowed.

Professional Decorum

Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally in the classroom at all times. Students who disrupt the class, chat, text, surf internet, sleep, read the newspaper, watch films or listen to music in class will be removed from the class and not return until he/she has met with the professor and obtained his approval. The professor reserves THE RIGHT NOT TO ALLOW disruptive students return to class.

Student Dress Code

1. Pajamas, sleep wear and inappropriate exercising clothes (i.e., P.E. uniforms, bicycle shorts, under armor, uncovered spandex) are not allowed in the classroom. Shirts/tops must be worn at all times. Sweatpants are allowed when worn with appropriate undergarments.
2. All students must wear shoes, boots, or other types of footwear made for outside wear: bedroom shoes/slippers, shower shoes, or similar footwear are not allowed in the classroom.
3. Dress and grooming will not disrupt the teaching/learning process or cause undue attention to an individual student.
4. Hats, hoods, caps, stocking caps, wave caps, and other head coverings are not to be worn in the classroom. Head coverings designed for religious, cultural, or medical/illness purposes are allowed.
5. Attire must not display language and/or images which are derogatory, profane, or sexually explicit, or abusive, or which "advertise" drugs or alcohol.
6. Dress must be modest and appropriate for a professional or serious setting; no midriff tops, halter tops, sports bras, strapless tops or dresses, camisole tops with spaghetti straps, see-through blouses or shirts, or extremely short or revealing shorts or skirts will be allowed in the classroom. If a student chooses to wear a midriff top, halter top, sports bra, camisole with spaghetti straps, or a tank top or sundress with straps less than 2 inches wide (male or female), the student must wear a shirt or jacket over it.
7. Clothing which allows undergarments to be seen is not permitted. No undergarments should be visible at any time.
8. It is assumed that students will practice personal cleanliness. Additionally, clothing should not carry excessive odors, i.e., tobacco, body sprays, or cologne. Cited from AAMU Student Handbook Page 25.

Phones & Electronic Devices

- Cell phone use is NOT allowed in class. NO WARNINGS OR EXCEPTIONS.
- NO PICTURES of the Powerpoint slides are allowed. Such actions distract other students from learning and the professor reserves the right to remove students from class who use their phones. In any case, the Powerpoints will be posted to Blackboard.
- Students may use laptop computers for note taking purposes BUT ARE NOT allowed to record lectures without permission from the Disability Office and professor.

VIII. Tutorial Assistance

Tutorial assistance for undergraduate courses can be obtained from the Tutorial Assistance Network (TAN), a subsidiary of the Office of Academic Support Services. TAN is located in Council Hall. The telephone number is 256-372-5487.

IX. Communication

I encourage students to contact me at any time by email and/or by attending office hours. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me and we can set up an appointment to talk! Please check Canvas **and your syllabus** first before contacting me about scheduling, reading assignments, or other course-related questions since much of that information is already available to you. I make every effort to respond promptly to questions, but please allow up to 24 hours for a response (or if sent after 3 PM on a Friday, until Monday).

X. Course Outline

Please note that the professor reserves the right to revise the course calendar, syllabus, assignment, and exam dates. The professor will announce such changes in class and on Blackboard. It is a student's responsibility to keep themselves informed of modifications made by the professor to the course reading schedule and exam and assignment dates. All chapter and page numbers are from the textbook, Bentley, et. al. *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History* 4th ed.

| Dates | Topics | Assignments |
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| Week 1 Monday, 1/9 Wednesday, 1/11 Friday, 1/13 | Introduction/Syllabus The Asian World-System Informal Imperialism, Part 1 | No reading/response |
| Week 2 Monday, 1/16 Wednesday, 1/18 Friday, 1/20 | MLK Day, NO CLASS Informal Imperialism, Part 2 Discussion on Informal Imperialism | <u>Reading:</u> Streets-Salter and Getz/Convention of Balta Liman <u>Response:</u> Discussion Post 1 |
| Week 3 Monday, 1/23 Wednesday, 1/25 Friday, 1/27 | World Domination Scientific Racism Discussion on Anti-Westernism in Asia | <u>Reading:</u> Aydin <u>Response:</u> Discussion Post 2 |
| Week 4 Monday, 1/30 | Anti-Colonialism in the Middle East, Part 1 | <u>Reading:</u> Manela |

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| Wednesday, 2/1 Friday, 2/3 | Anti-Colonialism in the Middle East, Part 2 Discussion on the Egyptian Revolution | <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 3 |
| Week 5 Monday, 2/6 Wednesday, 2/8 Friday, 2/10 | Anti-Colonialism in South Asia, Part 1 Anti-Colonialism in South Asia, Part 2 Discussion on Gandhian Nationalism | <u>Reading</u> : Bose & Jalal <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 4 |
| Week 6 Monday, 2/13 Wednesday, 2/15 Friday, 2/17 | Anti-Colonialism in Southeast Asia, Part 1 Anti-Colonialism in Southeast Asia, Part 2 TBD | No reading/response |
| Week 7 Monday, 2/20 Wednesday, 2/22 Friday, 2/24 | Anti-Colonialism in East Asia, Part 1 Anti-Colonialism in East Asia, Part 2 Discussion on Japanese Korea | <u>Reading</u> : Kim <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 5 |
| Week 8 Monday, 2/27 Wednesday, 3/1 Friday, 3/3 | World War II in Asia, Part 1 World War II in Asia, Part 2 Discussion on the Asia-Pacific War | <u>Reading</u> : Ba Maw <u>Response</u> : Response Paper 1 |
| Week 9 Monday, 3/6 Wednesday, 3/8 Friday, 3/10 | Decolonization in South Asia Discussion on Sidhwa TBD | <u>Reading</u> : Sidhwa <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 6 |
| Week 10 Monday, 3/13 Wednesday, 3/15 Friday, 3/17 | Spring Break, NO CLASS Spring Break, NO CLASS Spring Break, NO CLASS | No reading/response |
| Week 11 Monday, 3/20 Wednesday, 3/22 Friday, 3/24 | TBD Decolonization in East Asia Discussion on Maoism | <u>Reading</u> : Brown <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 7 |
| Week 12 Monday, 3/27 Wednesday, 3/29 Friday, 3/31 | Decolonization in Southeast Asia, Part 1 Decolonization in Southeast Asia, Part 2 Discussion on “Containment” | <u>Reading</u> : Bevins/Ho Chi Minh <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 8 |
| Week 13 Monday, 4/3 Wednesday, 4/5 Friday, 4/7 | Decolonization in the Middle East, Part 1 Decolonization in the Middle East, Part 2 Discussion on the Iranian Revolution | <u>Reading</u> : Kinzer <u>Response</u> : Discussion Post 9 |

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| Week 14 Monday, 4/10 Wednesday, 4/12 Friday, 4/14 | Israel and Palestine <i>Waltz with Bashir</i> , Part 1 <i>Waltz with Bashir</i> , Part 2 | No reading/response |
| Week 15 Monday, 4/17 Wednesday, 4/19 Friday, 4/21 | Asia and the World in the 21 st Century TBD TBD | <u>Response</u> : Response Paper 2 |
| Week 16 Monday, 4/24 Wednesday, 4/26 Friday, 4/28 | NO CLASS, Finals Period | No reading No reading No reading |