

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 253

Asian Civilization I

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys the civilizations of Asia from their origins to the present. Part I of II.

Upon completing HIS-253 (Asia to ca.1500 c.e.), the student will have gained valuable insight into the socio-economic, cultural, political, and historical events instrumental in the formation of this important and most populous region of the world. Given the scope and diversity of the subject, "Asian Civilization," the focus of HIS-253, will be primarily on China and Japan. Lesser emphasis will be given to Korea, Vietnam, and peripheral regions.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Murphey, Rhoads. East Asia: A New History. Boston, Mass.: Longman Press, 5th ed., 2010.
ISBN: 978-0-205-69522-5

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Recognize the origins of Asian civilizations especially as concerns China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.
- Trace the origins of Buddhism from its roots in India eastward to China and beyond.
- Compare and contrast the political and social philosophies of various Chinese Dynasties. and evaluate their impact.
- Examine the social, political, economic, religious, and military institutions of the early dynasties of China understanding their influence "at home" and beyond China's borders.
- Form an appreciation for the various Asian art forms which are important to their respective early civilizations.
- Trace the development of Japan from antiquity to its feudal period.
- Be familiar with the events involved with the formation of Korea and Vietnam; especially relative to these countries' relationships with China.
- Understand the importance of intrusion by "barbarian" peoples, especially as viewed by China and Japan..
- Comprehend and appreciate the unique characteristics and distinct qualities of Asian civilization.

Topical Description

1	Introduction to East Asia
2	"Earliest China"
3	Chou/Zhou Dynasty China
4	The Beginnings of Empire Ch'in/Qin Dynasty
5	HAN Dynasty
6	BUDDHISM
7	TANG Dynasty
8	SONG & YAUN Dynasties
9	MING Dynasty
10	Culture and Chinese Art
11	Early Japan
12	Medieval Japan
13	Early Korea
14	"Pre-modern" Vietnam

Notes to Instructors

None

