



SYLLABUS

RADOW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (RCHSS)

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

ASIA 3001-01: UNDERSTANDING ASIA

FALL 2023

Course Information

Fall 2023, full-term

Class meeting time: 2:00pm – 3:15pm T/R, Kennesaw Hall Room 1103

CRN and Section number: 87156, ASIA 3001-01

The syllabus and teaching materials are posted in D2L/Content.

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. May Hongmei Gao, SAUPO Chair, Professor of Communication & Asian Studies

Email: mgao@kennesaw.edu

Office Location: SO-5084

Office phone: 770-598-7009

Office Hours: T/R 12:30pm-1:45pm and by appointment

Preferred method of communication: Email, GroupMe (KSU- Asian Studies)

Please join **KSU-Asian Studies GroupMe** to get news and events about the Asian Studies Program.

https://groupme.com/join_group/83877178/V5t7hQyl

Course Description

This course introduces students to the theoretical frameworks for analyzing cultural, political, and economic realities in Asia. Students explore critical issues and key debates in the field of Asian Studies. With an interdisciplinary approach, students discuss traditional and recent interpretations of the meanings, methods, and scopes of Asian Studies to understand Asia's ever-changing contexts. This is a required course for Asian Studies majors and minors. This syllabus serves as a plan and general outline for the course. I reserve the right to make necessary schedule changes or alter aspects of the assignment parameters.

Course Communication: It is my goal to respond to your emails within 2-3 business days of their receipt. If you would like to talk with me in person, please visit me during my office hours or schedule an appointment. Please note that KSU provides all KSU students with an official email account. As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the email account you should use to communicate with your instructor and other university officials.

Course Format: This course consists of lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, group activities, and special presentations. A total of 200 points is designated for classroom participation. You will be asked to initial your attendance at each class time.

Course Materials

Required Texts organized in four units:

All reading and video materials are provided for free at D2L/Content. See details also at Course Schedule page of this syllabus. In fall 2022, KSU Asian Studies Faculty Team won a “Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG)” grant from the University System of Georgia, which enabled us to create a free package of learning materials for you to enjoy. The entire package is divided into four units. Therefore, the course assignments contain four exams, four posts and four groups of research topics. Please see the list of academic articles/book chapters in PDF below. Additional information links and videos are show at course schedules and in “ASIA3001 Course Materials” GoogleDoc.

Unit #1: Academic and Career Opportunities in Asian Studies

Gao, H. and Womack, D. F. (2007) "Approaching Chinese Culture: Strategies American Expatriates Adopt for Learning Chinese Culture," *Global Business Languages*: Vol. 12 Article 6. Available at:

<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/gbl/vol12/iss1/6/>

Unit #2: Asian Histories, Philosophies, Religions, and Cultures

Bentley, J. (1999). Asia in World History. *Education About Asia*. V. 4. N. 1. Available at:

[Asia in World History](#)

Lubeck, E. B. (2002). Breaking Free: Reflections on Stereotypes in South Asian History. *Education About Asia*. V. 07:2. Available at: <https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/breaking-free-reflections-on-stereotypes-in-south-asian-history-2/>

Nye, J. & Kim, Y. (2019). Soft power and the Korean Wave. in Kim, Y (Ed.) *South Korean Popular Culture and North Korea*. London. UK: Routledge.

<https://kennesaw.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2718474/viewContent/45376333/View>

Fuller, J. (2010). Hinduism: Ancient or Modern. *Education About Asia*. V. 15:2

<https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/teaching-modern-hinduism/>

Unit #3: Doing Business with Asia

Gao, H. M. (2013). Culture Determines Business Models: Analyzing Home Depot’s Failure Case in China for International Retailers from a Communication Perspective. *Thunderbird International Business Review*. pp. 173-191. Vol. 55, No. 2. (Available for free at D2L)

Unit #4: Asian Studies Theoretical Frameworks: Orientalism, Modernity, Globalization

Said, E. *Orientalism*. London, UK: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd.

Available at: https://sites.evergreen.edu/politicalshakespeares/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2014/12/Said_full.pdf

Konig, M. (2000). Religion and the Nation-State in South Korea: A case of changing interpretations of modernity in a global context. *Social Compass*. 47(4). Pp. 551-570.

Available at D2L.

Gao, M. H. (2018). Chapter 17: Globalization 5.0 Led by China: Powered by Positive Frames for BRI. In Zhang, W., Alon, I., and Lattermann, C. (eds.), *China's Belt and Road Initiative: Changing the Rules of Globalization*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave MacMillan. pp. 321-335.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325342944_China%27s_Belt_and_Road_Initiative_Changing_the_Rules_of_Globalization#page=331

Learning Outcomes

Through this course, students can:

1. Recognize how culture affects personal and social experiences and values in a global context;
2. Critically evaluate and apply major themes, theories, and concepts;
3. Critically evaluate different points of view;
4. Summarize and paraphrase scholarly and literary texts;
5. Identify the audience, intent, value, and context of informational source;
6. Develop an understanding of Asian cultures and economies;
7. Develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes for problem solving and conflict resolution in Asian contexts;
8. Conduct interdisciplinary research.

Classroom Etiquette

1. Please read course materials prior to class.
2. Attend class on a regular basis and participate in class discussions.
3. During class discussions, students will handle the discussions with integrity and respect for classmates and instructor, especially when dealing with sensitive topics.
4. If you arrive late or leave class early, please let the professor know ahead of time via email or GroupMe.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Total 1,000 points)

GRADING: Grades will be determined by student performance in the following areas:

1-Class Participation	200 points
2-Four Exams (75 points each)	300 points
3-Three Online Postings (75 points each)	225 points
4- " <i>Understanding Asia</i> " Research Project (275 points total)	
Individual Research Paper in APA style (8-10 pages)	200 points
Individual or Group Research presentation with PPT	75 points
Total (100%)	1000 points

Final grades will be based on the total number of points earned in the course. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following standard curve:

A= 90% and up, 900-1000; B= 80% and up, 800-899

C= 70% and up, 700-799; D= 60% and up, 600-699; F= 59%, 599 and below

Grading Standards: Students are expected to demonstrate professionalism in the following areas:

1. Course Assignments: All class assignments submitted for grading should be neatly typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font, Times New Roman, in APA style. No emailed or handwritten work will be accepted unless there is an unusual circumstance. Late work will suffer deducted points.
2. Points of deduction for written work: All written work will be graded based on argument of relevance (5 points per error), organizational creativity, writing skill (grammar, spelling and sentence structure, 3 points per error), and APA style compliance. I will take 5 points deduction if your paper is not in APA style, and I will take 1-3 points deduction in each spelling, grammatical or theoretical error respectively).

Four categories of assignments:

1. Participation (200 points): Your class participation is a vital part of the college learning experience. Your participation grade will be reflected by your initials at course roster at each class period.

2. Four exams (Each exam for 75 points, 300 points total): There are four online exams with multiple choice questions, each covering one unit for this course. Students must take the exams when they are scheduled online at D2L/Quizzes, except with official documents. Study guides for the exams will be provided on D2L.

3. Asian Studies Online Postings (Each posting for 75 points, 3 DTs, 225 points total, APA style short essays): Your participation at the D2L discussion board is required. For each Discussion Topic (DT), you need to post one original 300+ words short essay, and then respond to THREE other students' essay postings. Each of such response needs to have 50+ words. The original posting essays need to be in APA style, with citations from the course materials and your research. An APA style reference list is needed at the bottom for each of your post. Grades are calculated based on essay quality and posting punctuality. Please post within the deadlines to avoid deduction in grades. You also need to respond to three other students posts within 2-3 days of these deadlines.

DT#1: How we can benefit from the academic and career opportunities in Asian Studies and Asia?

DT#2: Discuss top five points from an Asian philosophy or religion (Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, etc.)

DT#3: What I have learned from this course (lectures, research, guest speakers, discussions, materials, etc.)

4. "Understanding Asia" Research Project (275 points)

4A: Individual Research Paper (200 points total):

You can select the topic of your paper based on your interest from a list of choices, categorized in four units. The GoogleDoc that contains these choices is shared with you in class and at D2L. Please use APA style to format your individual research paper: 8-10 pages, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12pt. I will teach you Literature Review, Research Method, and APA style.

4B: Individual or Group Research Presentation with PPT (75 points total): (1-4 students per group)

After you complete your individual papers for "Understanding Asia" research, you are invited to share your research with the whole class with a PowerPoint presentation. Depending on your topic area, you will connect with classmates who are doing similar research in each of the four units. You can decide to make an individual or group presentation. The creation of a professional PowerPoint (PPT) is required. I will teach you PPT presentation skills. At the end of the semester, each student will make a 5-6 minutes presentation, with 5-6 slides PowerPoint as the visual aid.

Sample Paper Titles:

- *Understanding Asia: Opportunities as a KSU Asian Studies Major/Minor (Unit #1)*
- *Understanding Asia: Salient Points I learned about Confucianism (Unit #2)*
- *Understanding Asia: Salient Points I learned about Taoism (Unit #2)*
- *Understanding Asia: The Impact of Hinduism on Indian Society (Unit #2)*
- *Understanding Asia: The Current Trends of K-Pop (Unit #2)*
- *Understanding Asia: The Impact of Shintoism on Japanese Business Culture (Unit #3)*
- *Understanding Asia: What is RCEP? (Unit #3)*
- *Understanding Asia: South Asia in Globalization? (Unit #4)*

Extra credit opportunities will be announced at D2L or in class throughout the semester.

Makeup Policy: Students are allowed to fulfill course assignments only on the day these assignments are due. Failure to do so equals a zero for that assignment. Only students who have documented and approved excuses that are given to me in a timely manner will be allowed to make up assignments.

Turning in Assignments: You should turn in papers and assignments at D2L in the designated time frame based on the syllabus. Exceptions can be made with official documents such as doctor's note.

Late Assignment Policy: You should turn in papers and assignments at D2L in the designated time frame based on the syllabus. Exceptions can be made with official documents such as doctor's note. Late work will suffer from loss of points.

Missed Exam Policy: You should take the exams in the designated time frame based on the syllabus. Exceptions can be made with official documents such as doctor's note.

Course Policies

Enrollment Status: Students are solely responsible for their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. You are responsible for determining your enrollment status in all classes to protect your financial aid monies. Not attending a class for which you are registered is not the same as withdrawing from the course. You must complete an online withdrawal to be removed from a course. If you stop attending class but do not complete an online withdrawal BEFORE the last day to drop without academic penalty, you will receive a grade of WF, which counts as an F in calculating your grade point average and counts as a completed course for determining your financial aid award. **Reminder: The last day to withdraw from this class in Fall 2023 without academic penalty is October 10th (Tuesday) for 15-week classes.**

Incomplete Grade Policy: Incomplete grades will be granted only in rare circumstances and require the approval of the instructor. Students who have not completed all the requirements prior to the last day of class will need to talk with the instructor about how this will be rectified. Please read more about grading policies, including the official Incomplete policy, in the KSU Catalog, here: [KSU Catalog Policy on Grading](#)

Communication with Instructor Policy: The University provides all KSU students with an official email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu." As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

Notetaking/Intellectual Property: Lectures provided in this course are property of the instructor of record and Kennesaw State University. Lectures may not be electronically recorded without my prior permission (and/or that of any guest speaker). No teaching materials provided, including class notes, may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the author. Unless I state otherwise in class, please do not take pictures of my PowerPoint slides, Prezis, or other visual aids. That's not good notetaking and it infringes on intellectual property rights.

In Case of Emergency, University Closings, Weather/Health-Related Updates

If you haven't already done so, please make sure your primary phone and email addresses are updated and registered in Owl Express so you will receive notifications of emergencies and weather situations via KSU Alert. You can also check Kennesaw.edu for weather-related closings and cancellations.

Department or College Policies

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

This policy is strictly enforced. The instructor reserves the right to randomly select any paper and/or assignment that is turned in for a grade for plagiarism review. If a student is found in violation of academic dishonesty, then the student will be subject to the enforcement policies and procedures as outlined by the University ([ksu-codes-of-conduct.pdf \(kennesaw.edu\)](#)). Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically receive a "0" for the assignment and the infraction may be forwarded to the Department of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity for review, possible additional sanctions, and placement in your academic file. The instructor has the right to fail students for the course based on the severity of the offense. Any student found to have copied another student's or person's work will be treated as a plagiarist, and all students involved will face the possibility of punishment. Know that the faculty takes academic dishonesty very seriously. If a student feels compelled or pushed to commit an infraction or is unsure of an assignment, please seek immediate help from the instructor.

All papers will be submitted through D2L, which incorporates “Turn It In” plagiarism analysis; in addition, AI analysis tools or checkers may be used. Because research, writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by you (not based on writing by another person or entity). Your content should be your original work, synthesizing your research and arriving at your own conclusions. Improper use of tools such as AI will typically result in grade penalties.

Institutional Policies

Federal, BOR, & KSU Required Syllabus Policies

[For the latest updates from the university on the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit coronavirus.kennesaw.edu.](https://coronavirus.kennesaw.edu)

Course Delivery

KSU may shift the method of course delivery at any time during the semester in compliance with University System of Georgia health and safety guidelines. In this case, alternate teaching modalities that may be adopted include hyflex, hybrid, synchronous online, or asynchronous online instruction.

COVID-19 illness

If you are feeling ill, please stay home and contact your health professional. In addition, please email your instructor to say you are missing class due to illness. Signs of COVID-19 illness include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cough
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell

COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool in “Protecting the Nest.” If you have not already, you are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated immediately to advance the health and safety of our campus community. As an enrolled KSU student, you are eligible to receive the vaccine on campus. Please call (470) 578-6644 to schedule your vaccination appointment or you may walk into one of our student health clinics. For more information regarding COVID-19 (including testing, vaccines, extended illness procedures and accommodations), see KSU’s official [Covid-19 website](#).

Face Coverings: Based on guidance from the University System of Georgia (USG), all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear a face covering while inside campus facilities. Unvaccinated individuals are also strongly encouraged to continue to socially distance while inside campus facilities, when possible.

KSU Student Resources

This link contains information on help and resources available to students: [KSU Student Syllabus Resources](#)

ASIA3001 Course Schedule

Fall 2023 Understanding Asia; ASIA3001-01; 2:00pm-3:15pm T/R, KH1003

1-ASIA3001 GoogleDoc Learning Materials: (PDFs + Links + Videos)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G03oyOL3nOWstgPBa9F1P-TR0nC3dvL-XRIInjhgnqDs/edit?usp=sharing>

2-ASIA3001 GoogleDoc for “Understanding Asia” Research Sign Up

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n8hShpEYQd3Kon7fbMvXZFBqWVDRUhfLXmwYQA06fhk/edit?usp=sharing>

	COURSE CONTENT		ASSIGNMENTS & RESEARCH
	Unit #1: Academic and Career Opportunities in Asian Studies & Asia		
08/15	Course introduction, Requirements, Self-introductions Videos on Asian Studies Academic and Career Opportunities in Asian Studies: BA in Asian Studies new Curriculum; BA-MBA Double Owl Pathway; Asian languages (CHIN, KOR, JAPN); ASIA courses; Asian Studies Minor; SAUPO: largest Asia business conference in USA: Internships & Jobs Golden Opportunities for KSU Asian Studies Majors https://youtu.be/OS0u_y4up7g Hiring KSU Asian Studies Interns for Success https://youtu.be/6uR2UaJGMrE	08/17	Research Meeting Sign up for “Understanding Asia” Research Project! At the 2-ASIA3001 GoogleDoc, please place your name beside ONE topic of your choice, in one of the four units.
08/22	Travel to Asia: Passport, Visas, Flights, Hotels, Tours, Safety, Money Gao and Womack (2007): “Approaching Chinese Culture” PDF How to Create Professional PowerPoints (PPT)? Please bring your laptops to class and learn PPT skills.	08/24	Watch video: (1-hour) Episode 2: The Story of India , a Documentary by BBC: (Origin of Buddhism & Non-violence) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9c7gYcBE8o
08/29	Literature Review + Research Method + Writing a Research Paper in APA Style How to write a research paper? What is “Literature Review”? How do write a paper in APA style?	08/31	DT #1: Academic and Career Opportunities in Asian Studies
	Unit #2: Asian Histories, Philosophies, Religions & Cultures		
09/05	Asian Philosophies & Religions (Part I): Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism The Life and Idea of Confucius: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Confucius The Three Pillars: Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism: https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/chinese-religions-and-philosophies/	09/07	Watch video (31 minute) Taoism Yin Yang concept: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TSEnoAa39s
09/12	Guest Speaker: Alex Gregory, former President & CEO, YKK Corporation of America	09/14	Online Exam for Unit #1 Opportunities in Asian Studies
09/19	Asian Philosophies & Religions (Part II): Shintoism, Hinduism Fuller (2010). Hinduism: Ancient or Modern https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/teaching-modern-hinduism/ Shintoism: https://www.worldhistory.org/Shinto/	09/21	Watch Movie: (2-hour) Confucius the Movie: Chinese with English Subtitles: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM5BiR7PeHA
09/26	Histories of Asia Asia in World History: https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/asia-in-world-history-BENTLEY.pdf Stereotypes in South Asian History https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/breaking-free-reflections-on-stereotypes-in-south-asian-history-2/	09/28	Video: Chinese History (25-minute) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz_uONQBK0g Bollywood Documentary (1-hour) https://youtu.be/0Sos85PrNuo
10/03	Asian Popular Cultures and Entertainment Industries J-Pop, K-Pop (Korean Wave), Mando Pop, Kunfu Movies, Bollywood Nye and Kim. (2019). Soft Power and the Korean Wave. https://kennesaw.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2718474/viewContent/45376333/View	10/05	DT#2: Discuss top five points from an Asian philosophy or religion. (Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, etc.)
	Unit #3: Doing Business with Asia		
10/10	Online Exam for Unit #2	10/12	Gao. (2013). Culture Determines Business Models Why Home Depot Failed in China? CNBC interview with Dr. May Gao https://youtu.be/d7OxeBwWXvY

10/17	Relationships among Asian countries and Peoples How do Chinese and Japanese view each other? https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2016/09/13/hostile-neighbors-china-vs-japan/ Economies in Asia https://www.britannica.com/place/Asia/Economy Gao, H. (2013). Culture determines business models (Available at D2L/Content)	10/20	To attend Oct. 20, 2023 (10am to 4:30pm) in SO-Auditorium Asian Studies Internship Seminar and watch free GOZE movie, in Japanese with English subtitles
	Unit #4: Asian Studies Theoretical Frameworks		
10/24	Orientalism, Post-colonialism, Modernity Said. (1978). Orientalism. PDF Konig. (2000). Religion and the Nation-State in South Korea, PDF	10/26	Online Exam for Unit #3
10/31	Gao. (2018). Chapter 17: Globalization 5.0 Led by China (China's BRI) PDF China's Belt and Road Initiative: (Globalization 5.0?) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325342944_China%27s_Belt_and_Road_Initiative_Changing_the_Rules_of_Globalization#page=331 Course catch up, Research Paper Q&A Q&A about your upcoming Research Presentations with PPTs Based on your research, each student should create a PowerPoint (PPT) with about 5-6 slides, as visual aid for a 5-6-minute informative presentation in class on Nov. 7, 9, 14, or 16.	11/02	Watch Videos: Edward Said and "Orientalism" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfeAxw502Hs "Asian American" not "Oriental" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZJUgv_3IMk What is "Post-Colonialism?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c99SbGYKrGw
11/07	Presentations for topics in Unit #1	11/09	Presentations for topics in Unit #2
11/14	Presentations for topics in Unit #3	11/16	Presentations for topics in Unit #4
11/21	<i>Fall Break at KSU, no classes!</i>	11/23	<i>Fall Break at KSU, no classes!</i>
11/28	Course Review, Q&A Please bring your laptops for the course evaluation. Understanding Asia Paper due at 11:30pm Sun 12/03 at D2L Assignments	11/30	DT#3: What I have learned from this course (lectures, materials, videos, guest speakers, research, presentations, extra credits, etc.)
12/05	Online Exam for Unit #4 No in-person class on 12/05		

DT: "Discussion Topics" for online posting (75 points each, for a total of three topics.)

Note: Some details of the course agenda might change slightly based on the progress of the course.