

# Syllabus

**Course Code:** HIST 225

**Title:** History of Modern Asia

**Institute:** Business and Social Science

**Department:** History

**Course Description:** The course is an introduction to Asian civilizations from the 18th century to the present. Though the focus will be on China, Japan, and Korea, the cultures of India and Southeast Asia may also be included. In the modern period a central feature of world civilization has been the interaction between Asia and the rest of the world. The course will emphasize those interactions, highlighting the era of imperialism, conflicts such as those in Korea and Vietnam, revolution and independence throughout Asia and political developments after World War II, and corresponding social and cultural change.

**Prerequisites:** READ 095 and ENGL 095 or satisfactory completion of the College's foundational studies requirement in reading and writing.

**Corequisites:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Credits:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab/Studio Hours:** 0

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**Required Textbook/Materials:** See the bookstore for the most current information.

**Additional Time Requirements:** For information on Brookdale's policy on credit hour requirements and outside class student work refer to [Academic Credit Hour Policy](#).

**Additional Support/Labs:**

See <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/>

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and synthesize the political, economic, religious, social, racial, and cultural developments of Asia from 1800 to the present. (Historical/Societal Analysis)
- Write effectively in an expository manner and in a historical context. (Communication)
- Express critical thinking skills by comparing historical analyses, and by reading, comprehending, and evaluating historical documents. (Critical Thinking) (Information Literacy)
- Recognize the enormous diversity of experiences Asia in modern world history. (Community and Workplace)

**Course Content:**

Topic 1: “Modern East Asia” What, when, where? To introduce students to the region and the inter-connected histories of China, Korea, and Japan.

Topic 2: The Sinic World: To introduce students to the international order of pre-modern Asia. We will examine the importance of Chinese civilization to the development of East Asian societies as well as the ways in which Korea and Japan diverged from the “Sinic” model.

Topic 3: The Tokugawa Order: To examine Japan between 1600 and 1868. We will explore how the Tokugawa regime was established, the role of the samurai class, and Japan’s place in the East Asian and global order during these centuries.

Topic 4: The Qing Dynasty: To examine China between 1644 and 1911. We will explore the establishment of the Qing dynasty, its expansionism into north and central Asia, its impacts on East Asia, and its gradual demise due to internal discord and western encroachment.

Topic 5: The “Opening” of Japan and the Meiji Restoration: To explore the end of the Tokugawa regime and the opening of Japan to trade and exchange with Europe and America. We will investigate Japan’s subsequent rapid modernization and development into a regional power.

Topic 6: Colonial Korea: To examine the experience of Korea as it was colonized by Japan. We will study how Koreans sought to live and survive under the control of the Japanese as well as Japanese attitudes toward Korea at this time.

Topic 7: Colonial Modernity: To investigate what it meant to become modern within the context of global imperialism. We will focus on China in the early 1900s as it sought to strengthen itself against European, American, and Japanese encroachment at the same time it often looked to these same powers as models for its own modernization.

Topic 8: The “Greater East Asian War”: To examine the complex history of World War II in Asia and how it impacted China, Korea, and Japan. We will study the expansion of the Japanese empire and its collapse by the end of World War II. The impact of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will also be investigated.

Topic 9: Japan’s “American Interlude”: To explore the impact of the American-led Occupation on Japan following World War II. We will study the political, economic, social, and cultural impacts of this crucial time in Japanese and American history.

Topic 10: Revolution in China: To understand the causes and impacts of the Communist Revolution in China. We will study the war between the Nationalists and Communists, why the Communists won, and the ways in which Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party sought to transform China’s economy, polity, society, and culture.

Topic 11: Korea Divided: To examine the causes and impacts of the Korean War. We will investigate both the domestic causes of this war and how it became caught up in the emerging Cold War conflict between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Topic 12: Cultural Revolution and the Cult of Mao: To examine the “Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution” in China. We will examine the cult of Mao Zedong in this tumultuous era and how the Cultural Revolution impacted families throughout China.

Topic 13: Japan Today: To explore the issues facing contemporary Japan. Its relations with Korea, China, and the U.S. since World War II will be examined.

Topic 14: Korea Today: To explore the issues facing contemporary Korea. The ongoing ramifications of division, the radicalization of North Korea, and the Koreas’ relationships with Japan, China, and the U.S. will be examined.

Topic 15: China Today: To explore the issues facing contemporary China. Economic reforms since the mid-1970s and China’s rise to global superpower status at the end of the 20th century will be examined.

**Department Policies:** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Grading Standard:**

Students will achieve grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, or F according to the chart below:

100-93% = A  
92-90% = A  
89-87% = B+  
86-83% = B  
82-80% = B-  
79-77% = C+  
76-70% = C  
69-65% = D  
Less than 65% = F

PLEASE SEE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTOR ADDENDUMS FOR GRADING POLICIES

**College Policies:**

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student’s disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political

orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit [www.brookdalecc.edu/support](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/support).

For information regarding:

- Academic Integrity Code
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [student handbook](#) and [catalog](#).

### **Notification for Students with Disabilities:**

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Accessibility Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

### **Mental Health:**

24/7/365 Resources:

- Monmouth Medical Center Psychiatric Emergency Services at **(732) 923-6999**
- 2nd Floor Youth Helpline – Available to talk with you about any problem, distress, or hardship you are experiencing. Call or text at **888-222-2228** or visit the website at <https://www.2ndfloor.org/>

Faculty Counselors:

- Students who need to make an appointment with a faculty counselor can do so by calling 732-224-1822 (non-emergency line) during business hours. Faculty counselors are licensed mental health professionals who can assist students and refer them to other mental health resources.

### **Diversity Statement:**

Brookdale Community College fosters an environment of inclusion and belonging. We promote a safe and open culture, encourage dialogue respecting diverse perspectives informed by credible sources, and uphold the virtues of civil discourse. We celebrate all identities with the understanding that ultimately, diversity, equity, and inclusion cultivate belonging and make us a stronger Brookdale community.

*\*The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arise.*