

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College**  
**Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** HIS 253

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** History of Asian Civilizations I

**Course Description:** Surveys the civilizations of Asia (China, Japan, Korea, India and Southeast Asia – Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam) from prehistory to the sixteenth century. Part I of II. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** This course can be used to satisfy the social/behavioral science requirements of most AA and AS degrees offered by the college or any certificate programs that require a course in the Social Sciences. This course offers students an opportunity to explore East Asian history, thus filling a gap in the Reynolds curriculum.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Identify and describe the most significant cultural, economic, political, military, religious, social, intellectual, or institutional developments in the regions and periods covered by the course;
- b. Identify and describe the chronological context of such developments;
- c. Identify and describe the values of other peoples and explain how they differ from the student's own values in an objective manner;
- d. Explain how the history in their textbook is assembled from the selected arguments and interpretations of its authors, and express the limitations inherent in its account;
- e. Identify and select, from the materials offered in this course, the relevant information needed to support their own interpretation of a particular historical question;
- f. Determine whether certain conclusions or consequences are supported by the information provided;
- g. Construct and present historical arguments based the available evidence in good written academic form;
- h. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources; and
- i. Compare and contrast historical concepts to the present day.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Primary source analysis and interpretation
- b. Cradles of Civilization and birth of Asian societies
- c. Classical and medieval societies
- d. Mughal India
- e. Chinese Unification and Ming China
- f. Exploration of social development, cultural construction, military and diplomatic relations, economics, and popular culture
- g. Role of Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Shinto, and Christianity in Asian history and culture
- h. Contact and conflict with the West

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