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 ENF 3. 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 ENF 3.

Course Objectives:
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 on 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

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: April 28, 2015