

**Fall 2016**

**AIS101-1001**  
**INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES**  
**Syllabus**

AIS 101  
Introduction to Asian Studies

**ASIAN STUDIES 101**

*This introductory and interdisciplinary course integrates both Asian Studies and the history of Asian Americans. Continuing negative stereotyping and cultural misunderstandings indicate the current need for more knowledge and understanding of Asia and its peoples. The major theme of this course is to examine the multifaceted cultural experiences of both the peoples of Asia and those of Asian descent who reside in the United States. This course will explore Asia as a geographical region to learn the importance of the relationships between Asian geography and how the transfer of cultures and traditions including philosophy, religion, and the arts, continue to bind Asia together as a nation. This course will survey the countries in Asia, with emphasis placed **on** China and Japan.*

**Course Information:**

The geographical region of Asia is home to more than 60% the world's population, and several of the world's fastest-growing economies. It is both a source and a destination for the increasingly torrential flows of people, goods, ideas, cultures, and capital. Today Asia plays a key role in the global political arena. By exploring Asia's history starting with colonial experiences to the rise of nationalism, as well as the cultural, social, political and economic changes that have occurred, we will have a better understanding of Asia's rush to be on the world stage. As we ask ourselves how Asia's changing ideas about tradition and modernity, religion, gender, family, popular culture and the environment intersect with its history and cultural traditions, we will examine how our increased contact through our cell phones and the internet has lessened the information gap between us, yet created other factors that have widened the gulf between us.

This course will provide an interdisciplinary introduction to some of the problems of contemporary Asia, and Asian Americans. We will learn, through films and current events as well as academic text readings, how to better understand and respect the many cultural differences between Asia and the rest of the world.

You will find that Asian Studies is a rewarding program. With the growing importance of Asia on the world stage, your knowledge about the countries and peoples of Asia means better career opportunities for you in the areas of business, law, journalism, government, education, social work, urban and regional planning, and medicine and technology, just to name a few. Because Asian Studies is interdisciplinary in its broadest context, you are encouraged to explore the many cross-listed courses offered by the various departments at UNLV.

**Approach to this Course:**

This course adopts an overview of Asia by a country-by-country approach. Students are expected to learn that each country in Asia is not an isolated country or a "discrete experience." Some specific issues might well be unique to a particular country, but many others will transcend

national borders. You are encouraged to adopt an exploratory approach while studying such Asian topics as religion, language, and cultural traditions.

## **ASIAN STUDIES 101**

### **Statement of Purpose:**

Asian Studies 101 provides a multidisciplinary approach to Asia including a survey of the culture, philosophy, religions and art, as well as issues in history, politics, geography, sociology/anthropology, international relations, education and business.

### **Expectations:**

- a.) You are expected to demonstrate skills in critical thinking by your analysis of the readings and audio-visual materials, and by the primary sources under discussion. This includes your analysis of news articles. How does this new information challenge your previous knowledge and understanding of Asia?
- b.) You will be able to synthesize the religious, historical and geographical perspectives of different regions in Asian. You will be able to discuss how this approach influences your previous ideas about Asia and/or sheds light on the complexities of Asian societies.
- c.) You will learn how to carry out such a synthesis by map study, by assigned readings, by discussion of various ideas put forward in class, by newspaper research, and by your own in-depth research about the issues in the Asian country or region that you have selected for your final research paper and presentation.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

#### **1. Content/Discipline Knowledge:**

Demonstrate familiarity with the culture and traditions and the international political economy of one or more Asian sociolinguistic regions or countries, depending on the area of concentration during the semester.

#### **2. Critical Thinking:**

Demonstrate the capacity to relate social and cultural traditions or the international political economy of one or more Asian sociolinguistic regions or countries to contemporary phenomena depending on the area of concentration during the semester.

#### **3. Oral and Written Communication:**

Construct academic arguments, handle material judiciously, and communicate independent perspective in oral or written form. Identify strategies to conduct inquiries on Asian Studies.

### **Understanding Diversity:**

***The purpose of this course is not simply to learn “facts” about Asia. We will strive to acquire the skills needed for evaluating, describing, and critically thinking about this diverse region of the world.***

### **Specific course goals are:**

1. To increase cultural understanding and tolerance by learning about societies and cultures that are different from those in the United States.
2. To introduce Asian society and culture so that you are able to intelligently assess the cultural, economic, social and political issues relevant to the region.
3. To better understand how ethnicity, religion, language, economics and history continue to affect the many countries in Asia.

### **Class Format:**

This is primarily a lecture and discussion class with audio-visual materials. There will be a Lied Library Class session. When a class is missed you are responsible for finding out (from another student) what occurred during class in content, assignments and handouts.

***Note: Knowledge of a foreign language is NOT necessary to take this course.***

### Required Books:

- 1.) Richard E. Nisbett, *The Geography of Thought...How Asians and Westerners Think Differently...and Why.* Free Press, 2003.
- 2.) Carolyn Brown Heinz, *Asian Cultural Traditions.* Waveland Press, 2005

### In Class Films:

All films are tentatively scheduled and there will be a film quiz during the semester. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL CLASS FILM SCREENINGS. If you miss an in-class film, you are required to view the film in the Media Division of the Lied Library.

### Course Requirements:

*Attendance is mandatory.* Students are required to do the assigned readings and formulate two questions based on readings for each class. Students will be called on at random to express their views or pose questions. Reading notes will be collected at the end of class. Missing more than **\*three (3) classes** will result in the forfeiture of the 10% class credit for class participation. You are expected to keep up with assignments through class lectures, films, and readings. *You must notify the instructor of your absence IN ADVANCE, as class participation is an important component of this course.*

### Grading:

*Class attendance and participation (10%)*

*Map Quiz (15%)*

*Current Event Commentaries (15%)*

*Film Quiz (10%)*

*Mid-Term Examination (20%)*

*Final Exam \*Project and presentation (30%)*

#### **\*Group Research Paper Presentation:**

Your project and presentation will consist of a 4-5 person team depending on the class size. You and your group are required to present a topic pertaining to Asian Studies that is cohesive in nature. *EXAMPLE: Religions and Philosophies in Asia: Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Confucianism, etc. where each member of the group is responsible for the research and power point slides of their specific religion choice.*

#### **\* NOTE: Your Professor will make the determination of group members.**

This is an important component of Asian Studies 101. Your research paper presentation must be on one of the *thirty-one (31)* countries in Asia we have studied during the semester. You may also choose to do a presentation on Asian American history. To enhance your presentation, you should plan for use of posters, maps, handouts, food, etc. Use of Power point or Prezi presentations are encouraged. Lectures can be so boring!!

### Research Paper

The research paper must be *twenty (20) to twenty-five (25)* pages in TOTAL (again depending on the size of your group) plus a bibliography and annotated bibliography. This means five to seven (*5-6 project pages per person*) depending on the number of people in your group. The project bibliography must have a total of 25 sources, which means a total of five (5) sources for each individual research paper. The annotated bibliography must have a minimum of fifteen (15) or more research sources. This means that your own annotated bibliography will have a minimum of three 3 sources. Your research paper should be in MLA, APA or Chicago

Manual of Style depending on your area of study. A handout will be available for guidance in doing your annotation bibliography. A power point or Prezi presentation of approximately **twenty-five (25)** total slides is required. Again, each member of your group must present a minimum of **five (5)** slides.

**Your final group research paper is due at the time of your presentation. This means your individual research paper must be a part of the group research packet. Your presentation and research paper grade will be based on your own individual work, as well as the work of the group as a whole.**

**Requirements:**

Your final research paper must be double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font. The pages should be numbered. The group research packet must have a cover page with a title and a list of the students in your group.

**NOTE: It is mandatory that you attend all power-point presentations given by your classmates in the final weeks of this class to receive a passing grade for this class!**

**Course Materials:**

The course syllabus, readings and other assignments, as well as copies of course lectures will be made available on Web Campus. Be sure to use your Rebel Mail address for all class information. Be sure your email address is **always current**, as you are responsible for receiving e-mail messages sent from your instructor containing important information. Please familiarize yourself with the AIS 101 Web Campus site. Make sure you are able to access class materials, announcements, and other communication from the site.

**Course Assignments:**

**Attendance is essential in order to do well in this class. Coming to class is what you pay for, and is why I get paid! Every student is encouraged to meet with me at any time during this semester if you are having problems with any class assignments.**

**1. CEC's "Current Event" Commentaries:**

A current event commentary (CEC) is to be submitted **three times (3)** during the semester. These commentaries will be worth 5% each which equals 15% of your grade. You are required to explore Asian newspapers (printed in English) or Western newspapers, either in the Lied Library or on the Internet, to learn if and how news stories are perceived differently in Asia and other parts of the world. This exercise is to encourage you to think more critically about how the issues we discuss in class are playing out in Asia today, *and how perceptions often differ between East and West.*

**CEC Format:**

You will report on your findings by writing 1-2 paragraphs analyzing (by comparison and/or contrast), how news is reported differently in different parts of the world. You will then print out your articles and attach them to your written analysis. No articles will be given credit without copy of the article, the URL or web address

- Be prepared to share your findings with the rest of the class.

**2. Map Quiz:** During the first weeks of the semester you will be given a map quiz of the

Countries of Asia.

**3. Film Quiz:** Your film quiz will be given after mid-terms. It will be in the form of a film summary/review.

**Examination:**

This is an essay exam. Your examination will cover material from class lectures, reading assignments, topics discussed in class, from PowerPoint presentations, and from in-class lectures and films.

**Mid-Term:** Part I and II. Blue Book Examination.

**Final:** Research Paper and Power Point Based on Group Presentations.

*Make-up examinations are given only in case of a family emergency, and documentation is required. For medical problems, a physician's note is required.*

## CLASS SCHEDULE IS ON FOLLOWING PAGES

*It is suggested that you keep this schedule in a handy place*

### Class Schedule

(Subject to change)

#### **AIS 101**

**Fall 2016**

**NOTE: \*Library Class**

Your instructor has arranged for an instructional "library class" where you will learn more about using library resources that will help you with your research topics.

#### **Week 1**

**8/30 - Introduction to AIS 101**

**Class introductions**

1. Course Syllabus
2. Course requirements:
  - Books
  - Reading assignments/notes for next week's class discussion
  - Research papers
  - Map of Asia / Map review / **Map Quiz next week 9/6**

3. Defining Asia/Asia in the News:

**CEC # 1 (Current Events Commentaries) CEC# 1- Due 9/13**

**Assignment:** For this assignment you will find an article (the same article) written for both an "Eastern" Newspaper and a "Western" Newspaper.

**Example:** finding an article with the topic "US Presidential Election" written in both the "*China Daily*" (Eastern viewpoint) and the "*Washington Post*" (Western viewpoint). You will then write a comparison/contrast of these articles explaining how this article topic is perceived differently when written by reporters from different parts of the world with different cultural backgrounds. As you write your comparisons of the article in 1-2 paragraphs, some questions to ask yourself should include:

- What did you find different about the article.
- Was the "slant" of the news writing or the focus of the news story any different?
- Did you find any problems with the way the article was written?

- After reading the article, what specifically did you learn about differences in cultural perception?

**Your article and commentary are due on Tuesday 9/13.**

**We will be using these assignments for our classroom discussion so be prepared.**

**Week 2**

**9/6 - Map Quiz**

**Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

Countries of Asia/PowerPoint

- Reading Assignment/notes for class discussion
- **Film**

**Week 3**

**9/13 - CEC # 1 Due today – Class Discussion**

**Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

Countries of Asia

- Reading Assignment/notes for class discussion
- **Film**

**Week 4**

**9/20 - Map Quiz returned**

**Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

Countries of Asia

- Reading Assignment/notes for class discussion
- **Film**

**Week 5**

**9/27 - CEC # 1 returned**

**Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

Countries of Asia

- No reading assignment for next week
- Research Project Suggestions discussion.
- **CEC #2** (Current Events Commentary - **Due: 10/4**)
- **Film**

**Week 6**

**10/4 - CEC # 2 Due today/discussion**

**Upcoming Library Class next week. Mandatory attendance!**

**Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

Countries of Asia

- Research Project Group Members
- Areas of Research /discussion and choices
- Q & A session
- **Film**

Week 7

10/11 **Lied Library Visit and Workshop Class**

- BE SURE YOU HAVE ACTIVATED YOUR REBELCARD FOR USE IN THE LIED LIBRARY FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

*\*LOCATION: \*Subject to Change*

*\*Eureka Room/Lied Library, 1st Floor*

**Instructor:** Prof. Kate Wintrol, Lied librarian

This regular class session will be held in the Lied Library. We will meet @ 4:00PM for approximately 75 minutes. You will begin your research on the assigned library computer, but bring a pencil and paper in order to take notes and sign in.

**IMPORTANT - Your Mid-term Examination Review will be available ONLY DURING THIS LIBRARY CLASS.**

Week 8

10/18

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION/BLUE BOOK ONLY**

**Bring Blue Book and pencil/pen to class.**

Week 9

10/25 **CEC # 2 returned**

**Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

**China**

- Calligraphy, Chinese characters, Mandarin language.
- Festivals
- Discussion:
  - Research papers and presentations
  - discussion: Library resources/visit
- **Film**

Week 10

11/1 **Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

**North and South Korea**

- N. Korea - The Hermit Kingdom
- S. Korea - Democracy in Asia?
- Discussion:
  - Mid-terms returned
  - Research Discussion
  - Sample research papers
- **Film**

Week 11

11/8 **Geography of Asia**

**Lecture:**

**Japan**

- Traditions
- Fashion Subculture
- Discussion:

- Individual group discussions
- Individual group practice
- Final rosters and topics – turn in today
- **Film**

**Week 12**

**11/15 PRESENTATION SCHEDULE**

**Sign Up Sheet for Group Presentations**

- \*Presentations/Due Dates discussion
- Power-point/Prezi
- Q & A
- *Film Quiz handout / Due: 12/6*

**Week 13**

**11/22**

**VISIT: INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Have you ever wanted to study in another country? This is your opportunity to ask questions about the countries where you can study, and the financial options available to you for international study.

**Final Group power point discussions and practice**

- Q&A session
- *HAPPY THANKSGIVING!*

**Week 14**

**11/29**

**(STUDY WEEK)**

**PRESENTATIONS START TODAY**

- Group 1 - 40 min.
- Group 2 - 40 min.
- Group 3 - 40 min.

1. Film Quiz Due Today

**Week 15**

**12/6**

**FINAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Group 4 - 40 min.
- Group 5 - 40 min.
- Group 6 - 40 min.

**\*All Research papers due today / NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!**

**Week 16**

**12/13**

**( FINALS WEEK)**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the

course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC)** provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

### **Library statement:**

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is ([https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject)). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.