Asian Studies Capstone: XIDS 4000  Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Ihor Pidhainy

Course Purpose: To fulfil requirement of Asian Studies Minor with a one-hour capstone. This course focuses on the varied nature of Asian Studies and allows students to explore various aspects and approaches in Asian Studies. The course is written in consultation with the student so as to explore disciplinary concerns of the student as well as broader themes that are drawn from a variety of disciplines, as Asian Studies takes a multi-disciplinary approach in its minor. The Four texts fit broad parameters for the student (each Capstone is specific to student and instructor), as well as a research project that the student chooses in consultation with the instructor. The overall purpose of the course is to give the student a chance to reflect on the varied nature of Asian Studies and examine some of these approaches in this course.

Requirements:
Discuss 4 short works with instructor on Asia, chosen in conjunction with instructor; write summaries and critiques of these works.
Write a research paper in your own discipline on some aspect of Asia.

Texts:
Four introductory works chosen in consultation with the instructor. See Schedule for this section’s choices

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Common Language for course syllabi:
https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php

Format of Class:
Discussion/seminar

Grading
Critiques           (4x10%)    40%
Research Paper     60%
    Topic and Proposal  10%
    Bibliography        15%
    First Draft         25%
    Final Draft         50%

Key to Assignments

Critiques: These are summary and critique reports on the 4 books that we have assigned. Each should be about 3 pages in length. The Summary should be contained within a long paragraph; the critique will make up the rest of the paper. In the critique, you should address arguments made in the book approach or idea that you want to explore that occurs in the section under review.
**Research Paper:** The research paper is the major assignment for this course. It will be chosen in consultation with your instructor. The grading of this assignment will include the process of its composition. The component parts that will be graded are the topic/argument, bibliography, progress reports, the first and the final draft. Each step of the way will receive instructor feedback.

**Topic and Proposal:** At this stage, you will provide a topic and a proposal on how you envision approaching that topic. This can be 1-3 pages, with length of little importance.

**Bibliography:** For your bibliography, you will be required to include primary and secondary sources for your topic. Appropriate variety and number of sources will be determined in consultation with the instructor.

**First Draft.** This will be your first worked-up attempt at approaching your topic. The first draft will bring together your thesis, main arguments and various pieces of evidence. It does not need to be definitive, though it will give your reader a clear vantage point on the direction you are going with the research paper. Further information will be supplied in the semester concerning this.

**Final Draft.** This will be a substantially revised version of your first draft that will incorporate both the suggestions of your readers along with your own further developed thoughts and whatever new information you have come across. Your final version should be 7-8 pages.

**Policies:** All recommended policies that are listed by University of West Georgia are adhered to in this course.
Schedule

Week of

Aug 12  Introduction
Aug 19  Reading
Aug 26  Text #1 On National History
        Hundley, *The Mongol Empire in World History*
Sept  3  Reading
Sept  9  Text #2 On Ideas (Philosophy, Religion etc.)
        *Meditations, Monks, and Amulets: Thai Popular Buddhism Today*
Sept 16  Reading
Sept 23  Text #3 On Civilization/culture/diaspora
        Barrow, *The East India Company, 1600-1858* (Hackett)
Sept 30  Reading
Oct  7   Text #4 On Discipline Specific Text
        The Origins of the Civilization of Angkor (Debates in Archaeology)
Oct 14  Topic and Thesis due
Oct 21  Research Preparation (no class)
Oct 28  Bibliography due
Nov  4   1st Draft due
Nov 11  Meet to discuss 1st draft
Nov 18  Revisions (no class)
Nov 25  Final Draft of Paper Due
Dec  4   Final meeting