

SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY / CIVILIZATION TO 1500

HIST 1111-25H, Spring 2015. TLC 3205, MW 9:30-10:50 AM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3206

Office hours: M 11:00 am-12:30 pm, 2:00-5:30 pm; W 11:00 am-12:00 noon, 1:00-5:00 pm; or by appointment

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to develop skills in understanding and appreciating the history of your own and other peoples' cultures. You will be introduced to important concepts, ideas, and events from ancient times to AD 1500 that continue to shape our world today.

Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of World history. They will also increase their awareness of the multicultural nature of our world and gain the comparative perspective necessary to judge the place of Western Civilization in the wider world.

The written assignments will hone your skills in critical thinking, analysis of sources, and the organization and expression of ideas, skills which provide a solid foundation for all careers. They will challenge you to understand the main ideas of what you are reading, and to express these ideas in a concise manner.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading and to participate in discussions based on the reading. In order to earn your class participation grade, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than five absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade. If you leave class early, you will be counted as absent.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend class so that you may be aware of any changes.

Grading

20% from written responses to chapters 1-4 in Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters*. (5% each)

15% from paper on *Monkey*

15% from paper on the Indian Ocean world, using George F. Hourani, *Arab Seafaring; The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor*; and Ma Huan & Vasco da Gama

10% from two map assignments (5% each, instructions to be provided)

20% class participation

20% from a final written assignment (typed, double spaced, 12-point font, 5 page minimum) answering ONE of the following questions:

1) Discuss connections that drew the regions of Afro-Eurasia together, using examples of trade, religious ideas, disease, and conquests, up to the early 1400s. Describe the more isolated civilizations of Native America and Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the unique characteristics

that made them different from Afro-Eurasia. Explain why Europeans began sea explorations in the 1400s, and what the results were.

2) Use information from myths (including creation stories and hero stories) to describe the civilizations of at least three different regions we have studied this semester. What basic beliefs and values do they demonstrate? Then describe the influence of the ancient Hebrew and Greek cultures on later civilizations, with examples of how later civilizations tried to legitimize themselves by attaching their history to the Hebrew or Greek tradition.

It is important to attend class and take notes. This is the only way you will be able to complete the final written assignment. Information obtained from sources other than this class's readings and lectures will not count positively toward your grade.

Class participation is encouraged, but disruptive behavior will be considered negative participation and may result in up to 10% points taken out of your grade. NOTE: We will be discussing the emergence and evolution of different religious beliefs as part of this class, so please be sure to treat them all with respect. This class is not the place to argue that one religious belief is better than others, nor is the place to attack any one or all religions as "untrue."

Written work handed in late will be graded according to its quality and will have 4 points deducted if turned in after the class meeting when it is due, with a further 4 points deducted for each 24-hour period that has elapsed since the class in which it was due.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's policies on academic honesty. As a West Georgia student, you have pledged not to lie, cheat, steal, or commit plagiarism. It is equally wrong to give aid as it is to receive it. When copying word for word from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite your source. When paraphrasing material or borrowing another author's ideas, you must also cite your source. Assignments are to be done independently. Two or more students cannot hand in variations of the same paper or assignment, even if they study together. You can review the Honor Code at <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>. Any lying, cheating, stealing, or plagiarism can result in a grade of zero for the assignment in which it was committed.

Special Accommodations

If you are on record with the university's Disability Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please meet with me during my regular office hours as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented. Also, please note that arrangements for special accommodations must be made at least one week before the exams.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Disability Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Student Development Center at 272 Parker Hall.

Policy on Electronic Devices and Communication

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Laptops are to be used only for taking notes or viewing course materials to be discussed during that day's class. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time.

To protect your privacy, all electronic communication with me must be conducted through your West Georgia e-mail. As all e-mail is potentially insecure, I will only discuss your grades with you in person. Please be aware that I will not always be able to respond to e-mails or phone messages immediately, and will not answer e-mails asking for information that can be easily found on the syllabus. If you have an urgent matter, talk to me in person—either in class, or in my office.

University-Wide Policies

Please refer to the following document for additional information on university-wide policies that apply to this class:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Required Books

Donna Rosenberg, *World Mythology* (McGraw-Hill, 2001) 9780844259666

Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters* (Oxford University Press, 1993) ISBN 9780195076400

Ch'eng-en Wu, *Monkey* (Grove Press, 1958) ISBN 9780802130860

George F. Hourani, *Arab Seafaring* (Princeton University Press, 1995) ISBN 9780691000329

Course Schedule:

DATE *TOPICS* and READINGS

Jan. 5 *Introduction and geography*

Jan. 7 *Feeding people: hunting and gathering*

Rosenberg: Sedna (637-641), Lodge Boy and Thrown Away (622-624)

Dyukhade is Dismembered and then Reborn (on CourseDen)

Black Elk's Vision <http://www.welcomehome.org/rainbow/prophecy/BlackElk.html>

Jan. 12 *Feeding people: herding and agriculture*

Rosenberg: The Woman Who Fell from the Sky (625-633), The Emergence (615-621)

The Story of the First Mother (on CourseDen)

Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 1, due

Jan. 14 *Early civilizations of the Ancient Middle East: Mesopotamia and Egypt*

Rosenberg: The Enuma Elish (3-11), Gilgamesh (26-57)

Ra and his Children <http://wigowsky.topcities.com/Egypt/story/ra.htm>

Rosenberg: Osiris, Isis, and Horus (12-21)

Jan. 19 **NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Day)**

Jan. 21 *Early civilizations of the Oxus, India, and China*

Gatha of the Choice: Yasna 30 <http://www.mircea-eliade.com/from-primitives-to-zen/038.html>

Rosenberg: The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe (291-295), The Ramayana (296-321), The Creation of the Universe and Human Beings (324-329)
1st Map Assignment due

- Jan. 26 *The later Ancient Middle East: empires and Hebrews*
The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1 to 25 only
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/genesis-rsv.asp>
Selections from the Old Testament (on CourseDen)
Israel's Early History (on CourseDen)
The Cyrus Cylinder <http://education.asianart.org/explore-resources/background-information/translation-cyrus-cylinder>
- Jan. 28 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Greece*
Rosenberg: The Creation of the Titans and the Gods (82-89), The Labors and Death of Heracles (100-105), The Iliad (106-153)
- Feb. 2 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Greece, continued*
Thucydides, The Funeral Oration of Pericles & The Conference at Melos (on CourseDen)
- Feb. 4 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Alexander and the Hellenistic world*
Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 2, due
- Feb. 9 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Rome from city-state to empire*
Rosenberg: The Aeneid (255-287)
- Feb. 11 *India: from kingdoms to empire; the emergence of Buddhism*
The Laws of Manu, excerpts
<http://web.archive.org/web/20000511162550/http://www.humanities.cuny.edu/history/reader/manu.htm>
The Life of the Buddha (all 32 sections) <http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhism/lifebuddha/contents1.htm>
The Mustard Seed <http://www.sacred-texts.com/bud/btg/btg85.htm>
- Feb. 16 *China: from warring states to empire*
The Analects of Confucius
<http://www.ibiblio.org/chinesehistory/contents/08fea/c02files.02lib/text001.html>
A Butcher's Knife <http://history.cultural-china.com/Wise/wise81.html>
Rosenberg: Chi Li Slays the Serpent (330-33)

- Feb. 18 *The emergence of Christianity and the transformation of the Roman world*
 Selections from the New Testament (on CourseDen)
 Pliny on the Christians <http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/source/pliny1.asp>
- Feb. 23 *The transformation of the Roman world, continued*
 The Murder of Hypatia <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/hypatia.asp>
 Eugippius, The Life of St. Severinus
http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/severinus_02_text.htm
- Feb. 25 *The spread of Indian culture*
Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 3, due
- Mar. 2 *Mesoamerica: from village to city to empire*
 Rosenberg: The Creation (595-599), The Creation Cycle (600-608), Quetzalcoatl (609-614)
 Selection from The Ancient Word (on CourseDen)
- Mar. 4 *Andes: from local to regional cultures to the rise of empires*
 Rosenberg: The Creation (570-573), The Children of the Sun (574-577)
 Moon, Sun, and Witches, Chapter V (on CourseDen)
- Mar. 9 *East Asia: the Chinese golden age*
Monkey paper due
- Mar. 11 *The rise of Islam*
 Qur'an, Surah 9. at-Taubah: Repentance <http://www.sacred-texts.com/isl/pick/009.htm>
 Hadith of Bukhari, 1:1 through 1:10 <http://www.sacred-texts.com/isl/bukhari/bh1/index.htm>
 Hadith of the Night Journey and Ascension
<http://www.noblesanctuary.com/miraj.html>
 The Last Sermon of the Prophet <http://www.iupui.edu/~msaiupui/lastsermon.html>
- Mar. 16-20 **NO CLASS (Spring Break)**
- Mar. 23 *The Islamic golden age*
 Ibn Khaldun, The Muqaddimah (selections to be posted on CourseDen)
<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ik/Muqaddimah/>
 Selections from the Shah-Nama (on CourseDen)
 Selections from the Essential Rumi (on CourseDen)

Haci Bektasi Veli <http://www.turkishculture.org/philosophers/haci-bektas-83.htm>

2nd Map Assignment due

- Mar. 25 *Medieval Europe: from tribal to feudal society*
Rosenberg: The Ages of the World (369-377), Dagda the Good (378-379), Beowulf (381-416), The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe (459-466)
- Mar. 30 **NO CLASS**
- Apr. 1 *The High Middle Ages and eastern influence*
Rosenberg: King Arthur (418-453)
Troubadour Poetry (on CourseDen)
- Apr. 6 *African civilizations*
Rosenberg: The Creation of the Universe and Ife (509-514), The Origin of Life and Fire (515-517), The Quarrel between Sagbata and Sogbo (518-520), Gassire's Lute 521-526), Bakaridjan Kone (528-566)
- Apr. 8 *New connections: The Mongols and the Indian Ocean world*
Paper on the Indian Ocean world due
Use: George F. Hourani, *Arab Seafaring*; The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale15.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale16.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale17.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale18.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale19.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale20.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale21.htm>, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/lang1k1/tale22.htm> ; Ma Huan & Vasco da Gama (on CourseDen)
- Apr. 13 *Eurasia after the Mongols*
Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 4, due
- Apr. 15 *European Renaissance and Exploration*
- Apr. 22 **Final papers due, TLC 3206 by 5:00 pm**