

SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY / CIVILIZATION TO 1500

HIST 1111-05, Fall 2015. Pafford 204, MW 12:30-1:50 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3206

Office hours: MW 11:00 AM-12:30 PM and 2:00-3:30 PM, Tu 8:00 AM-12:00 noon, 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. You 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.

The state of Georgia also requires the following two learning outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the commonalities and differences among two or more societies, nations, or cultures outside of the United States in regard to any of the following: language, literature, aesthetics, politics, economics, or social and cultural practices.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading. Because of the large amount of material to be covered, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to three absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than three absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade. If you leave class early, you will be counted as absent.

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 books and lectures will not count positively toward your grade.

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.

Your in-class exercise dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with these dates. No make-up exercises will be given.

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."

Grading

Your grade will be distributed as follows:

45% from four in-class writing exercises (no makeups will be given). Three, based on readings posted on CourseDen, will be worth 10% each. The other one, based on the book *Monkey*, will be worth 15% each. You may use your readings and notes during these exercises.

40% from written assignments based on Chapters 1-4 of Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters*, worth 10% each.

15% from a final written assignment (typed, double spaced, 12-point font, 3 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 about religions and philosophies 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.

Written work handed in late will be graded according to its quality and will have 2 points deducted if turned in after the class meeting when it is due, with a further 2 points deducted for each 24-hour period that has elapsed since the class in which it was due.

To facilitate grading your written work, I may use the following symbols:

✓ for good information that helps answer the question correctly

✗ for something that is completely wrong

~ for something that is partially or not quite correct

? for something that does not make sense

^ for a missing word

... for when you need more information or more details

In addition, I will underline all sections of your written work that are misspelled or are grammatically incorrect. To learn how to correct these problems, you should make an appointment with the Writing Center and bring your graded paper to one of their tutors. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Center for help with your written English both before and after handing in written work. Information about the Center will be posted on CourseDen.

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/undergrad/1762.htm>. 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 Accessibility Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Accessibility Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Counseling Center at 123 Row Hall. Please also check their webpage at <http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php>.

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 to take notes or view course readings. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time. The use of any electronic device during an in-class assignment is strictly prohibited and will be considered a breach of academic honesty, with the result of a grade of zero for the assignment.

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

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

David Kherdian, *Monkey* (Shambhala Press, 2005) ISBN 9781590302583

Course Schedule:

DATE	TOPICS
Aug. 24	<i>Introduction; Feeding people: foraging and herding</i>
Aug. 26	<i>Feeding people: agriculture</i>
Aug. 31	<i>Early civilizations of the Ancient Middle East: Mesopotamia and Egypt</i>
Sept. 2	<i>Early civilizations of the Oxus, India, and China</i> Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 1, due
Sept. 7	NO CLASS (Labor Day)
Sept. 9	<i>Early civilizations of the Oxus, India, and China, continued</i>
Sept. 14	In-class exercise on: The Enuma Elish; Ra and his Children; The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe; The Creation of the Universe and Human Beings; The Creation of the Titans and the Gods
Sept. 16	<i>The later Ancient Middle East: empires and Hebrews</i>
Sept. 21	<i>Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Greece</i>
Sept. 23	In-class exercise on: The Labors and Death of Heracles, The Iliad, The Aeneid
Sept. 28	<i>Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Alexander and the Hellenistic world</i>
Sept. 30	<i>Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Rome from city-state to empire</i> Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 2, due
Oct. 5	<i>India: from kingdoms to empire; the emergence of Buddhism</i>
Oct. 7	<i>China: from warring states to empire</i>
Oct. 12	<i>Ancient Mediterranean civilization: The emergence of Christianity and the transformation of the Roman world</i>
Oct. 14	<i>Native American civilizations: Mesoamerica and the Andes</i>

- Oct. 19 *The spread of Indian culture; Middle Eastern civilization: the rise of Islam*
Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 3, due
- Oct. 21 *Middle Eastern civilization: the Islamic golden age*
- Oct. 26 *East Asia: the Chinese golden age*
- Nov. 2 NO CLASS
- Nov. 4 **In-class exercise** on David Kherdian, *Monkey*
- Nov. 9 *Medieval Europe: from tribal to feudal society*
- Nov. 11 *The High Middle Ages and eastern influence*
- Nov. 16 *African civilizations*
- Nov. 18 **In-class exercise** on: The Creation of the Universe and Ife; The Quarrel between Sagbata and Sogbo; Gassire's Lute; Bakaridjan Kone
- Nov. 23-25 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)
- Nov. 30 *The Mongols; Old World trade and politics after the Mongols*
Assignments on Bentley, Chapter 4, due
- Dec. 2 *European Renaissance and exploration*
- Dec. 9 **Final Written Assignment due**, 5:00 PM (or earlier), TLC 3206