

HIST 1111 E01: World Civilizations to 1500 AD (Summer 2016, June Term)

**Instructor:** Dr. Nadya Williams ([nwilliam@westga.edu](mailto:nwilliam@westga.edu))

**Section N01:** June 6 – June 30, 2016; 100% online

**Online/Phone Office hours:** MWF 10am-noon. During these times, you can reach me at the following number: 678-554-7765. In addition, you can always schedule a phone appointment with me outside of office hours to discuss anything that is unclear, or any questions that you have about the assignments or your performance in the course.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course provides a fast-paced introduction to world civilizations from Pre-History to the end of the European Middle Ages. While the amount of material that we will be covering is immense and might seem daunting, it is not your duty as a budding historian to memorize every single detail mentioned in the readings. Rather, through the study of the most influential developments in world civilization, you will acquire a deeper understanding of the world around you, and how it became the way it is now. After all, many events covered in this course, such as the invention of agriculture and cities or the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity still affect your life today. While learning about these events, you will also develop analytical skills that will help you succeed in the remainder of your college career and beyond.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have acquired the ability to do the following:

1. To understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history to 1500 AD
2. To evaluate critically primary sources of various types (both textual and visual), and to make use of these sources in posing and answering important historical questions
3. To discuss historical questions and problems in standard English prose
4. To analyze geography in relation to history

**Required books (available at the University Bookstore and online):**

Stephen Morillo, *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume I: to 1550* (ISBN 978-0199987801).

Links to additional readings are placed on this syllabus and on CourseDen.

**Grading Criteria (further information will be provided upon request):**

**CourseDen Discussions – 35%**

Each student will participate in eight CourseDen discussions on the assigned readings for the course. Discussions are meant to be a forum for considering the course material, as well as asking questions about anything in the material that is unclear. Please keep in mind that to get full credit on a discussion, you must not only make your own post in response to a discussion

prompt, but also comment on posts of at least two classmates. These responses must be substantive – meaning, you should not just compliment your classmates, but have to add something to the discussion in your responses. The point of the discussions is, after all, to allow all of the students in the class to engage with each other’s ideas about the course material. Please consult the rubric below for grading criteria.

**Quizzes – 35%**

Each student will take five quizzes on CourseDen (one syllabus quiz, and four reading quizzes on textbook material). Deadlines for taking each quiz, as well as the material covered on each quiz, are listed on the schedule of assignments below.

**Paper (3-5 pages) – 15%**

Each student will write one paper, 3-5 pages in length, based on primary sources and the course textbook. The paper topic is posted on CourseDen. Please consult the rubric below for grading criteria.

**Final Exam – 15%**

Each student will take a final exam on CourseDen by 5:00pm on June 30<sup>th</sup>, the scheduled exam date for all June Session courses.

**Your CourseDen Discussions will be graded in accordance with the following rubric, and awarded a total score out of 16 points:**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Response to question/prompt: does the initial post answer the question/prompt fully?</b>	Unclear or absent	Needs improvement	Very good	Excellent
<b>Use of sources/quality of examples from the class (only material from the course readings will get you credit!)</b>	Unclear or absent	Needs improvement	Very good	Excellent
<b>Analysis of examples, and relating them to prompt -- YOUR thoughts about the topic</b>	Unclear or absent	Needs improvement	Very good	Excellent
<b>Responses to classmates' posts: quality and quantity</b>	Unclear or absent	Needs improvement	Very good	Excellent

**The paper in this course will be graded in accordance with the following rubric, and awarded a total score out of 100:**

	<b>0-12</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>16-18</b>	<b>19-20</b>
<b>Quality of thesis statement</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
<b>Organization and clarity of argument</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
<b>Use of</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent

<b>sources/quality of examples from the class (only material from the course readings and materials will get you credit!)</b>				
<b>Analysis of examples</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
<b>Ability to write in standard English</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent

**N.B. There will be no curve in this course!** Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale, keeping in mind that the University of West Georgia does not recognize +/- grades:

89.49 - 100 = A  
79.49 - 89.48 = B  
69.49 - 79.48 = C  
59.49 - 69.48 = D  
< 59.48 = F

#### **Class Communication:**

Per university policy, all email communications between faculty and students should be limited to the UWG email accounts and CourseDen email. I will not respond to emails sent from other accounts.

#### **University Policies for Students:**

All Students Please Note!

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the **Common Language for Course Syllabi** documentation

at [http://www.westga.edu/assets/Dept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assets/Dept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf).

Additions and updates are made as institution, state, and federal standards change, so please review it each semester.

#### **Academic Dishonesty:**

**Academic dishonesty on ANY assignment in this course, including discussion posts, will result in an F for the course, and the referral of the student to the appropriate university committee. There will be no exceptions to this policy! Academic dishonesty can take many shapes, such as cut-and-pasting anything from the internet. Please avoid inadvertent plagiarism by ALWAYS citing any sources that you use when writing papers or essays. For further information, see <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>**

**Classroom (N)Etiquette:**

Please be courteous and professional towards me and all of you classmates in your emails and discussion postings. Historians regularly disagree with each other on interpretations or approaches to evidence. Thus I expect that you will sometimes disagree with me and/or with each other during some of the discussions. I hope, nevertheless, that we will also respect each other, listen to dissenting points of view, and will be able to learn and benefit from the differing historical perspectives that we will each bring to the course material.

**Late Submissions Policy:** Because of the extremely condensed nature of the summer semester, it is very difficult to catch up on missed assignments. All quizzes and discussion boards are open from the beginning of the semester, and I encourage you to work ahead! In the event of a documented medical or family emergency, I will allow late submissions. Otherwise, late submissions will be penalized one grade (10 points) for every day that they are late.

**Schedule of Topics and Assignments**

**\* All assignments are due by midnight on the date indicated on the schedule below. If there is CourseDen maintenance on a Friday when an assignment is due, the assignment deadline will be automatically rescheduled to that Saturday by midnight.**

Date	Class Topic and Reading Assignments	Assignments Due (All Assignments are due on CourseDen by midnight)
06/06	<b><u>Unit I begins: From Pre-History to History</u></b> Introduction, syllabus, and expectations	Discussion 1 (Introduction)
06/08	Start reading Morillo, <i>Frameworks of World History</i> , Chapters 1-3	Quiz 1 (Syllabus and Expectations)
06/10	Morillo, <i>Frameworks of World History</i> , Chapters 1-3  Start reading <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> and <i>Genesis</i>	Discussion 2 (History and pre-history: definitions and questions of methodology);  Quiz 2 (Morillo, chapters 1-3)
06/13	Finish reading <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> and <i>Genesis</i>	Discussion 3 (Primary sources and the study of ancient history)
06/15	<b><u>Unit II begins: The Ancient World</u></b>  Begin reading Morillo, chapters 4-6; Lysias, "On the Killing of Eratosthenes" (on CourseDen)	Discussion 4 (The Athenian Democracy)
06/17	Morillo, chapters 4-6  Maps in Morillo, pages 117, 132-133, 136, 140-141, 145,	Quiz 3 (Morillo, chapters 4-6)

	147, 152; Interactive map of Paul's journeys throughout the Roman Empire: <a href="http://www.apostlepaulthefilm.com/paul/journeys.htm">http://www.apostlepaulthefilm.com/paul/journeys.htm</a>	Discussion 5 (Mapping Ancient Empires)
06/20	Morillo, chapters 1-6 (review as needed). <u>This is a creative assignment.</u> You have the option of filming a segment in character/ issuing a campaign poster, etc. The possibilities are endless! Working in teams is allowed on this assignment.	Discussion 6 (Best Political System/Government Debate)
06/22	Read Acts of the Apostles (all); 1 Corinthians; look at interactive map of Paul's journeys: <a href="http://www.apostlepaulthefilm.com/paul/journeys.htm">http://www.apostlepaulthefilm.com/paul/journeys.htm</a>	Paper due (Early Christianity in the context of the Roman Empire)
06/24	<b><u>Unit III begins: Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages</u></b>  Morillo, chapters 7-10	Quiz 4 (Morillo, chapters 7-10)
06/27	Maps in Morillo, pages 222 and 283	Discussion 7: Mapping the Spread of Islam
06/28	Morillo, chapters 11-14  Prologue to Boccaccio's <i>Decameron</i> (required reading for Discussion 8): <a href="http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/decameronintro.asp">http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/decameronintro.asp</a>	Quiz 5 (Morillo, chapters 11-14)  Discussion 8: The Black Death as Agent of Historical Change
06/30	All of your materials from this class!	<b>Final Exam</b>