

**HIST 1111: World History to 1500 Honors**

<b>Dr. Charles Lipp</b> <b>Office: TLC 3217</b> <b>E-Mail <a href="mailto:clipp@westga.edu">clipp@westga.edu</a></b> <b>Phone: 678-839-6039</b>	<b>Section 25H: MW 11-12:15PM, TLC 3205</b>  <b>Office Hours: MW 3:30-5PM; Tues 10-12 &amp; 2-5; or by appointment</b>
--	--

**Course Description:**

This class surveys important moments in world history prior to 1500. Naturally, we cannot discuss every issue and, so, we will focus our explorations, in terms of geographic and subject areas. We will pay particular attention to the large land mass containing Europe and Asia, or Eurasia for short, and, within that area, Europe, the Middle East, India, and China. Central to this honors section are a number of crucial skills in critical reading, analysis, interpretation, and argumentation (in both oral and written form). I am therefore assigning a fair bit of reading and writing and engagement with in-class discussions will comprise a significant proportion of your final grade.

**Learning Objectives:**

The general World Civilizations program learning objectives is:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history.

Particular to this class are the following learning objectives:

- Students will demonstrate introductory knowledge of pivotal trends and issues in global history prior to 1500.
- Students will demonstrate improved abilities in processing and analyzing information from historical sources.
- Students will demonstrate improved skills at crafting written arguments based on information from historical sources.

These outcomes also help reinforce the following History Department Program Learning Outcomes:

Students who earn the Bachelor of Arts in History will be able to:

- Demonstrate content knowledge of history.
- Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations.

- Demonstrate writing skills that reflect persuasive historical arguments based on evidence and proper citation.

The History Department believes that these learning outcomes will contribute to a student's ability to think historically, which includes:

- understanding the people of the past.
- understanding the perspective of historical actors and to view those historical actors from a critical, scholarly perspective.
- recognizing that people, events, ideas, and cultures have influenced later people, events, ideas, and cultures.
- recognizing that history involves both change and continuity over time; and,
- explaining connections between particular people, events, ideas, or texts and their historical contexts.

### **Required Books:**

Anonymous, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, N.K. Sandars, trans. (New York: Penguin Classics, 1972); ISBN: 978-0140441000.

Read pp. 61-119 (entire epic).

Thomas R. Martin, *Herodotus and Sima Qian: The First Great Historians of Greece and China: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford Cultural Editions Series) (Bedford/St. Martins, 2009); ISBN 978-0312416492.

Herodotus = read Introduction, pp. 1-12; Documents, pp. 31-84.

Sima Qian = read Introduction, pp. 13-28; Documents, pp. 85-138.

Frank Miller and Lynn Varley, *300* (Dark Horse, 1999); ISBN 978-1569714027.

R.K. Narayan, *The Ramayana: A Shortened Modern Prose Version of the Indian Epic* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2006); ISBN: 978-0143039679.

Read pp. 3-153 (entire epic).

Saint Augustine, *Confessions*, Henry Chadwick, trans. (Oxford World's Classics, 2008); ISBN 978-0199537822.

Read pp. 3-178 (Books I-IX).

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2012); ISBN 978-0312475512.

Peter Jackson, trans., *The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Court of the Great Khan Möngke, 1253-1255* (Hackett Classics, 2009); ISBN 978-0872209817.

Ross E. Dunn, *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the Fourteenth Century* (University of California Press, 2012); ISBN 978-0520272927.

Ibn Battuta, *The Travels of Ibn Battuta*, Tim Mackintosh-Smith, ed. (Pan-Macmillan, 2003); ISBN 978-0330418799.

John Aberth, *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford Cultural Editions Series) (Bedford/St. Martins, 2005); ISBN 978-0312400873.

### **Required Online Readings:**

Pliny the Younger, Letter on the Christians (111AD)  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/pliny1.html>

*The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas* (203AD)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/perpetua.html>

### **Course Grading and Policies:**

#### • *Your Grade:*

Your semester grade will be factored as follows:

Shorter Critical Analysis Papers (4)	20%
Extended Critical Analysis Papers (4)	40%
Participation	40%

#### • *University Policies*

Information regarding university-wide policies can be found at:

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

#### • *Factoring Grades:*

I will not factor your grade until the end of term when all assignments are completed. If you are interested in your current standing in the class, please keep assignments and use the percentages above.

#### • *Written Assignments:*

Assignments are written in nature, with the exception of participation, and are designed to test your abilities at moving beyond summarizing lectures and readings to analyzing class materials and offering original interpretations using information from lectures and readings.

The written assignments will all follow the particular moments under investigation and will ask you to bring together the various materials, including lectures, readings, and, at times, movies.

#### • *General Points:*

Detailed information regarding written assignments will be provided separately, both on CourseDen and in class.

All written assignments are on the date indicated in the Course Outline below. Only a serious and unavoidable cause, such as a documented medical condition or family emergency, will be accepted as an excuse for failing to completing an assignment on time. Official documentation must be provided for all causes.

Written assignments must be submitted electronically, via the CourseDen (Desire2Learn) Dropbox before the beginning of class on the days marked on the Course Outline below.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-pt Times New Roman font, with regular margins (1.25 left and right, 1.0 top and bottom). You must write the full page-length of the assignment—that means, any space devoted to your name, the date, the class, etc. at the top of the first page does not count towards fulfilling the page length.

The Shorter Critical Analysis Papers are to be between 250 to 500 words in length (2 to 3 full pages). The Extended Critical Analysis Papers are to be between 750-1000 words in length (3 to 4 full pages).

• *Grading Criteria*

Assignment and final grades reflect your mastery of assigned materials, particularly lectures and readings.

In general, “A” grades reflect totally excellent work—work that is well written, well organized, and well argued; work that avoids summarizing and instead integrates lecture and reading material into a deep analysis. “A” work contains no factual errors, excellent writing with no mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays complete mastery of the main issues of our class.

“B” grades indicate good work—work that mixes analysis with summary. “B” work contains few factual errors, good writing with few mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays a good command of the main issues of our class.

“C” grades indicate average work that offers only summary and lacks analysis and organization. “C” work contains some factual errors, average writing with some mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays an average command of the main issues of our class.

Something to think about: a “C” reflects summarizing of the material (the questions of who, what, and when)—“B” and “A” indicate you have gone beyond mere summary to address the crucial questions of why and how.

“D” grades reflect poor work that fails to demonstrate a mastery of assigned material. “D” work contains many factual errors, poor writing with many mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays a less-than-average mastery of the main issues of our class.

“F” grades reflect work that fails to achieve any of the above criteria and display no mastery of assigned materials whatsoever.

Numerical Equivalents of Letter Grades:

	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68	F = 50
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65	
A- = 92	B- = 82	C- = 72	D- = 62	
A-/B+ = 90	B-/C+ = 80	C-/D+ = 70		

Note: Failure to complete/turn in an assignment will result in a grade of zero, not F.

• *Plagiarism*

All assignments in this course are designed to test your ability to use and analyze class materials, including readings and lectures. Outside materials, including the internet, are not necessary to answer any of the assigned questions. To be more precise, only your discussion of required class material will count towards your grade—information from outside WILL NOT BE FACTORED IN YOUR GRADE.

However, ANY ACT of plagiarism (the use of someone else's words or ideas without citation) from ANY SOURCE (class materials and/or outside, including from the internet) will be dealt with severely, so remember to always cite all words and ideas that are not your own. Please recall that when you entered UWG, you consented to uphold our Honor Code, in which all students “pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.” Moreover, you agreed to the following: “[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member.” You can review the Honor Code at: <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>.

For any instance of plagiarism discovered, I will report the incident to relevant university authorities and impose the same penalty: an absolute 0 points for the assignment. An absolute zero for the assignment will have an adverse impact on the final grade; at the worst, it may result in failure for the course. Based on the severity of the incident, additional measures may be taken. Plagiarism is simple to avoid: if in doubt, cite! If you have any questions regarding plagiarism and the policies stated above, please come see me.

Also, please note that any papers turned in for multiple classes (for classes in this or previous semesters) are in violation of plagiarism guidelines.

#### • *Participation*

Your active participation is absolutely critical for the success of our class. Discussions are an important component of this course and I expect you to be ready to ask and answer questions and, moreover, to be willing and able to lead debates about the issues under question. You must have the books read before discussions marked on the Course Outline and be read to speak deeply about the works. Beyond speaking during discussions, participation means being actively engaged in the process of learning at all times. This includes being alert, asking questions directly related to class material, and taking notes during lectures and taking advantage of office hours. Being absent, arriving late, or leaving early will earn you 0 participation points for the day. So, too, will sleeping in class. Finally, because of the weight of participation in your final grade (40%): failure to be prepared or fully engaged will place passing this class in doubt.

#### • *Etiquette and Obligations*

Throughout the semester, I expect you to behave with civility and courtesy—especially so considering the nature of the subject matter under discussion. By choosing to enter UWG, you have decided to engage in a professional endeavor, and must comport yourself accordingly. Not only does this mean always being respectful of your colleagues even when you disagree with their viewpoints, but also means continually contributing to a productive learning environment for all.

These contributions include keeping all comments and questions connected to specific course material, and making sure your cell phone and other electronic devices (I-Pods, etc.) are turned off and not used or consulted during class. Laptops will only be allowed with a valid medical cause and the permission of the instructor. Recording of lectures is not permitted.

Again, it should go without saying that when you come to class, you are to remain awake, alert, and mentally engaged for the entire period. If you chose to come to class, you must stay awake and remain. Do not sleep or leave early.

Unprofessional behavior and any disruption of the learning environment cannot and will not be tolerated. Continual behavioral issues constitute grounds for being dropped from the course.

In addition, USG and UWG have become concerned about what they call “non-engagement,” meaning displaying the behaviors discussed above. This is because students who do not maintain mental focus on class material tend to do poorly in specific classes and have difficulties completing college in general. Early in the semester, those who remain “non-engaged” with the learning process are to be identified by faculty to appropriate university offices so that the University can intervene with appropriate support and assistance to ensure student success.

Enrolling in this course means that you and I have a contractual obligation to one another: I am obligated to teach to the best of my ability; you are obligated to know the material provided in lectures, to complete the readings and writing assignments in a timely manner, and to engage actively and professionally in the process of learning.

• *Accessibility Services*

One of the most important resources across the entire university is the Office of Accessibility Services ([http://www.westga.edu/counseling/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/counseling/index_8884.php)), which works to help ensure equal opportunities for all students. For those who have need of the Office’s services, please make sure your information packet is e-mailed to me from your official university address during the first week of the semester. If you plan on taking the two exams at the testing office (<http://www.westga.edu/lst/index.php>), you must make arrangements at least a week in advance. I will direct the center to administer the exam on the day marked in the Course Outline below.

• *Communications*

All electronic communication must use your UWG e-mail account. Please keep in mind that I will check my e-mail during normal business hours Monday through Friday. In other words, do not expect instantaneous responses. In addition, in order to respect your privacy, I can not discuss grades over e-mail.

Finally, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus during the semester if circumstances warrant. You will be informed at all times of any changes. If changes are substantial, I will either tell you in class or issue a revised syllabus.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Mondays:</b>	<b>Wednesdays:</b>	<b>Assignments Due:</b>
1		08/10:  Class Introduction	
2	08/15:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> The Rise of Agricultural Civilization	08/17:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> <i>Gilgamesh</i>	<b>Friday, 08/19:</b>  <b>Brief Critical Analysis 1 (Ag Civ)</b> <b>DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
3	08/22:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> Ancient Greece – History and Legend	08/24:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> Herodotus – Selections	
4	08/29:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> Miller, <i>300</i>	08/31:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> Ancient India	<b>Friday, 09/01:</b>  <b>Brief Critical Analysis 2 (Greece)</b> <b>DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
5	09/05:  Labor Day – No Class	09/07:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> <i>The Ramayana</i>	
6	09/12:  <b><u>Film:</u></b> <i>Sita Sings the Blues</i>	09/14:  <b><u>Film:</u></b> <i>Sita Sings the Blues</i>	<b>Friday, 09/15:</b>  <b>Brief Critical Analysis 3 (India)</b> <b>DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
7	09/19:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> China – The Forging of Empire	09/21:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> Sima Qian – Selections	

8	09/26:  <b><u>Film:</u></b> Hero	09/28:  <b><u>Film:</u></b> Hero	<b>Friday, 09/30:</b>  <b>Brief Critical Analysis 4 (China) DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
9	10/03:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> Romans and Christians	10/05:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> Pliny and Perpetua (online)	
10	10/10:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> <i>Confessions</i>	10/12:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> <i>Confessions</i>	<b>Friday, 10/14:</b>  <b>Extended Critical Analysis 1 (Romans and Christians) DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
11	10/17:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> Silk Roads and Steppes – Central Asia in World History	10/19:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> <i>Silk Roads</i>	
12	10/24:  <b><u>Film:</u></b> Genghis Khan (BBC Documentary, 2005)	10/26:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> <i>William of Rubrick</i>	<b>Friday, 10/28:</b>  <b>Extended Critical Analysis 2 (Silk Roads and Steppes) DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
13	10/31:  <b><u>Lecture:</u></b> The Islamic Golden Age	11/02:  <b><u>Discuss:</u></b> Dunn, <i>Adventures of Ibn Battuta</i>	



14	11/07:  <b><u>Discuss</u></b> : Dunn and Battuta ( <i>Travels</i> )	11/09:  <b><u>Discuss</u></b> : Ibn Battuta, <i>Travels</i>	<b>Friday, 11/11:</b>  <b>Extended Critical Analysis 3 (Islamic Golden Age) DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>
15	11/14:  <b><u>Lecture</u></b> : Medieval European Christianity and The Black Death	11/16:  <b><u>Discuss</u></b> : Aberth, <i>The Black Death</i>	
16	11/21:  <b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>	11/23:  <b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>	
17	11/28:  <b><u>Film</u></b> : The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey (1988)	11/30:  <b><u>Film</u></b> : The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey (1988)	
Exams	<b>Monday, 12/05:</b>  <b>Extended Critical Analysis 4 (Medieval Christianity) DUE ONLINE via Course Den by 11:59PM</b>		