

HISTORY 1111 E01: World History to 1500 (Summer 2017)

Instructor: Ihor Pidhainy

Email: ipidhain@westga.edu or through courseden email.

Section : May 31– June 26, 2017; 100% online

Online Hours: For the first week (May 31, June 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th) I will be available online from 8-10 a.m. Afterwards, I will be online 9-10 am on MWF.

I will respond to all email within 24 hours (maximum), although I will often reply much sooner.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to World History to 1500, a course dedication to the exploration of cultures, civilizations and religions that arose before 1500 and that have played an important part in our global history. Our course will cover political, religious, literary, artistic, economic and other aspects of civilizations from around the globe. We will mix a traditional textbook approach – the textbook is provided in courseden and not required for purchase – with primary sources, many of which are provided on courseden. **Please note: There are two books that are required that are available at the bookstore. See below for details.** For this summer session, I have chosen to highlight several themes that are central to human experience: origin stories, the law and society, rulers as heroes, the right for the people to rebel and the conduct of warfare.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- You will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history
- You will demonstrate an understanding of the commonalities and differences between two or more societies, nations or cultures outside of the United States in regard to any of the following: languages, literature, aesthetics, politics, government structure and administration, economics, the law or social cultural practices.
- You will improve your skills in historical analysis. You will work with both primary and secondary sources, distinguishing among them, in order to craft interpretive arguments. You will be able to place your argument in context of the larger themes of the course and consider them over time, considering changes and continuities.
- You will improve your writing skills through a variety of assignments.

Let's get to the important questions:

Question: How will I be graded?

Answer: Your grade will be based on quizzes, discussions, an online essay and a final exam. (see below)

Question: How much of this history course is about names and dates?

Answer: Some of the questions on the quizzes will ask you about dates and names. For the discussion, essay and final exam emphasis is on your presenting your views/opinions backed up by your use of evidence.

Question: Should I read the books and documents? Will it really make a difference in my grade?

Answer: Yes. It will make a great difference. It will be particularly important for you to demonstrate your ability to read and make use of what you read by citing and/or alluding to it in your discussion, essay, exam...

Question: Will it make a difference if I don't do my assignments? Can I make any of them up?

Answer: Yes, it will make a GREAT difference. Showing up is often half the battle. No, you cannot make up discussions or quizzes. As this course lasts 4 weeks, if you are not on top of things from the get-go, you will not be able to keep up.

Some abstract Questions:

Question: What is the purpose of this course?

Answer: To provide you with some themes and content on important and influential things that happened in history before 1500. To help you develop and/or improve your analytical and writing skills.

Question: Does this course or any history course do anything beside meet a requirement for my graduation?

Answer: First of all – let's not dismiss requirements. They are essential to getting things done. Without these, we wouldn't qualify for most things in life.

Second – history in general and courses such as this one will help you develop the skills that are very important in life and in any future employment: The ability to perform critical analysis and to clearly express that in written format.

Question: Do I have to fall in love with history? Or with any of the civilizations that we study?

Answer: No, that is not required. (But it sure as hell is not a bad thing! You might extend or acquire a lifetime interest...)

REQUIRED Texts (not on courseden)

1. *The Ramayana: A Shortened Modern Prose Version of the Indian Epic*, trans. by R.K. Narayan. (Penguin Classics 2006), ISBN 978-0143039679
2. *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*, revised edition (Longman African Writers, 2006), ISBN 978-1405849425

Course Evaluation with explanation of how these are determined:

Quizzes	35%
Discussions	30%
On-line Essay	15%
Final Exam	20%

The **quizzes** will be the means to test and ensure your readings of the texts. Most of them will be on chapters provided for you on courseden. (One will be *Sundiata* and the first will be on this syllabus). They will be multiple-choice and often they will be very detailed or specific and sometimes slightly tricky or baffling. In every case, you will need to read the text carefully. This essentially serves as the lecture portion of the course.

The **discussions** serve as an interactive component of the course. For each discussion there is a prompt on courseden that provides a start to the discussion. This is very much the place to discuss course materials and anything about the materials that is not clear. To get full marks for this, you must submit not only your own comments but also respond substantively to two of your classmates posts. This means that you should go beyond compliment (such as: Yes; exactly; I agree; etc.) to a meaningful exchange.

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

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

On-line Essay: You will write an academic essay on the *Ramayana*. Follow the prompt in doing your essay. In grading your essay, I expect that you will include regular features of an essay: the introduction with a thesis; the body of the paper where you make your argument and support it with citations and direct quotations from the assigned book; your conclusion. You must work on this on your own and not use anything from the internet (like the Wikipedia article on it).

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

	0-12	13-15	16-18	19-20
Quality of thesis statement	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
Organization and clarity of argument	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
Use of sources/(no outside research allowed, other than the class materials!)	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
Analysis of examples	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
Ability to write in standard English	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent

The **final exam** will consist of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. The paper will be graded in according with the above rubric

We will follow the standard grading scale at UWG. Grades are final and no replacements or bonus assignments will be given in this class.

Grading Scale

90%-100%	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Student Conduct and Netiquette

Our course is conducted at the University of West Georgia and should follow all rules of conduct that the College adheres to. In addition to these governing rules, I would like to stress that the class discussion are a shared space and thus must take into account that we do not all share the same sensibilities and outlooks. Using good judgment and proper language in our discussions is essential. That we should be challenged in our opinions and ideas is part of the classroom experience, but we should balance that in the manner in which we make these challenges. So, please be courteous and professional to me and all of your classmates in your emails and discussion postings.

University Policies and Academic Support

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common%20Language%20for%20Course%20Syllabi.pdf)

Academic Honesty – Plagiarism

Do not plagiarize.

Plagiarism is generally considered to be borrowing the work of others in any shape or form and claiming that it is yours.

For example, copying and pasting a paragraph from Wikipedia in your paper without citation is plagiarism. (Even if you alter several words in it). If you put it into quotation marks, then it isn't plagiarism. (It then becomes poor use of a quotation, but that affects your grade differently than plagiarism).

Our school has a discussion of this in the handbook:

<http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>.

Penalties for plagiarism: This is at the discretion of the instructor, depending on how egregious the plagiarism is. Previous penalties have included zero for a portion of an exam; zero for an assignment; zero for the course.

Disabilities Act/ Accessibility for the course

****Please consult the following link for more detail regarding accessibility for this course, including contact information for those with accessibility needs:

UWG Accessibility Services (phone: 678-839-6428)

Schedule Hist 1111 E01 Ihor Pidhainy

Unless other specified, all documents on Courseden (or links provided on Courseden)

Unit	Dates	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1	May 31 – June 6	Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome	Quiz #1 – Syllabus – May 31st Textbook: Chapters 2, 5, 6 Quiz #2 – June 3rd <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> <i>Genesis</i> (any translation) Discussion #1 June 5th <i>Code of Hammurabi</i> <i>Twelve Tables</i> Discussion #2 – June 6th
2	June 7-13	Christianity and Byzantium; Islam and Africa	Textbook: Chapters 7, 8, 9 Quiz #3 – June 9th <i>Life of Macrina</i> <i>Islamic Biography: Rabia Ibn Kab</i> Discussion #3 – June 10th <i>Sundiata</i> [NEEDS to be purchased!] Quiz #4 – June 12th Discussion #4 – June 13th
3	June 14-19	South Asia (India)	Textbook: Chapter 3 Quiz #5 – June 14th Stories from Buddha's life Discussion #5 – June 16th <i>Ramayana</i> [NEEDS to be purchased!] Essay #1 – June 19th
4	June 20-24	East Asia	Textbook: Chapter 4 Quiz #6 – June 21st <i>Art of War</i> “Liu Bang and Xiang Yu” Discussion #6 – June 23rd
	June 24-26	Final Exam	