

SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY / CIVILIZATION TO 1500

HIST 1111-04, Fall 2017. Pafford 206, MW 2:00-3:15 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3206

Office hours: MTuWThF 10:00 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 your 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 learning outcome, which you will fulfil as part of your normal required work:

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

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 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 unless you have previously provided a reason for doing so.

It is important to attend class and take notes. This is the only way you will be able to acquire the information necessary for your exams. 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 quiz and exam dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with these dates.

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:

- 5% from a basic knowledge quiz, to be given at the beginning and end of the semester. If you want to improve the grade you receive at the beginning, you can take it again at the end. If you miss it at the beginning, you can take it at the end.
- 20% from a written midterm exam based on material from the first half of the semester
- 20% from a written final exam based on material from the entire semester
- 40% from quizzes based on the textbook: Stephen Morillo, *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture. Volume One: To 1550*, worth 10% each.
- 15% from writing exercises based on historical documents to be posted on CouseDen. There will be 4 opportunities and you will do at least 3 for 5% each. If you do 4, your lowest grade for these exercises will be dropped.

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. If you will absent from class on the day something is due you must send your work as an e-mail attachment before the end of the normal class period to receive full credit. In all other cases, you must turn in a paper copy of your work.

For the midterm and final exams, you will need to turn in a blank blue book with your name on the front cover at least one class meeting prior to the exam. I will mark these and return them at the exam time. No exams written in unmarked blue books will be accepted. You may use your assigned readings and notes during these exams.

If you have problems writing, 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. The Writing Center is in the TLC building (Room 1201) and can be reached at 678-839-6513.

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. Such excessive collaboration will result in the division of the grade between the students involved. Any other lying, cheating, stealing, or plagiarism will result in penalties up to a grade of zero for the assignment in which it was committed.

For more information from the university Writing Center on plagiarism and excessive collaboration, see: https://www.westga.edu/writing/index_153.php .You can review the Honor Code at <http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm> .

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. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time. The presence of any electronic device (in your lap, under or on your desk, or anywhere else that you can see it) during an exam or quiz is strictly prohibited and will be considered a breach of academic honesty, with the result of a grade of zero for the exam or quiz.

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:

https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

Required Book

Stephen Morillo. *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture. Volume One: To 1550*. Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN 9780199987801

NOTE: I will post a scan of Chapters 1 through 3 in case you have trouble getting the book quickly. I will not provide scans of later chapters—you must buy the book.

Course Schedule:

DATE LECTURE TOPICS *in italics*

WEEK 1

Read: Syllabus

Begin reading: Morillo, Chapters 1 through 3

Aug. 9 *Introduction*

WEEK 2

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 1 through 3

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

Aug. 16 *Early civilizations of the Ancient Middle East: Mesopotamia and Egypt, continued*

Aug. 18 Basic Knowledge Quiz (first attempt) due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 3

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 1 through 3

Aug. 21 *Early civilizations of India and China*

Aug. 23 *Early civilizations of India and China, continued*

WEEK 4

Finish reading: Morillo, Chapters 1 through 3

Aug. 28 *The later Ancient Middle East: empires and Hebrews*

Aug. 30 Review session on Morillo, Chapters 1 through 3

Sept. 1 Quiz on Morillo, Chapters 1 through 3, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 5

Begin reading: Morillo, Chapters 4 through 6

Sept. 4 NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Sept. 6 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Greece*

Sept. 8 Writing exercise 1 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 6

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 4 through 6

Sept. 11 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Greece, continued*

Sept. 13 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Alexander and the Hellenistic world*

WEEK 7

Finish reading: Morillo, Chapters 4 through 6

Sept. 18 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: Rome from city-state to empire*

Sept. 20 Review session on Morillo, Chapters 4 through 6

Sept. 22 Quiz on Morillo, Chapters 4 through 6, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 8

Begin reading: Morillo, Chapters 7 through 10

Sept. 25 *India: from kingdoms to empire; the emergence of Buddhism*

Sept. 27 *China: from warring states to empire*

Sept. 29: Last day to drop with a grade of W

WEEK 9

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 7 through 10

Oct. 2 **Midterm Exam**

Oct. 4 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: The emergence of Christianity and the transformation of the Roman world*

WEEK 10

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 7 through 10

Oct. 9 *Ancient Mediterranean civilization: The emergence of Christianity and the transformation of the Roman world, continued*

Oct. 11 *Native American civilizations: Mesoamerica and the Andes*

Oct. 13 Writing exercise 2 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 11

Finish reading: Morillo, Chapters 7 through 10

Oct. 16 *The spread of Indian culture*

Oct. 18 Review session on Morillo, Chapters 7 through 10

Oct. 20 Quiz on Morillo, Chapters 7 through 10, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 12

Begin reading: Morillo, Chapters 11 through 14

Oct. 23 *Middle Eastern civilization: the rise of Islam*

Oct. 25 *Middle Eastern civilization: the Islamic golden age*

WEEK 13

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 11 through 14

Oct. 30 *East Asia: the Chinese golden age*

Nov. 1 *Medieval Europe: from tribal to feudal society*

Nov. 3 Writing exercise 3 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 14

Continue reading: Morillo, Chapters 11 through 14

Nov. 6 *The High Middle Ages and eastern influence*

Nov. 8 *African civilizations*

Nov. 10 Writing exercise 4 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 15

Finish reading: Morillo, Chapters 11 through 14

Nov. 13 *The Mongols*

Nov. 15 Review session on Morillo, Chapters 11 through 14

Nov. 17 Quiz on Morillo, Chapters 11 through 14, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 16

Nov. 20-24 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

WEEK 17

Nov. 27 *Old World trade and politics after the Mongols*

Nov. 29 *Old World trade and politics after the Mongols, continued*

Dec. 1 Basic Knowledge Quiz (second attempt) due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

FINALS

Dec. 4 **Final Exam, 2:00-4:00 pm**

Dec. 11 Final grades will be submitted by 12:00 noon