

HIST 1111 E01: World Civilizations to 1500 AD (Fall 2017)

Instructor: Dr. Nadya Williams (nwilliam@westga.edu)

Delivery method: This course is taught 100% online on CourseDen. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have access to the Internet and to CourseDen for the duration of the course.

Online/Phone Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00-12:00pm. During these times, you can text or call 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.

UCC Office Hours: Thursday, 2:15-3:15pm. During this time, you can speak to me in person in the UCC, ground floor open area.

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:

There are no required textbooks that you need to purchase for this course. Links to all 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 ten 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 – 30%

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.

Papers – 25%

Each student will write two 3-5 page papers. Please see the rubric below for grading criteria for papers.

Paper I will be a family history paper, and will ask you to describe the historical events that likely would have impacted your family before 1500 AD. Because most people today cannot definitively trace their family that far back, the paper will ask you to make some overall assumptions about your ancestors when considering events that would have influenced their lives. For example, if you know that your family has significant Irish ancestry, your paper would investigate influential events in Irish history specifically.

Paper II will be a film analysis paper. You will select a film that deals with a topic related to world history before 1500 AD, and will write a review of how well (or how poorly) the film deals with its selected topic, based on your knowledge of the particular civilization and events considered in this film.

Final Exam – 10%

Each student will take a final exam on CourseDen by midnight on 12/04. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions on material from the entire course.

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

	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	Unclear or absent	Needs improvement	Very good	Excellent

course readings will get you credit!)				
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

The papers 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/quality of examples	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

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 https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.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 you are juggling this course and probably several others, in addition to family, work, and life, 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.**

Please note that for the duration of this class, you will have assignments due every Monday by midnight, and on some Thursdays.

Date	Reading Assignments	Graded Assignments Due
08/10	Course Syllabus and expectations on CourseDen	Quiz 1: Syllabus
08/14	--	Discussion 1: Introductions
08/17	Unit 1 begins: Early Civilizations – Mesopotamia, India, and China Textbook, chapters 2-4	Quiz 2: Textbook, chs. 2-4
08/21	CourseDen materials on Ancient Calendars and Dating Systems	Discussion 2: Calendars and Dating Systems
08/28	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> , <i>Genesis</i>	Discussion 3: Primary Sources and the Ancient Near East
09/04	Introduction to the <i>Ramayana</i> ; selections from the <i>Ramayana</i> ; “Sita Sings the Blues”	Discussion 4: Primary Sources and Early India
09/11	Unit 2 begins: The Mediterranean World from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity Textbook, chapters 5-6	Quiz 3: Textbook, chs. 5-6
09/18	Lysias 1, “On the Killing of Eratosthenes”	Discussion 5: Law and order in Classical Athens
09/25	Julian the Apostate, <i>Against the Galileans</i> , selections from Book I; Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan; <i>The Passion of the Saints Perpetua and Felicity</i> ; Gospel of Mark, 1 Corinthians, Philippians	Discussion 6: Pagans vs. Christians debate (roles assigned by alphabet)
10/02	Maps in your textbook	Discussion 7: Mapping Ancient Empires
10/09	--	Family History paper due
10/16	Unit 3 begins: The World in the Middle Ages Textbook, chapters 7-9	Quiz 4: Textbook, chs. 7-9
10/23	Selections from Ibn Battuta	Discussion 8: Mapping the spread of Islam
10/30	Textbook, chapters 10 and 12	Quiz 5: Textbook, chs. 10 and 12
11/06	Boccaccio, Introduction to the <i>Decameron</i>	Discussion 9: The Plague
11/13	--	Film review paper due
11/27	Materials on CourseDen on Food in World History	Discussion 10: Food in World History before 1500 AD
12/04	All of your materials from the class	Final Exam due