

HIST 1111 Honors: World Civilizations to 1500 AD, Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Nadejda Williams
Class Time: T 5:30-8:00 pm
Class Location: TLC 3205
Office Location: TLC 3239
On-campus office Hours: T 4:00-5:30 pm
 and by appointment.

Telephone: 678-554-7765 (cell, please use
 in case of emergency)
Telephone: 678-839-5370 (office)
Online Office Hours: MWF 11:00am-
 2:00pm
Westga email: nwilliam@westga.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course provides a fast-paced introduction to world civilizations from the Agricultural Revolution to the end of the European Middle Ages, focusing on two large themes: connections between different civilizations in world history before 1500 AD, and how historians can use primary sources as a window into everyday life in the Ancient Mediterranean. 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 readings and discussions. 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 Agricultural Revolution 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.

Since this is an Honors course, the class takes the format of a discussion seminar. Occasional lectures by the instructor may be necessary, but will be kept to a minimum. The goal is for **you** to participate actively, and even lead as much as possible, during the learning process!

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available on Amazon and in UWG Bookstore)

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>ISBN Number</i>	<i>HB</i> <i>or PB</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
Tom Standage	<i>A History of the World in 6 Glasses</i>	978-0802715524	PB	Walker Publishing Company
Jared Diamond	<i>Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies</i>	978-0393354324	PB	W. W. Norton and Company

Apuleius/ P. G. Walsh	<i>The Golden Ass</i>	978- 0199540556	PB	Oxford World's Classics
Mary Beard	<i>The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost and Found</i>	978- 0674045866	PB	Belknap Press

Additional class readings are posted on CourseDen.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

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

Assignments and Grading Policies

Assignment Type	Description	Weight
Seminar Participation	Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all class discussions and activities. Please see class attendance policy below.	15%
Discussion Leading OR 10-minute Presentation	Each student will be responsible for leading one in-class discussion on a particular reading assigned for that day. The discussion leader will prepare questions, and will email them to the professor at least 24 hours before the discussion is scheduled. In lieu of leading a discussion, students may select to present on a topic of their choice relevant to a particular week's subject of focus. Please see list of presentation topics in class schedule.	10%
Weekly Response Papers on Readings	Each student will write seven 2-3 page short papers. The first of these is required, and has to address your own philosophy of history and how your worldview impacts your understanding of historical events. The remaining papers will be response papers asking a historical question prompted by the reading, and proposing a possible answer, based on the course materials. Responses are due by 12 noon on CourseDen each Tuesday, and must be on that day's reading. Late papers will not be considered – you will simply write a paper on a later reading. Students may write more than seven papers, in which case the seven best scores	35%

Assignment Type	Description	Weight
	will count. You may only submit one response paper per class period.	
Paper I (in lieu of midterm)	In lieu of a midterm exam, you will write a 5-7 page paper considering the pros and cons of a “big picture” approach, such as that of Standage or Diamond, to the study of world history.	20%
Paper II (in lieu of final)	In lieu of a final exam, you will write a 5-7 page family history paper, analyzing 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.	20%

Grading turnaround time: Barring any outstanding circumstances or emergencies, I will grade all assignments within one week of the time when you submit them.

Grading Information and Policy

All class assignments will be graded within 7 days. Semester grades will be awarded according to the following guidelines, keeping in mind that UWG does not award +/- grades.

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

Rubric for Papers

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	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent

clarity of argument				
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

Communication Rules

Per university policy, all email communications between faculty and students should be limited to the UWG email accounts. I will not respond to emails sent from other accounts. Also in accordance with university policies, I cannot discuss your grade with you over email. I am, however, always happy to discuss your grade with you in person. Please keep in mind, also, that I will be using the CourseDen gradebook for this class, so you will always be able to find all of your grades to date entered there.

Schedule of Class Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Date	Class Topics	Readings and Other Assignments Due
01/09	Definitions and Approaches: Historians and History	Sign up for a presentation OR discussion leading
01/16	UNIT I begins: "Big History" and making connections between civilizations before 1500 AD The beverages that drove history: from the Agricultural Revolution to the Atlantic World	Response Paper 1 due by 12:00 noon on 01/16-- Personal statement on your philosophy of history and how your worldview may impact your perception of historical events. Standage, chapters 1-6
01/23	The beverages that drove history: from Early America to the present	Standage, chapters 7-12 Class presentations on food and history: 1. Aztecs and chocolate 2. China and rice 3. Egypt/Mesopotamia and wheat 4. Greece and olives
01/30	Evaluating Diamond's premise and starting questions: differences between Diamond's and Standage's assumptions and methods in writing "Big History"	Diamond, Prologue and chapters 1-5
02/06	Agriculture and food production as driving forces of history	Diamond, chapters 6-10

Date	Class Topics	Readings and Other Assignments Due
02/13	The evolution of key institutions of civilization: diseases, writing, technology, and government structures	Diamond, chapters 11-14 Presentations: 1. Bubonic plague 2. Mosquito-born diseases 3. Trypanosomiasis
02/20	Evaluating Diamond's overall argument; the future of history as a science	Diamond, chapters 15-19 and Epilogue
02/27	No class meeting – use the time to work on your midterm essay!	Midterm essay due by midnight
03/06	UNIT II BEGINS: Primary Sources as Windows into Everyday Life in the Ancient Mediterranean Epic poetry as a historical source	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (reading on CourseDen)
03/13	Law and Justice in the Athenian Democracy	<i>Lysias 1: On the Killing of Eratosthenes</i> (reading on CourseDen)
03/20	Spring Break – no class!	
03/27	Material culture as a historical source: the evidence of Pompeii	Beard, Introduction and chapters 1-5
04/03	Material culture as a historical source (cont.)	Beard, chapters 6-9 and Epilogue
04/10	Paul's Epistles as primary sources on the early church and its Roman context	1 Corinthians, Philipians, Philemon (any translation you prefer)
04/17	A novel as a historical source for life in the Roman Empire	Apuleius, Books 1-6
04/24	A novel as a historical source (cont.)	Apuleius, Books 7-11
05/01	No class (Reading Day)	Final Paper Due by Midnight

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy: Attendance is a pre-requisite for learning and participating in class activities. This is a seminar course, and whenever you are absent, you are not only depriving yourself of an opportunity to learn from the conversation with your professor and your classmates, you are also depriving your classmates of the opportunity to learn from your insights. Unless a medical or family emergency intervenes, I expect you to be in class and to participate actively in the discussions and other activities.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty on any assignment in this course will result in an F for the course, and the referral of the student to the appropriate university committee. Academic dishonesty can take many shapes. 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>

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

I strongly recommend that students keep an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the Dropbox.

Support and Services for Students (Not all of these services are relevant for this particular class, but they may be resources for some of your classes this semester)

CourseDen D2L Home Page https://westga.view.usg.edu/	Student Services http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php
D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM) http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu	Center for Academic Success http://www.westga.edu/cas/ 678-839-6280
24/7/365 D2L Help Center Call 1-855-772-0423 or search: https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/	Distance Learning Library Services http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430
University Bookstore http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/	Ingram Library Services http://www.westga.edu/library/
Common Language for Course Syllabi http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf	Proctored Exams http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student
UWG Cares http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/	Student Services https://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-

<p>CourseDen D2L Home Page https://westga.view.usg.edu/</p>	<p>Student Services http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php</p>
	<p>guide.php</p>
<p>Center for Disability https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php</p>	<p>UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqeffvts1f</p>