

SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY / CIVILIZATION TO 1500

HIST 1111-03, Spring 2019. Callaway 120, Tu Th 12:30-1:45 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3206

Office hours: Tu Th 10:00-11:00 AM and 2:00-3:00 PM, 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

The two sources of information in this class are readings (a textbook and other materials posted on CourseDen) and class lectures.

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading and the assignments based on this reading.

It is important to attend class and take notes on the lectures. This is the only way you will be able to acquire all the information necessary for your exams. Information obtained from sources other than this class's readings and lectures (such as unauthorized internet sources) will not count positively toward your grade.

Attendance will be taken for administrative purposes and it is essential because of the large amount of material to be covered. Do not leave class early as this may disrupt other students' learning. If you absolutely have to leave class early, please let me know before class as a courtesy.

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: Eugene Berger, et al. *World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500*.

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/academics/coah/writing/plagiarism.php> . You can review the Student Code of Conduct at <https://www.westga.edu/handbook/> .

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 <https://www.westga.edu/accessibility/>.

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/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

Required Book

Eugene Berger, et al. *World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500*. University of North Georgia Press.

NOTE: This is a free online textbook. It is included on your CourseDen site.

Course Schedule:

DATE LECTURE TOPICS *in italics*

FIRST HALF THEMES: THE EMERGENCE OF STATES AND EMPIRES, AND OF RELIGIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES

WEEK 1

Read: Syllabus

Begin reading: Textbook, Chapters 1 through 2

Jan. 8 *Introduction; Prehistory*

Jan. 10 *Early Middle Eastern and Northeast African Civilizations*

WEEK 2

Finish reading: Textbook, Chapters 1 through 2

Jan. 15 *Early Middle Eastern and Northeast African Civilizations, continued*

Jan. 17 Basic Knowledge Quiz (first attempt) in class
Early Middle Eastern and Northeast African Civilizations, continued

Jan. 19 Quiz on Textbook, Chapter 2, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 3

Begin reading: Textbook, Chapters 3 through 5

Jan. 22 *Ancient and Early Medieval India*

Jan. 24 NO CLASS

WEEK 4

Continue reading: Textbook, Chapters 3 through 5

Jan. 29 *Ancient and Early Medieval India, continued*

Jan 31 *Ancient and Early Medieval India, continued*

WEEK 5

Continue reading: Textbook, Chapters 3 through 5

Feb. 5 *China and East Asia to the Ming Dynasty*

Feb. 7 *China and East Asia to the Ming Dynasty, continued*

WEEK 6

Finish reading: Textbook, Chapters 3 through 5

Feb. 12 NO CLASS—watch “The Genius that was China” video and prepare for textbook quiz at home

Feb. 14 *The Greek World from the Bronze Age to the Roman Conquest*

Feb. 16 Quiz on Textbook, Chapters 3 through 5, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 7

Begin reading: Textbook, Chapters 6 through 8

Feb. 19 *The Greek World from the Bronze Age to the Roman Conquest, continued*

Feb. 21 *The Roman World from 753 BCE to 500 CE*

Feb. 23 Writing exercise 1 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 8

Continue reading: Textbook, Chapters 6 through 8

Feb. 26 *The Roman World from 753 BCE to 500 CE, continued*

Feb. 27: Last day to drop with a grade of W

Feb. 28: **Midterm Exam**

SECOND HALF THEMES: CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS AND INDEPENDENT CIVILIZATIONS

WEEK 9

Continue reading: Textbook, Chapters 6 through 8

Mar. 5 *Connections between Civilization: Review of Examples from First Half*

Mar. 7 *Western Europe and Byzantium circa 500 – 1000 CE*

WEEK 10

Finish reading: Textbook, Chapters 6 through 8

Mar. 12 *Western Europe and Byzantium circa 500 – 1000 CE, continue*

Mar. 14 *Islam to the Mamluks*

Mar. 16 Writing exercise 2 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 11

Mar. 18-22 NO CLASS (Spring Break)

WEEK 12

Begin reading: Textbook, Chapters 9 through 12

Mar. 26 *Islam to the Mamluks, continued*

Mar. 28 *Islam to the Mamluks, continued*

Mar. 30 Quiz on Textbook, Chapters 6 through 8, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 13

Continue reading: Textbook, Chapters 9 through 12

Apr. 2 *African History to 1500*

Apr. 4 *African History to 1500, continued*

Apr. 6 Writing exercise 3 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 14

Continue reading: Textbook, Chapters 9 through 12

Apr. 9 *The Americas*

Apr. 11 *The Americas, continued*

Apr. 13 Writing exercise 4 due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 15

Finish reading: Textbook, Chapters 9 through 12

Apr. 16 *Central Asia*

Apr. 18 *Western Europe and Byzantium circa 1000 – 1500 CE*

Apr. 20 Quiz on Textbook, Chapters 8, 9 and 12, due at 9:00 pm on CourseDen

WEEK 16

Apr. 23 Basic Knowledge Quiz (second attempt) in class
Western Europe and Byzantium circa 1000 – 1500 CE, continued

Apr. 25 *Western Europe and Byzantium circa 1000 – 1500 CE, continued*

FINALS

May 2 **Final Exam**, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

May 13 Final grades will be submitted by 12:00 noon