

University of West Georgia – Department of History

HIST 1111: World Civilizations to 1500, Sections 08 and 09

Journeys Through the Old World

I. Instructor Information:

Professor: Dr. Charles Lipp

Class Times: MW 9:30-10:45 and 3:30-4:45

Class Rooms: Nursing 110 and 121

Office: TLC 3217

E-Mail: clipp@westga.edu

Office Phone: 678-839-6039

Office Hours: MW 2-3; Tues 10-12; 2-5pm,
or by appointment.

II. Course Description:

This section of HIST 1111 surveys aspects of the world's history from the time of the Agricultural Revolution of around 10,000BC to the eve of European exploration in 1500. Naturally, we cannot discuss every issue and, so, we will focus our explorations, in terms of geographic and subject areas. We will pay particular attention to the large land mass containing Europe and Asia, or Eurasia for short, and, within that area, Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Central and East Asia. In terms of subject, rather than a standard survey of events, we will instead focus on a series of crucial moments in order to gain better understanding of people from the past and how they saw their world. Therefore, I have assigned a fair bit of reading through which we will closely encounter those past people and their views. You will be writing on and discussing those readings regularly.

III. Course Learning Objectives:

The general World Civilizations program learning objectives is:

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

Particular to this class are the following learning objectives:

- Students will demonstrate introductory knowledge of pivotal trends and issues in global history prior to 1500.
- Students will demonstrate improved abilities in processing and analyzing information from historical sources.
- Students will demonstrate improved skills at crafting written arguments based on information from historical sources.
- To explain in further detail: major objectives of this particular class are to introduce students to crucial skills of written and oral analysis, interpretation, and argumentation. In contrast to a mere opinion, an interpretation makes an original argument that is firmly based on source evidence. Again and again in the coming weeks, you will be required to read historical sources critically, to analyze them, and to craft well-written original arguments that move beyond just summarizing the text.

IV. Required Books (and pages to read):

Herodotus, *The Histories*, Robin Waterfield, trans. (Oxford World's Classics, 2008); ISBN 978-0199535668.

Read the following pages (155 total):

- 385 (from Book Six, #94) – 540 (the end of Book Eight).

Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander* (Penguin Classics, 1976); ISBN 978-0140442533.

Read the following pages (159 total):

- 41 – 200 (Books One through Three).

Josephus, *The Jewish War* (Oxford World's Classics, 2017); ISBN 978-0199646029.

Read the following pages (119 total):

- 255 – 374 (Books 5 through 7).

Gerald of Wales, *The Journey through Wales and the Description of Wales* (Penguin Classics, 1978); ISBN 978-0140443394.

Read the following books (146 total):

- 63 – 209 (*The Journey through Wales*).

William of Rubruck, *The Mission of William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Great Khan Möngke* (Hackett, 2009); ISBN 978-0872209817.

Read the following pages (132 total):

- 59 – 71 (Chap. 1)
- 97 – 120 (Chaps. IX-XVI)
- 130 – 156 (Chaps. XIX-XXV)
- 165 – 216 (Chaps. XXVII-XXX)
- 226 – 239 (Chaps. XXXIII-XXXIV)
- 246 – 253 (Chap. XXXVI)

Ibn Battutah, *The Travels of Ibn Battutah*, Tim Mackintosh-Smith, ed. (Pan Macmillan, 2003); ISBN 978-0330418799.

Read the following pages (123 total):

- 1 – 100 (Chaps. 1-5)
- 273 – 296 (Chaps. 17-18)

*** Notes:**

The above works are available at the bookstore. Cheap used editions also can be found online. No matter how you acquire them, you must have both books read by the date indicated on the Course Outline below. I urge you to start reading the works right away. The longer you delay, the harder it will get. Also, try to get the editions listed above.

For a number of reasons, I do not assign a traditional textbook. If you are more comfortable with a text that offers a deeper context to course materials, I suggest looking for the following (plenty of used editions available cheap online):

- John P. McKay, et al., *A History of World Societies*
- Peter Stearns, et al., *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*
- A much cheaper option is: Herman Kinder and Werner Hilgemann, *Penguin Atlas of World History: Volume 1: From Prehistory to the Eve of the French Revolution* (New York: Penguin Books, 2004); ISBN: 978-0141012636. This book has been in print since

the 1970s (hence, cheap online) and provides a basic timeline and maps rather than a narrative like the above textbooks.

V. Course Grading Information and Class Policies:

A. University Policies:

Information regarding university-wide policies can be found [here](#).

B. Grade Breakdown:

Your semester grade will be factored as follows:

- 30% = In-Class Interpretation Exercises (6 in total; 5% each)
- 25% = First Examination (non-cumulative)
- 25% = Second Examination (non-cumulative)
- 20% = Participation

*** Notes:**

- Factoring Grades: I will not factor your grade until the end of term when all assignments are completed. If you are interested in your current standing in the class, please keep assignments and use the percentages above.
- Nature of Assignments: All class assignments are written in nature, with the exception of participation, and are designed to test your abilities at moving beyond summarizing lectures and readings to analyzing class materials and offering original interpretations using information from lectures and readings.

C. Further Information Regarding Assignments:

1. More information will also be provided during the semester concerning the in-class interpretation exercises and the two examinations. Both examinations will be written in nature, and both are non-cumulative.
2. All assignments will be either due or held at the beginning of class on the date indicated in the Course Outline below.
3. Do not be late as there are no makeups provided for scheduled interpretation exercises and examinations.
4. Only a serious and unavoidable cause, such as a documented medical condition or family emergency, will be accepted as an excuse for failing to completing an assignment on time. Documentation must be provided for all causes.

D. Basic Grading Criteria:

- Assignment and final grades reflect your mastery of assigned materials, specifically lectures and readings.
- In general, “A” grades reflect totally excellent work—work that is well written, well organized, and well argued; work that avoids summarizing and instead integrates lecture and reading material into a deep analysis. “A” work contains no factual errors, excellent writing with no mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays complete mastery of the main issues of our class.

- “B” grades indicate good work—work that mixes analysis with summary. “B” work contains few factual errors, good writing with few mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays a good command of the main issues of our class.
- “C” grades indicate average work that offers only summary and lacks analysis and organization. “C” work contains some factual errors, average writing with some mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays an average command of the main issues of our class. Something to think about: a “C” reflects summarizing of the material (the questions of who, what, and when)—“B” and “A” indicate you have gone beyond mere summary to address the crucial questions of why and how.
- “D” grades reflect poor work that fails to demonstrate a mastery of assigned material. “D” work contains many factual errors, poor writing with many mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays a less-than-average mastery of the main issues of our class.
- “F” grades reflect work that fails to achieve any of the above criteria and display no mastery of assigned materials whatsoever.

E. Numerical Equivalents of Letter Grades:

	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68	F = 50
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65	
A- = 92	B- = 82	C- = 72	D- = 62	
A-/B+ = 90	B-/C+ = 80	C-/D+ = 70	D-/F+ = 60	

* Note:

- Failure to complete or turn in an assignment will result in a grade of zero, not F.

F. Plagiarism

- All assignments in this course are designed to test your ability to use and analyze class materials, including readings and lectures. Outside materials, including the internet, are not necessary to answer any of the assigned questions. To be more precise, only your discussion of required class material will count towards your grade—information from outside WILL NOT BE FACTORED IN YOUR GRADE.
- However, ANY ACT of plagiarism (the use of someone else’s words or ideas without citation) from ANY SOURCE (class materials and/or outside, including from the internet) will be dealt with severely, so remember to always cite all words and ideas that are not your own. Please recall that when you entered UWG, you consented to uphold our Honor Code, in which all students “pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.” Moreover, you agreed to the following: “[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member.” You can review the Honor Code [here](#).

- For any instance of plagiarism discovered, I will report the incident to relevant university authorities and impose the same penalty: an absolute 0 points for the assignment. An absolute zero for the assignment will have an adverse impact on the final grade; at the worst, it may result in failure for the course. Based on the severity of the incident, additional measures may be taken. Plagiarism is simple to avoid: if in doubt, cite! If you have any questions regarding plagiarism and the policies stated above, please come see me.

G. Participation and the Course Attendance/Participation Policy

- Your active participation is absolutely critical for the success of our class. Discussions are an important component of this course and I expect you to be ready to ask and answer questions.
- Just showing up for class and saying nothing is not enough—that will earn a C-level grade.
- Beyond speaking during discussions, participation means being actively engaged in the process of learning at all times. This includes being alert and taking notes during lectures and taking advantage of office hours.
- I expect you to be respectful of yourself, your colleagues, and me at all times. Failure to conduct yourself professionally (as in not paying attention during discussions, leaving, coming late, texting, and the like) will have a negative impact on your participation grade.
- Twenty percent of your final grade rests on your participation—that is the difference between a 95 and a 75.
- In order to encourage active intellectual engagement with the class, an attendance/participation policy will also be in effect for the semester. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every lecture. Absences, arriving late or leaving early, and failures to remain alert during class (sleeping, texting, and similar behaviors) will earn you 0 participation points for the day. The first four “0s” will not count against you; however, for each “0” beyond that limit will result in one point off from your final grade. In other words, stay engaged.

H. Etiquette and Obligations

- As mentioned above, inside the classroom, I expect you to behave with civility and courtesy towards your colleagues and towards me. By choosing to enter UWG, you have decided to engage in a professional endeavor, and must comport yourself accordingly. Not only does this mean always being respectful of your colleagues even when you disagree with their viewpoints, but also means continually contributing to a productive learning environment for all.
- These contributions include making sure your cell phone and other electronic devices are turned off and not used or consulted during class. This ban includes laptops. Recording of lectures is similarly not permitted. If you have a medical reason to use either a laptop or recorder, please come see during the first week of class with official paperwork from UWG.

- It should go without saying that when you come to class, you are to remain awake, alert, and mentally engaged for the entire class – that is 75 full minutes. If you chose to come to class, you must stay awake and remain. Do not sleep or leave early. As part of my job, I must inform relevant university authorities anyone who displays such behaviors and has difficulty remaining engaged in the learning process.
- Unprofessional behavior and any disruption of the learning environment cannot and will not be tolerated. Continual behavioral issues constitute grounds for being dropped from the course.
- Enrolling in this course means that you and I have a contractual obligation to one another: I am obligated to teach to the best of my ability; you are obligated to know the material provided in lectures, to complete the readings and writing assignments in a timely manner, and to participate actively in the process of learning.

I. Communications

- All electronic communication must use your UWG e-mail account (G-Mail), not your Course Den e-mail. Please keep in mind that I will check my e-mail only during normal business hours Monday through Friday. In other words, do not expect instantaneous responses. In addition, in order to respect your privacy, I will not discuss grades over e-mail.

J. Resources

- There are a variety of resources to help you get through this class. They include UWG's [Writing Center](#) at TLC 1201 and UWG's [Center for Academic Success](#).
- Your most important resource as regards this course in particular is me. I urge you to take advantage of my office hours to discuss assignments or any other issues concerning the class. I am always open to discussing matters *before assignments are due*.

K. Accessibility Services

- One of the most important resources across the entire university is the [Office of Accessibility Services](#), which works to help ensure equal opportunities for all students. For those who have need of the Office's services, please make sure your information packet is e-mailed to me from your official university address during the first week of the semester. If you plan on taking the two exams at the testing office, you must make arrangements with Accessibility Services at least a week in advance. I will direct the center to administer the exam on the day marked in the Course Outline below.

L. Final Note

- I reserve the right to modify this syllabus during the semester if circumstances warrant. You will be informed at all times of any changes. If changes are substantial, I will issue a revised syllabus.

VI. Course Outline:

Week One:

Wednesday, August 14, 2019:

- Class Introduction

Week Two:

Monday, August 19, 2019:

- The Ancient World – Some Basic Contexts

Wednesday, August 21, 2019:

- Persia and Greece, 1

Week Three:

Monday, August 26, 2019:

- Persia and Greece, 2

Wednesday, August 28, 2019:

- Persia and Greece, 3

Week Four:

Monday, September 02, 2019:

- **No Class: Labor Day**

Wednesday, September 04, 2019:

- Skills of Success

Week Five:

Monday, September 09, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment:** Interpretation Exercise 1 (Herodotus)
- **In-Class Discussion** (Herodotus) – read pages listed above.

Wednesday, September 11, 2019:

- Alexander the Great, 1

Week Six:

Monday, September 16, 2019:

- Alexander the Great, 2

Wednesday, September 18, 2019:

- Alexander the Great, 3

Week Seven:

Monday, September 23, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment:** Interpretation Exercise 2 (Arrian)
- **In-Class Discussion** (Arrian) – read pages listed above.

Wednesday, September 25, 2019:

- Romans and Jews, 1

Week Eight:

Monday, September 30, 2019:

- Romans and Jews, 2

Wednesday, October 02, 2019:

- Romans and Jews, 3

Week Nine:

Monday, October 07, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment:** Interpretation Exercise 3 (Josephus)
- **In-Class Discussion** (Josephus) – read pages listed above.

Wednesday, October 09, 2019:

- The Medieval World – Some Basic Contexts

Week Ten:

Monday, October 14, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment: Exam 1**

Wednesday, October 16, 2019:

- Medieval Christian Europe, 1

Week Eleven:

Monday, October 21, 2019:

- Medieval Christian Europe, 2

Wednesday, October 23, 2019:

- Medieval Christian Europe, 3

Week Twelve:

Monday, October 28, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment:** Interpretation Exercise 4 (Gerald of Wales)
- **In-Class Discussion** (Gerald of Wales) – read pages listed above.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019:

- Into the Mongol World, 1

Week Thirteen:

Monday, November 04, 2019:

- Into the Mongol World, 2

Wednesday, November 06, 2019:

- Into the Mongol World, 3

Week Fourteen:

Monday, November 11, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment**: Interpretation Exercise 5 (William of Rubruck)
- **In-Class Discussion** (William of Rubruck) – read pages listed above.

Wednesday, November 13, 2019:

- The Medieval Muslim World, 1

Week Fifteen:

Monday, November 18, 2019:

- The Medieval Muslim World, 2

Wednesday, November 20, 2019:

- The Medieval Muslim World, 3

Week Sixteen:

Monday, November 25, 2019:

- **No Class: Thanksgiving Break**

Wednesday, November 27, 2019:

- **No Class: Thanksgiving Break**

Week Seventeen:

Monday, December 02, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment**: Interpretation Exercise 6 (Ibn Battuta)
- **In-Class Discussion** (Ibn Battuta) – read pages listed above.

Wednesday, December 04, 2019:

- **In-Class Assignment: Exam 2**

VII. Full URLs for Hyperlinks Above:

UWG Common Language for Course Syllabi:

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

UWG Undergraduate Honor Code:

<http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm>

UWG Writing Center:

<http://www.westga.edu/~writing>

UWG Center for Academic Success:

<http://www.westga.edu/cas/>

UWG Accessibility Services

<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php>