

World History/ Civilization to 1500

HIST 1111
Section 94
MW 11:00-12:15
Fall 2019
Newnan 131

Instructor Information:

Dr. Stephanie Laffer
Office: Newnan 225
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Course Description:

This is a survey course designed to provide a broad overview of a variety of different civilizations and cultures. Throughout the class you will gain skills in understanding and appreciating the history of the world from prehistory through to the beginnings of European exploration of the Americas. There will be an emphasis on the development of world civilizations, especially through the spread of empires, with particular attention on larger overarching themes that are present in multiple civilizations. These themes include the development of technology, spread of knowledge and global interactions. By the end of the course students will be able to see how these developments continue to shape our modern world.

Course Learning Objectives:

The general learning outcome for all courses on World Civilizations is:

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

In addition, by the end of this course:

- 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 primary historical sources.
- Students will demonstrate improved skills at crafting written arguments based on primary sources.

Course Requirements:

This class has a required textbook:

Merry Weisner-Hanks, et al, *History of World Societies, Volume 1*, 11th Edition (Macmillan, 2018).

It is an eBook which can be accessed via a link on CourseDen or by clicking below:

<https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/History-of-World-Societies-Volume-1/p/1319059317?searchText=a%20history%20of%20world%20soci>

You can also rent this book for 6 months as an affordable option!

In addition, there will be a variety of primary sources available via the textbook and CourseDen.

Course Expectations:

Attendance:

Attendance will not be taken every course period, but it is your responsibility to attend class and get notes from a classmate if you miss a class. There will be four in-class assignments throughout the semester. If you are not present, there will be no opportunities to make these assignments up, but they are only a part of your participation grade. In addition, there will also be several opinion papers given at the end of class. These randomly scheduled papers will be used both as a mechanism for attendance and an opportunity to show understanding of course material.

Exams:

There will be **3 exams** in this course. Those exams are non-cumulative and will consist of a mixture of questions including multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. The exams are scheduled throughout the semester on weeks **6, 11 and a final exam** during Finals Week.

Writing Assignments:

History is a reading and writing based discipline. This course will feature multiple assignments based off of the documents from the time period (primary sources). You can find those primary sources in your textbook or via links posted to CourseDen. There are **4 Writing Assignments** for this course. These assignments are all between 2 and 4 pages long, double spaced. Two assignments are creative, and two are more analytical. In order to pass this course, you must complete at least two of the Writing Assignments. The directions for each assignment will be available on CourseDen two weeks before the assignment is due. If you choose to complete all 4 assignments, then the two best grades will be used to determine the final grade.

Make Up Exams, Late Work, and Extra Credit:

I will accept late work for this class, but with a penalty of one half of a letter grade for every class section late (so, if the paper would have earned a B-, but was handed in one class late, it would become a C+).

If you need to miss an exam due to a legitimate, documented absence (I reserve the right to require proof) then a make-up exam will be administered following the same format as the exams described above.

There will be extra credit opportunities available that can be counted towards your class participation grade. Those opportunities will be announced via CourseDen.

Overview of Grades:

Your grades in this class will be calculated based off the following scale:

First Exam:	20%
Second Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Writing Assignment 1:	10%

Writing Assignment 2:	10%
Class Participation:	20%

Please note: simply completing all of the assigned work is **NOT** a guarantee of a passing grade in this course. Also, as some of these grades are cumulative, the final tally will not be available until the end of the semester.

Additional Important Policies:

University-wide:

The university has several university-wide policies that apply to the syllabus. You can find all of them by clicking this link: <https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

It is your responsibility to know and follow these policies that are updated regularly.

Communication and Electronic Devices:

Email:

All University of West Georgia students are provided with a MyUWG email account. I will only answer emails sent from your University account. It is your responsibility to check your university account. Sensitive information, such as grades, will not be discussed over email and can only be discussed in person.

Technology:

You are permitted to use all forms of technology in the classroom, including cell phones/tablets/laptops for **academic purposes only**. However, you are not permitted to be disruptive. All devices must be set to silent, and if you are found to be disruptive, then there will be points deducted in your overall participation grade. I reserve the right to discontinue the use of technology in the classroom (except in cases where a special accommodation has been granted) if this policy is abused.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

All work must abide by the UWG honor code that applies to all students (If you have forgotten the code, you can access it [here](#)). All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. To that end, all of your Writing Assignments will be monitored by Turnitin. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported the appropriate university authorities.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please click [here](#) for information from the University Writing Center on plagiarism and excessive collaboration.

Special Accommodations:

If you require accommodations, it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation from the office of accessibility services. It is also your responsibility to arrange for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance. **I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.** If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but do not have documentation, please contact the [Counseling Center](#).

Course Schedule:

This is a guideline. I reserve the right to change the syllabus if necessary.
Readings refer to your textbook, please see CourseDen for additional readings and documents throughout the semester

Week 1:

Reading: Please obtain your class textbook and familiarize yourself with CourseDen

Daily Schedule:

Wednesday August 14: Introduction
In Class Activity I

Week 2:

Reading: chapters 1-2, pp. 2-39

Daily Schedule:

Monday August 19: Pre-History
Wednesday August 21: Mesopotamia

Week 3:

Reading: chapter 2, pp. 39-47 and chapter 5, pp. 114-136

Daily Schedule:

Monday August 26: Egypt
Wednesday August 28: Greece
Receive topic for Writing Assignment 1 on CourseDen

Week 4:

Reading: review chapters 1-2 (all) and chapter 5 (all)

Daily Schedule:

Monday September 2: LABOR DAY—NO CLASS!
Wednesday September 4: **In Class Activity II**

Week 5:

Reading: chapter 6, pp. 142-166 and chapter 8, pp. 202-224

Daily Schedule:

Monday September 9: Rome
Wednesday September 11: Early Monotheistic Religions
Writing Assignment 1 Due on CourseDen at 11:00am

Week 6:

Reading: chapter 9, pp. 230-254

Daily Schedule:

Monday September 16: **Exam 1**
Wednesday September 18: Early Islam

Week 7:

Reading: chapter 10, pp. 260-284

Daily Schedule:

Monday September 23: Islam II
Wednesday September 25: Early Africa
 Receive Writing Assignment 2 on CourseDen

Week 8:

Reading: chapter 3, pp. 62-82 and chapter 7, pp. 172-196

Daily Schedule:

Monday September 30: India
Wednesday October 2: Buddhism and Hinduism

Week 9:

Reading: chapter 4, pp. 88-108

Daily Schedule:

Monday October 7: China
Wednesday October 9: **In Class Activity III**
 Writing Assignment 2 Due on CourseDen at 11:00am

Week 10:

Reading: chapter 14, pp. 376-387

Daily Schedule:

Monday October 14: Rome to Byzantium
Wednesday October 16: Crusades
 Receive Writing Assignment 3 on CourseDen

Week 11:

Reading: chapter 12, pp. 333-344

Daily Schedule:

Monday October 21: Islamic Empires
Wednesday October 23: **Exam II**

Week 12:

Reading: chapter 12, pp. 320-332

Daily Schedule:

Monday October 28: Mongols I
Wednesday October 30: Mongols II

Writing Assignment 3 Due on CourseDen at 11:00am

Week 13:

Reading: chapter 14, 388-402

Daily Schedule:

Monday November 4: Middle Ages
Wednesday November 6: Late Medieval Times
Receive Writing Assignment 4 on CourseDen

Week 14:

Reading: chapter 15, 408-420

Daily Schedule:

Monday November 11: Renaissance I
Wednesday November 13: Renaissance II

Week 15:

Reading: chapter 11, 290-314

Daily Schedule:

Monday November 18: **In Class Activity IV**
Wednesday November 20: Pre-Columbian
Writing Assignment 4 Due on CourseDen at 11:00am

Week 16:

Reading: review all chapters since Exam II

Daily Schedule: Thanksgiving Break

Monday November 25: **NO CLASS**
Wednesday November 27: **NO CLASS**

Week 17:

Reading: chapter 16, 438-464

Daily Schedule:

Monday December 2: Age of Exploration
Wednesday December 4: Worlds Coming Together/Class Wrap Up

Final Exam: Wednesday December 11, 11:00-1:00pm