

HIST 1111 E09: World Civilizations to 1500 AD, Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Nadejda Williams

Class Delivery Method: 100% online

On-Campus Office Location: TLC 3239

On-campus office Hours: Th 3:30-5:30 pm
and by appointment. I will always make it a
priority to meet with you at a time
convenient for you! Just ask!

Telephone: 678-554-7765 (cell, please use
in case of emergency or during virtual office
hours)

Telephone: 678-839-5370 (campus office)

Virtual Office Hours: T-W 9:00-11:00 am

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 and experiences of people in the past. 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS

None! All class readings are embedded on CourseDen. This does NOT mean that you have no readings for this class. In fact, you will be reading quite a bit, but all of the materials will be available to you free of charge on the course website.

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
Discussion Assignments	Each student will participate in eight 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.	30%
Reading Quizzes	Each student will complete ten reading quizzes on the textbook chapters. Quizzes are intended to teach you to pay attention to key details in the reading, and how to take notes. Thus the quizzes are open book, and consist of short-answer question.	40%
Diary of a World Civilization	Each student will keep a “diary” of life in a specific nation / region /civilization, posting a total of 5 entries, each of them at least 200 words in length, and each at least 100 years removed from the next. Each entry must include at least three specific facts from class materials. The idea for this assignment is to allow you to understand change over time, and how it would have impacted real people living in that nation/ region/ civilization.	15%
Timeline Project (in lieu of final exam)	Each student will complete a timeline project, telling the story of world history before 1500 CE chronologically through 20 events. The project may be presented creatively (e.g., PowerPoint or large poster or documentary) or in a more traditional paper format.	15%

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 Discussions

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 course readings will get you credit!)	Unclear or absent	Needs improvement	Very good	Excellent
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

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 and Questions	Readings and Other Assignments Due (you have two deadlines each week, and all assignments are due by midnight on a Saturday or a Tuesday)
08/17	Introduction and welcome: who are historians, and what do they study?	<p><i>Mini-Lecture 1: Welcome to the class!</i></p> <p><i>Discussion 1: Introductions</i></p> <p>Please note that participation in Discussion 1 is required to be marked Present in the class. If you miss this assignment, you will be marked Absent and removed from the class.</p>
08/20	Early Civilizations in the Middle East and North Africa	<p><i>Mini-Lecture 2: When does History Begin?</i></p> <p>Read: Textbook Chapter 2</p> <p><i>Reading Quiz 1</i></p>
08/24	What is “historical consciousness”? The example of Ancient Israel	<p>Read: Jacob Licht, “The Hebrew Bible Contains the Oldest Surviving History” (on CourseDen)</p> <p><i>Discussion 2: What does it mean for a nation/group to have a “historical consciousness”?</i></p>
08/27	Early Civilizations in the Indus River Valley	<p><i>Mini-Lecture 3: Early Civilizations Beyond the Fertile Crescent</i></p> <p>Read: Textbook Chapter 3</p> <p><i>Reading Quiz 2</i></p>
08/31	Early China and East Asia	<p>Read: Textbook Chapter 4 (in preparation for Reading Quiz 3)</p>
09/03	Early China and East Asia	<p><i>Reading Quiz 3</i></p>
09/07	Ancient Calendars and Dating Systems: how and why did different civilizations choose to keep time in various ways?	<p><i>Mini-Lecture 4: Calendars as a Window into Civilizations’ Historical Philosophies</i></p> <p>Read: CourseDen materials on Ancient Calendars</p> <p><i>Discussion 3: Ancient Calendars and Dating Systems</i></p>
09/10	The Greek World	<p>Read: Textbook Chapter 5</p> <p><i>Reading Quiz 4</i></p>

Date	Class Topics and Questions	Readings and Other Assignments Due (you have two deadlines each week, and all assignments are due by midnight on a Saturday or a Tuesday)
09/14	Democracy and the Rule of Law in Classical Athens	Read: Lysias, "On the Killing of Eratosthenes" <i>Discussion 4: Law and Order in the Athenian Democracy</i>
09/17	Using primary and secondary sources to experience daily life in a particular civilization	<i>Mini-Lecture 5: Diary of a Civilization Project vision and tips</i> <i>Diary of a Civilization Project: first post due</i>
09/21	The Mediterranean World under Roman Rule	Read: Textbook Chapter 6 <i>Reading Quiz 5</i>
09/24	What did the Pagans and Christians living in the Late Roman Empire think about each other and each other's beliefs? Why did they hold those views?	<i>Mini-Lecture 6: Primary Sources for Studying Early Christianity – How do we know what we know?</i> Read in preparation for Discussion 5: 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
09/28	Pagans vs. Christians Debate	<i>Discussion 5: Pagans vs. Christians Debate (roles assigned by alphabet)</i>
10/01	Fall Break	Catch up on sleep or missed assignments!
10/05	Fall Break	Catch up on sleep or missed assignments!
10/08		<i>Diary of a Civilization Project: second post due</i>
10/12	Western Europe and the Byzantine Empire: Life after the Fall of the Roman Empire in the West	Read: Textbook Chapter 7 <i>Reading Quiz 6</i>
10/15	How does geography influence history? Part I: the rise and fall of ancient empires	<i>Mini-Lecture 7: Geography and History</i> <i>Discussion 6: Mapping Ancient Empires</i>
10/19		<i>Diary of a Civilization Project: third post due</i>
10/22	The Rise and Spread of Islam	Read: Textbook Chapter 8 <i>Reading Quiz 7</i>

Date	Class Topics and Questions	Readings and Other Assignments Due (you have two deadlines each week, and all assignments are due by midnight on a Saturday or a Tuesday)
10/26	How does geography influence history? Part II: The Spread of Islam as a case study	Read: Selections from Ibn Battuta <i>Discussion 7: Mapping the Spread of Islam</i>
10/29	African History before 1500 CE	<i>Mini-Lecture 8: Methodological Problems and Early African History</i> Read: Textbook Chapter 9
11/02		<i>Reading Quiz 8</i>
11/05		<i>Diary of a Civilization Project: fourth post due</i>
11/09	Early Americas	Read: Textbook Chapter 10
11/12		<i>Reading Quiz 9</i>
11/16	Continuity vs. Change in World Civilizations	<i>Diary of a World Civilization Project due (if you have been keeping up all along, you only have one last post left to complete!)</i>
11/19	The Mongols	<i>Mini-Lecture 9: From close-up view of world history to bird-eye view – approaching the Final Timeline Project</i> Read: Textbook Chapter 11 <i>Reading Quiz 10</i>
11/23	What does food tell about culture and society? How can we think historically about food?	<i>Discussion 8: Food in World History before 1500 CE</i>
11/25-11/30	Thanksgiving Break	Eat, enjoy time with family, and work on Final Timeline Project!!!
12/07		<i>Final Timeline Project Due by Midnight</i>

Additional Course and UWG Policies

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.

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)

<p>CourseDen D2L Home Page https://westga.view.usg.edu/</p>	<p>Student Services http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Center for Academic Success http://www.westga.edu/cas/ 678-839-6280</p>
<p>24/7/365 D2L Help Center Call 1-855-772-0423 or search: https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/</p>	<p>Distance Learning Library Services http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430</p>

<p>CourseDen D2L Home Page https://westga.view.usg.edu/</p>	<p>Student Services http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php</p>
<p>University Bookstore http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/</p>	<p>Ingram Library Services http://www.westga.edu/library/</p>
<p>Common Language for Course Syllabi http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf</p>	<p>Proctored Exams http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student</p>
<p>UWG Cares http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/</p>	<p>Student Services https://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-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>