

HIST103: 004/005 – World Civilizations I (3)

Fall 2009 - Dr R.J. Covino

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(or by appointment) *IM/Facebook:* [at your peril](#)
* *subject to change*

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to human achievements of civilizations and cultures in Eurasia, Africa and the Americas from the origins of civilizations to about the year 1000. Rather than taking a strictly chronological approach, it will focus more on the emerging cultures or traditions as expressions of their time and place. The creation of myths, gods and goddesses, Hellenism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Latin Christianity, and Islam will be examined as value systems that gave meaning and organization to human life, reflected in political, social, technological, and artistic achievements. It will also show that these traditions constrained human alternatives, providing a kind of cultural hegemony within cultures, and that these traditions remain important in our modern world.

General Education Requirement:

This course fulfills a general education requirement in Cultures and Civilizations (Option B).

Class Hour: Brock 402 - Section 004: MWF 11:00-11:50am; Section 005: MWF 12:00-12:50pm.

It is my goal to be as helpful to my students as possible, so feel free to drop by during office hours, call or e-mail me to discuss any aspect of the class or how I can help you better succeed.

Objectives:

At the successful completion of this course, you should have attained a good grasp of the narrative and main themes of world history and developed a sensitivity to the problems of working with primary source evidence. Additionally, you ought to have started building a repertoire of analytical skills which are required of an historian. The course will have fostered skills of independent research and thought, of self-expression, and of working rapidly through large amounts of often complex material.

Evaluation, Course Dates and Make-Ups:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| In Class Examinations: | 100 | - 25 Sept |
| | 100 | - 6 Nov |
| In Class Scheduled Quizzes: | 100 | - 28 Aug; 11 Sept; 9 Oct; 23 Oct; 20 Nov |
| Final Examination | 100 | - Section 004: 4 Dec; Section 005: 2 Dec |

Thus, the calculation of your 'Base Mark' will be the total of all of the above divided by the number of classes of assessed work (*i.e.* 4). The 'Base Mark' may be augmented via additional marks for active and informed class participation (to a total of +4). I reserve the right to add other opportunities for extra credit at my discretion. A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = <60

All four (4) classes of assessed work must be completed in order to achieve a passing grade; if there are any deficiencies, a failing mark will be awarded.

The mark of "I" (incomplete) will not be awarded for this class save for extremely special circumstances. Everyone on the official roster will receive the mark which he/she has earned as of

the date of the final examination, subject to the proviso identified above. Your decision to enroll and remain in this course indicates that you accept same.

Make-up examinations will be administered only with acceptable documented proof of inability to attend; requests for a make-up must be submitted within 48 hours of the exam date and the documentation produced at the next available period of office hours.

Texts and Readings:

- Bentley, J.H. & Ziegler, H.F., *Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, Volume A*, 4th ed.
- Hunt, P. *Ten Discoveries that Rewrote History*.

Additional materials may be provided via BlackBoard *vel sim*.

There are assignments listed below on the course outline for reading on a week by week basis; the *TE* text will help you to both prepare for the material presented in the lectures as well as an *aide-mémoire* for revision. Being prepared ahead of time will be to your advantage as it will simply not be possible to succeed in this class by playing catch-up. It's simple mathematics – we have one term to get from the beginnings of history to A.D. 1000. Such a mass of information **cannot** be crammed into the night before an examination (even the smaller term-time ones).

Attendance:

There is a direct correlation between regular class attendance and success. I state quite bluntly that you will need to master both the content presented in the assigned materials as well as in the lectures in order to truly succeed on this class' examinations; they will in each instance call for knowledge of both. However, that said, I view all students enrolled in University-level endeavors as being adults capable of making their own decisions as to how to best achieve their goals. This includes giving them the opportunity to achieve 'Deferred Success' which, as you may know, is the new euphemism for failure. Therefore, barring days during which work for assessment must be handed in/completed (*e.g.* days with scheduled quizzes and exams), I will not take roll.

N.B. if you fail to attend class, you will be absenting yourself from the opportunity to gain extra points via any unannounced quizzes and/or class participation. Neither can be made up for obvious reasons. You will want to trust me when I advise you that even the brightest student will be glad of the potential for a points boost come December.

Statement on Plagiarism and the Honor Code:

You may take it as read that I know what cheating and plagiarism are; you should too. If you are in any doubt, consult your handbook. In short, don't try to pull anything. I have no desire to ever visit the Honor Court; however, I will feel no compunction about bringing any and all violators before them in order to protect the integrity of the other members of the class' valid work towards their degrees.

ADA Statement:

If you have a disability which may require assistance or accommodations, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note-taking, readers, *et cetera*, please speak with me as soon as possible. You may also contact the Office of Student Affairs on 425-4534 with questions about such services.

Nota Bene:

The timetable as well as the other information contained on this syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to keep informed of such changes which may be announced, *inter alia*, in class, on BlackBoard, via e-mail, carrier pigeon...

Course Outline and Readings:

Key: TE = Traditions & Encounters; TD = Ten Discoveries; BB = BlackBoard; [...] = recommended.

- Week 1: Early Man - Readings: TE pp. 2-17; TD 183-198
17 Aug - Enrollment
19 Aug - Before History
21 Aug - Paleolithic Society
- Week 2: The Dawn of Civilization - Readings: TE pp. 17-45; TD 45-62
24 Aug - Rise of Agriculture
26 Aug - Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent
28 Aug - **QUIZ I; Last day of Add/Drop**
- Week 3: Migrations - Readings: TE pp. 46-56; TD 1-20
31 Aug - Hammurabi & Beyond
2 Sept - Migrations and Language
4 Sept - Egypt I
- Week 4: Egypt & Africa - Readings: TE pp. 58-84; TD 63-84
7 Sept - Labor Day (No Class)
9 Sept - Egypt II
11 Sept - The Bantu & **QUIZ II**
- Week 5: India - Readings: TE 86-105
14 Sept - India I
16 Sept - India II
18 Sept - India III
- Week 6: Comparative Cultures - Readings: [Revise TE 1-105]; TD 135-160
21 Sept - The Jews
23 Sept - Parallel Developments
25 Sept - **EXAM I**
- Week 7 (Mid-Term): China - Readings: TE 108-130
28 Sept - China I
30 Sept - China II
2 Oct - China III
- Week 8: Americas - Readings: TE 132-154; [TD 85-108]
5 Oct - The Americas I
7 Oct - The Americas II
9 Oct - Oceania & **QUIZ III**
- Week 9: Ancient Empire Building - Readings: TE 157-203; TD 199-218
12 Oct - Persia I
14 Oct - Persia II
16 Oct - China IV; **Last Day to Drop with a W**

Week 10: More Empires on the Rise - Readings: TE pp. 206-228
19 Oct - No Class (Fall break)
21 Oct - China V
23 Oct - India IV & **Quiz IV**

Week 11: Classical Civilizations I - Readings: TE pp. 230-256; TD 161-182 and 21-44
26 Oct - India V
28 Oct - Greeks I
30 Oct - Greeks II

Week 12: Classical Civilizations II - Readings: TE pp. 258-283; TD 109-134
2 Nov - Romans I
4 Nov - Romans II
6 Nov - **EXAM II**

Week 13: Bridging Cultures - Readings: TE pp. 286-301
9 Nov - Our Day with Jesus
11 Nov - Trade Routes
13 Nov - Cross Cultural Exchanges

Week 14: A Whole New World - Readings: TE pp. 301-401
16 Nov - Byzantium
18 Nov - Islam
20 Nov - East Asia; **Quiz V**

Week 15: One Last India - Readings: TE pp. 404-429
23 Nov - India VI
25 Nov - No Class (Thanksgiving)
27 Nov - No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week 16: And One Last Europe - Readings: TE pp. 432-455
30 Nov - The Christian West
1 Dec - Reading Day
2 Dec - **SECTION 005 FINAL EXAMINATION**
4 Dec - **SECTION 004 FINAL EXAMINATION**