

**World Civilizations I
HIST 103 section 011
TT 1:40-2:55, Brock 201
Fall 2009**

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History is not merely reading about things that happened a long time ago. Rather, it is an active engagement with artifacts and texts that we organize into arguments about our shared past, our present condition and our imagined future. In our class-time, we will not attempt to be comprehensive in our investigation of human civilizations and cultures in Eurasia, Africa and Americas from their early origins to about the year 1000 C.E. Simply put, there is too much information to attempt to be complete. Instead, we will examine several large themes through specific examples. Such an approach, I believe, will provide a foundation on which to base further investigation of the world and our place in it.

To make the most of this class you must engage the material, both reading and lectures, and use it to form your own opinions, arguments, and questions. If you have questions about lectures, assignments, exams, or any other issue related to the class, please do not hesitate to come by office hours, to email me or to set up an appointment. It is my goal to be as helpful to my students as possible, so please take advantage of these opportunities in a timely manner. As helpful as I would like to be, there is very little I can do if you come to me on the last day of the semester and tell me that you are concerned about your grade.

This course fulfills a general education requirement in Cultures and Civilizations: World Civilizations. If you are a student with a disability requiring special assistance or accommodation, please call the Office for Students with Disabilities at 425-4006.

Readings and Lectures: Reading is a required part of this class. Simply put, if you don't read and understand you will not pass. Lectures will often deviate from the readings significantly. Further, they will include an element of class discussion. You should have the reading done and be prepared to discuss it in an informed manner. I will ask questions of you in class. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your engagement with the class and the material and will benefit you materially. You should note that on exams you will be responsible for all the material covered in this course, both readings and lectures, whether or not that material appears in both places. In other words, the exams will cover material that was presented in lecture that did not appear in the reading and vice versa. Be prepared.

Roadmaps: Throughout the semester there are lectures with the subtitle of "Roadmap." These lectures will be broad and thematic in nature. They will provide much of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the course, a roadmap of where we have come and where we are going. It would be a grave error in judgment to miss these lectures. These classes are critical to your success in the course. Without the conceptual and analytical frameworks we will discuss during these roadmaps, you will not be able to produce an acceptable exam. I highly suggest you do not miss these classes.

Exams: Both the mid-term and final exams will consist of two parts: 25 multiple-choice questions (50%) and a long essay question (50%). The multiple-choice questions and the essay will draw from both lecture and readings. You will ONLY be able to make-up a missed exam if you provide appropriate, written documentation of your absence: a doctor's excuse, a printed

obituary, a signed letter from the court, or a letter of explanation from the Dean of Students. Letters must be on official letterhead. All make-up exams will be given on the Reading Day at 8:00 a.m. (December 1, 2009). Bring a blank blue book to all exams. The honor code will be strictly enforced.

Attendance: Obviously, your attendance in class is pivotal to your good performance during the semester. In addition to the reading, you are responsible for all the material covered in lectures. I will NOT provide Study Guides for the exams. Do not expect them. The books and your notes from lectures *are* your study guides. Therefore, you need to be in class to take the notes that will enable you to succeed on the exams. I view all students enrolled in University-level endeavors as adults capable of making their own decisions as to how to best achieve their goals. This includes making the decisions that might lead to failure in this course. Therefore, with the exception of days during which work for assessment is completed or handed in (e.g. days with quizzes, workshops, or exams), I will not take roll. If you choose not to attend class, you will be absenting yourself from the opportunity to do well in this course.

Grades, Dates, and Makeup Exams:

30% Exam 1 (September 17)

35% Exam 2 (October 22)

35% Exam 3 (December 8, NB: there is NO makeup for this exam)

Makeup Exam: December 1, 8:00 a.m. in Brock 402

Policies: There will be no cell phone use of any kind in class. If you demonstrate such a lack of respect and interest in the class, you will be asked to leave. It is your responsibility to be in class AND to be here on time. It is disruptive to me and to your classmates who are here on time when you show up late. If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, do not bother coming at all. This policy also applies to exams. If you are more than 5 minutes late to an exam, you will not be permitted to sit the exam and will receive a zero. And you will only be allowed to make it up if you provide one of the excuses listed above. Once an exam begins, students may NOT leave the classroom for any reason. Doing so indicates that you have finished your exam and I will take up your blue book. The honor code is always in effect. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, consult your handbook. While I do not wish to take students to the Honor Council, I will not hesitate to do so if it protects the integrity of other class members' valid work towards their degrees. Your decision to enroll and remain in this course indicates that you agree with the conditions outlined in this syllabus.

Texts:

Howard Spodek, *The World's History: Volume I*, 3rd edition. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006).

NB: in the weekly reading assignments, this text is designated as "WH"

Week 1: Human Origins and Culture

Reading: WH 1-39

8/18: What is World History? Why study it?

8/20: Paleolithic Society

Week 2: Settlement and Urbanization

Reading: WH 40-62

8/25: Rise of Agriculture

8/27: The First Cities: Mesopotamia

Week 3: River Valley Civilizations

Reading: WH 65-86

9/1: Egypt

9/3: India

Week 4: Polycentric World

Reading: WH 89-121

9/8: China

9/10: Mesoamerica

Week 5: Roadmap/Exam #1

9/15: Roadmap: Guns, Germs, and Steel

9/17: EXAM #1, bring a blue book

Week 6: Early Empires

Reading: WH 122-160

9/22: Roadmap: Empires, Imperialism, Hegemony, and Ideology

9/24: Persia

Week 7: Rome

Reading: WH 163-202

9/29: The Greek City-States/Alexander the Great

10/1: Rome 1

Week 8: China

Reading: WH 205-237

10/6: Rome 2

10/8: China 1

Week 9: India

Reading: WH 241-267

10/13: China 2

10/15: India

Week 10: Fall Break and Exam #2

10/20: Fall Break, no class

10/22: EXAM #2, bring a blue book

Week 11: Exchanges: Trade and Disease in World History

10/27: Roadmap: The Silk Road

10/29: Roadmap: Disease in the Ancient World

Week 12: Comparative Religions I

Reading: WH 268-303

11/3: Hinduism

11/5: Buddhism

Week 13: Comparative Religions II

Reading: WH 307-342

11/10: Judaism

11/12: Christianity

Week 14: Comparative Religions III

Reading: WH 345-387

11/17: Islam 1

11/19: Islam 2

Week 15: World History (Redux)

11/24: TBA

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.