

HISTORY 104
WORLD CIVILIZATIONS II
World History from c. 1000 to 1800
Fall 2009

J. Scott Seagle
Instructor

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will show how rising wealth and expanding material culture in Southeast China and Northwestern Europe, and the Eurasian impact of the Mongols led to a dynamic global interaction. The demand for commodities stimulated exploration, trade, and imperialism. The course will examine feudalism in Western Europe and Japan, the great imperial states of Eurasia, Africa, and the Americas, and colonialism in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, as well as the rise of the modern state and capitalism. It will show how global cultures mutually interacted, traditions changed and constrained, and what social, cultural, artistic, and intellectual changes occurred.

This course seeks to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the world in which they live. To achieve this, the past as well as the present must be studied. I believe that only through knowledge of the past can one begin to understand the present. As students you must become acquainted with some of the problems which confront the contemporary world and with the historical processes which have produced the present conditions of the world. You will be expected to gain some understanding of the processes whereby people's ideas and actions produce changes in their society.

The course will focus on the manner in which various world traditions: political institutions, social mores, economic relationships, religious concepts and people's views and understanding of themselves and their environment developed over that vast period of time, as well as how encounters between various cultures have also influenced their development.

This course fulfills a general education requirement in Cultures and Civilizations: World Civilizations, Option B.

In order to assist the student in achieving these objectives, several themes that will be traced during the course should become apparent, specifically the following:

- The changing relationship between people and their political institutions.
- The development of science and technology and their impact on society and all its activities.
- The changing role of religion in society and thought.
- The roles and problems of war and peace in the relationships between peoples, societies and nations.
- The transformation of societies produced by economic developments and encounters.
- The problems of freedom and oppression in the organization of society.
- The ideas and ideologies which influence and motivate people in their daily lives.
- The ways in which people have attempted to organize economic life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

This course will be taught by means of reading assignments in the required text, lectures, discussions, films and periodic tests. The required textbook is:

Bentley, Jerry H. and Herbert F. Ziegler. *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. Vol. B, from 1000 to 1800. Fourth Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Additional reading material will be made available on the course's supplemental website.

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance in this course is expected (required); however, I will not take roll on a daily basis. Being a college-level course each student is given the opportunity, as an adult, to make their own decisions as to how to best achieve their goals. Tests which are missed for approved extenuating circumstances (death in the family, doctor's excuse, etc.) will only be able to be made-up with appropriate written documentation detailing the absence on official letterhead.
- **Academic Integrity (Cheating/Plagiarism):** UTC is committed to promoting a mode of individual conduct based on the principles of honesty, fairness, trust, respect and responsibility. Students must, without exception, do their own work. Students who plagiarize or cheat in any way will receive a zero grade on the assignment and may risk other penalties.
- **Classroom Disturbances:** Students who create disturbances in the classroom that substantially or repeatedly interfere with the normal class routine will be asked to leave and may return to class only after

discussing the situation with the instructor. Please be aware that classroom disturbances also include receiving or making cell phone calls in the classroom. Please turn your cell phone off before entering the classroom.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act:** Students who have educational, psychological, and /or physical disabilities may be eligible for accommodations that provide equal access to educational programs and activities at UTC. These students should notify the instructor immediately, and ideally should contact the Office of Student Affairs (425-4534) within the first two weeks of the semester in order to discuss individual needs. The student must provide documentation of the disability so that reasonable accommodations can be requested in a timely manner. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements in order to receive a passing grade in a class, with or without reasonable accommodations.

GRADING: Grades for the course will be based on the following:

3 Module Quizzes (short answer) 10% each

3 Module Exams (essay) 20% each

Class Participation/Online Discussion 10%

The module quiz dates will be announced in class and on the course's Blackboard supplemental website. The quizzes will contain short answer and multiple choice questions both from the assigned readings and from class lectures. The module exam dates will be announced in class and on the course's Blackboard supplemental website. The module exams will contain essay questions both from the assigned readings and from class lectures. Throughout the semester I will post a total of 10 (ten) discussion topics on the course's Blackboard supplemental website. Each topic will be open for approximately 1 (one) week. For each topic, a student will be required to post an initial response to the topic and a reply to a fellow classmates' posting. The online discussion dates will also be posted on the course's Blackboard supplemental website.

Letter grades will be as follows: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course discussion board.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

We will cover chapters 17 through 28 in the text. Before you panic, this equals about 4 pages per day, 5 days per week of reading. The following is a *tentative* schedule of lectures and the related reading in the text. Exact dates of exams will be announced at least one week in advance.

MODULE 1: An Age of Cross-Cultural Interaction (Chapters 17-20)

Week 1: Course overview; Early Middle Ages (Ch. 17)

Week 2: The Foundations of Christian Society in Western Europe (Ch. 17)

Week 3: Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Migration (Ch. 18)

Week 4: States and Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa (Ch. 19)

Week 5: Western Europe during the High Middle Ages (Ch. 20)

MODULE 1 EXAM

MODULE 2: An Age of Cross-Cultural Interaction (Chapters 21-23)

Week 6: Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania (Ch. 21)

Week 7: Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania (Ch. 21)

Week 8: Reaching Out: Cross-Cultural Interactions (Ch. 22)

Week 9: Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections (Ch. 23)

Week 10: Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections (Ch. 23)

MODULE 2 EXAM

MODULE 3: The Origins of Global Interdependence (Chapters 24-28)

Week 11: The Transformation of Europe (Ch. 24)

Week 12: The Transformation of Europe; New Worlds: The Americas and Oceania (Ch. 24 & 25)

Week 13: Africa and the Atlantic World (Ch. 26)

Week 14: Tradition and Change in East Asia (Ch. 27)

Week 15: The Islamic Empires (Ch. 28)

FINAL EXAM