

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

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*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.

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	- 24 Sept
	100	- 2 Nov
In Class Scheduled Quizzes:	100	- 31 Aug; 14 Sept; 12 Oct; 26 Oct; 30 Nov
Final Examination	100	- Section 004: 7 Dec; Section 005: 5 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) and/or by the submission of an optional writing assignment (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.

Thus, the optional paper **will not** be accepted late. It is due on the last day of class during the class hour; by then, you will have had all term to work on it, so there really is no excuse.

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*, 3rd ed.
- Andrea, A.J. & Overfield, J.H., *The Human Record: Sources of Global History*, 5th ed.

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.

Optional Writing Assignment:

You may opt to write a piece focusing on the primary source evidence pertinent to one of the post-classical cultures which we will study. They may be found in *HR* pp. 275-314 for Asia, pp. 329-339 for India, and pp. 196-231, 314-329, and 352-359 for the Christian West. Your task will be to analyze the evidence and then write an informed commentary which demonstrates your knowledge of the continuities and resonances between the sources under scrutiny and those which have been previously encountered. Further guidance as to how this might be achieved will be provided.

Length: *circa* five (5) double-spaced, typewritten pages. Footnotes count; however, bibliography does not. An essay takes as long as it needs to in order to achieve its goal of making a well-reasoned, logical and coherent presentation. Overly long or overly short papers are viewed with loathing – the average is there for a reason. It's only four (4) points that are up for grabs anyway, so you should try match your effort expended to the outcome you are trying to attain.

Remember that papers will be due in class on 3 December and that there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS / EXTENSIONS**. I reserve the right to award no credit for papers which fall short of the expected benchmark for University-level performance and/or which make any reference, directly or implied, to the Wikipedia or other dubious cyber 'research'.

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; HR = Human Record; BB = BlackBoard; [...] = recommended.

- Week 1: Early Man - Readings: TE pp. 1-19; HR P1-P7.
20 Aug - Enrollment
22 Aug - Before History
24 Aug - Paleolithic Society
- Week 2: The Dawn of Civilization - Readings: TE pp. 19-51; HR pp. 1-18.
27 Aug - Rise of Agriculture
29 Aug - Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent
31 Aug - **QUIZ**; Hammurabi
- Week 3: Migrations - Readings: TE pp. 51-57; HR pp. 40-41.
5 Sept - Film/Activity T.B.A.
7 Sept - Migrations and Language
- Week 4: Egypt & Africa - Readings: TE pp. 59-85; HR pp. 18-24; 32-39.
10 Sept - Egypt I
12 Sept - Egypt II
14 Sept - **QUIZ**; The Bantu
- Week 5: India - Readings: TE 86-107; HR pp. 41-46.
17 Sept - India I
19 Sept - India II
21 Sept - India III

- Week 6: Comparative Cultures - Readings: [*Revise* TE 1-107]; HR 51-76.
 24 Sept - The Jews
 26 Sept - Parallel Developments
 28 Sept - **EXAM I**
- Week 7: China - Readings: TE 108-131; HR pp. 24-32.
 1 Oct - China I
 3 Oct - China II
 5 Oct - China III
- Week 8: Americas - Readings: TE 132-155; HR pp. 397-414.
 8 Oct - The Americas I
 10 Oct - The Americas II
 12 Oct - **QUIZ**
- Week 9: Ancient Empire Building - Readings: TE 156-205; HR pp. 76-83; 139-149.
 15 Oct - Persia I
 17 Oct - Persia II
 19 Oct - China IV
- Week 10: More Empires on the Rise - Readings: TE pp. 206-229; HR pp. 84-102; 150-159.
 24 Oct - China V
 26 Oct - **QUIZ**; India IV
- Week 11: Classical Civilizations I - Readings: TE pp. 230-257; HR pp. 102-122.
 29 Oct - India V
 31 Oct - Greeks I
 2 Nov - Greeks II
- Week 12: Classical Civilizations II - Readings: TE pp. 258-285; HR pp. 122-139; 159-163
 5 Nov - Romans I
 7 Nov - Romans II
 9 Nov - **EXAM II**
- Week 13: Bridging Cultures - Readings: TE pp. 286-343; HR pp. 163-170; 340-352.
 12 Nov - Cross Cultural Exchanges
 14 Nov - Trade Routes
 16 Nov - Byzantium
- Week 14: A New Player - Readings: TE pp. 344-373; HR pp. 232-274.
 19 Nov - Islam
- Week 15: The Post-Classical World - Readings: TE pp. 374-456.
 26 Nov - East Asia
 28 Nov - India VI
 30 Nov - **QUIZ**; The Christian West
- Week 15: Conclusion
 3 Dec - Revision Session; **OPTIONAL PAPER DUE**
 5 Dec - **SECTION 005 FINAL EXAMINATION**
 7 Dec - **SECTION 004 FINAL EXAMINATION**