

Course Information:

Course: C 80038, HIST 2311-02, *World History to 1500*, 3 Credit Hours

Term: Fall 2017

Time & Location: Online

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Amy Rogers Dean

Email Address: amydean13@shsu.edu

Office Location: ABIV 408

Office Hours: MW 2:00 – 4:00 pm & by appointment

FREE E-Textbook (required): REVELTM for *The Heritage of World Civilizations, Volume 1*. 10th Edition; Craig, Graham, Kagan, Ozment, & Turner, 2017. *See Blackboard for registration information and access code.*

Course Description: This course introduces the major themes and developments in World History from the birth of civilization to the Renaissance in the fifteenth century. Some of these topics will include the early complex societies in Mesopotamia, China, India, Egypt, and Mesoamerica, the Age of Empires including Greek and Roman Civilization, Eastern and Western Christendom, the rise of Islam, developments in the Americas, the Middle Ages in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and the Renaissance in Europe. We will examine the major political, cultural, economic, and social developments that occurred in human societies during this period as well as the cross-cultural interactions and exchanges that took place. Through the examination of primary sources, students will become familiar with the craft of history and will learn to think analytically.

Skill Objectives:

A) **Critical Thinking:** Students will gain a broad factual knowledge in the field of World History from the birth of civilization to the Renaissance. Students will be taught to think critically and analytically, and to ask appropriate questions about different historical societies and cultures, integrating and synthesizing knowledge they gain in the course, forming conclusions, and building an informed belief system from the complexity of information presented in the course content.

B) **Communication Skills:** Communication skills will be addressed in this class through the reading and online discussion of historical texts, through the PowerPoint lectures, and through the written assignments and exams. Visual aids such as films, political cartoons, maps, and photographs will be used during the presentation of course material. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these materials originated.

C) **Personal Responsibility:** Personal responsibility will be addressed in this course as students articulate through exams and analytical assignments how to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making. By learning how individuals throughout this period of World History drew upon their cultural belief systems to make ethical choices, students will learn how their personal choices influence their own society.

D) **Social Responsibility:** Social responsibility will be addressed in this course as students learn the ways that individuals and groups throughout history made decisions aimed at improving society for all by promoting civic responsibility and participation, civil discourse, and other social values. As a result, students will discover their own social responsibilities for improving society.

Course requirements and information:

There will be **3 exams in this course**. Each exam may contain a combination of fill in the blank, multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The questions will be drawn from material covered in the PowerPoint lectures, films, the book, and other assigned readings. **Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade.**

Over the course of the semester, you will submit a total of **4 homework assignments** which will comprise **20% of your final grade**. With the exception of the Self-Introduction assignment, for these papers you will be required to analyze primary source documents that correspond to the PowerPoint lecture topics. The assignment questions will be posted on Blackboard and will require you to look to the primary sources for answers. **DO NOT USE ANY OUTSIDE SOURCES TO ANSWER THE HOMEWORK QUESTIONS. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. You will be expected to post each assignment on Blackboard as BOTH an Assignment and on the Discussion Board.**

Additionally, there will be a **participation grade** derived from your posts commenting on the assignment submissions of your classmates. In these comments, you may share your personal reactions to their arguments, reference the sources that you found valuable that relate to the themes they discussed, and/or expand upon the ideas they presented by offering new information or suggesting new questions that are related to the issues they introduced. **At all times your comments must remain courteous, scholarly, and professional.** In order to get full participation points, each post should be a couple of paragraphs in length. Be sure to **post your comments on the works of two of your classmates within three days after the assignment due date.** Your participation will comprise **5% of your final grade**.

20% Homework Assignments
5% Participation
25% Exam I
25% Exam II
25% Final Exam (noncumulative)

In order to establish a regular schedule, **I will try to post your PowerPoint lectures and materials for the week on Mondays and Wednesdays.**

Course Policies:

- ❖ **Attendance:** The University expects students to participate in online courses at the same level as face-to-face courses. Historically, students who make high grades in online courses log on to Blackboard at least three times per week. In this course, the absolute minimum participation is logging on to Blackboard to fulfill the assignments by the posted due dates. It is your responsibility to read all posts, emails, and announcements pertaining to this course, including notifications regarding changes to the syllabus, to assignments, and to scheduled deadlines.
- ❖ **Communication:** Be sure to **include both your course and your section number in any email sent** to the professor.
- ❖ **Exams:** Students should plan on taking all exams on the scheduled dates. **The opportunity to make up exams is intended for those with emergencies on the original exam dates, and the student must notify the instructor by email of their situation before the originally scheduled exam, and follow up with acceptable documentation to substantiate their absence.** It is the responsibility of the student to learn the date and time of the make-up. *The make-up exam may be formatted in a similar manner to the original exam or it may be an all essay exam.*

University Policies:

- ❖ **Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. An assignment that can be proven to have been plagiarized will receive zero points. The second offense will lead to an F for the entire course. The subject of academic honesty is addressed in paragraph 5.3, Chapter VI, of the Rules and Regulations.
- ❖ **Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.
- ❖ **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. ***Please Note:*** **No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.**
- ❖ **Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.
- ❖ **Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation near semester's end.
- ❖ **For more information on University Policies visit:** <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Disclaimer: The schedule, requirements, and policies are subject to change. Any changes to this course will be posted on Blackboard.

HIST 2311 – Fall 2017 Course Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<u>Week</u>	<u>DATES (Mon-Sun)</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS</u>
Week 1	August 23 – 27	Syllabus and Introductions	Read syllabus & complete Bb Student Orientation <i>Assignment 1 & Discussion Forum 1: Self-Introduction, DUE: Sunday, 8/27</i>
Week 2	August 28 – September 3	Before History	Before History: Read Chapter Sub-section 1.1 <i>Quiz on Primary Sources, DUE: Sunday, 9/3</i>
Week 3	September 4: <i>Labor Day Holiday</i> September 5 – 10	Early Societies in Southwest Asia & Indo-European Migrations	Southwest Asia: Read Chapter Sub-sections 1.2 & 2.4
Week 4	September 11 – 17	Early Societies in Africa Early Societies in South Asia	<i>Assignment 2 & Discussion Forum 2: Birth of Civilization, DUE: Tuesday, 9/12</i> Africa: Read Chapter Sub-section 1.3 & Chapter 5 South Asia: Read Chapter Sub-section 1.4
Week 5	September 18 – 24	Early Societies in Mainland East Asia	East Asia: Read Chapter Sub-section 1.5
Week 6	September 25 – October 1	Early Societies in the Americas & Oceania	Americas: Read Chapter Sub-sections 1.6 & 13.1 – 13.4 <i>EXAM I: Early Societies, Friday, 9/29</i>
Week 7	October 2 – 8	Empires of Persia & India	Persia: Read Chapter Sub-sections 4.1 – 4.5 India: Read Chapter Sub-sections 2.3 & 4.6 – 4.9
Week 8	October 9 – 15	The Unification of China	Read Chapter Sub-sections 2.1 – 2.2 & Chapter 7

Week 9	October 16 – 22	Mediterranean Society: The Greeks	Assignment 3 & Discussion Forum 3: Classical Societies, DUE: Sunday, 10/22 Read Chapter Sub-section 2.5 & Chapter 3
Week 10	October 23 – 29	Mediterranean Society: The Romans & the Rise of Christianity	Romans: Read Chapter 6
Week 11	October 30 – November 5	Empire in East Asia	East Asia: Read Chapters 8 & 9 EXAM II: Classical Societies, Friday 11/3
Week 12	November 6 – 12	The Rise of Islam	Islam: Read Chapters 10 & 12
Week 13	November 13 – 19	Eastern & Western Christendom Africa, 1000 to 1700 C.E.	Christendoms: Read Chapter 11 Assignment 4 & Discussion Forum 4: The Two Christendoms, DUE: Friday, 11/17 Africa: Read Chapter 14
Week 14	November 20 – 21 November 22 – 26: Thanksgiving Holiday	States & Empires in the Americas & Oceania	Americas: Read Chapter Sub-sections 13.5 – 13.11
Week 15	November 27 – December 3	Medieval Europe The Renaissance	Medieval: Read Chapter Sub-sections 15.1 – 15.5 Renaissance: Read Chapter Sub-sections 15.6 – 15.7
Week 16	December 4 – 7	Final Exam Week	FINAL EXAM, Wednesday, 12/6