



HISTORY 2311: WORLD HISTORY FROM PREHISTORY TO THE RENAISSANCE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Section 04--CRN 80281: 1:00-1:50 am MWF--AB4 Room 302

Fall Semester 2017

Instructor: Lee M. Pappas

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the World from earliest times to the Fifteenth Century. It will investigate such areas of history as the cradles of civilization, the empires of Ancient Eurasia, Greece, Rome, China, India, Byzantium, Islam, Western Christendom, the Mongols, developments in Africa and the Americas, Muscovy, the Ottoman Empire, and the Renaissance. It will also attempt to assess the impact of these and other subjects upon today's world. Course work will consist of attending lectures and the taking of objective examinations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will acquaint themselves with the political, social, economic and cultural history of the World from earliest times to 1400.

Students will sharpen their skills in historical interpretation of World History.

Students will gain a factual knowledge of World history from Prehistory through the Renaissance.

Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in lectures or text.

There is no prerequisite for this course beyond the approval of the university

REQUIRED READINGS:

Timothy C. Hall. The Complete Idiot's Guide to World History, 2nd Edition. Penguin-Alpha, 2012. (Hall). This is a good brief guide to World History. [Hard Copy](#), [Kindle Version](#), [Nook Version](#), [Google Version](#), [PDF Version](#).

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class.

Use of a computer with a broadband internet connection for viewing some materials. If you do not have a computer at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Because large amounts of lecture material will appear on all of the examinations—

Students are expected to regularly attend lectures.

I will keep a record of student attendance.

I reserve the right to penalize a student for excessive absences. Three absences can result in withdrawal from the class.

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be four objective examinations during the semester. The final examination will not be comprehensive. Each of the four exams will be worth 100 points and will consist of between 50 and 100 questions divided into M/C sections, T/F sections, matching sections, and geography sections. Your lowest score on any one of the first three exams will be dropped; however, this does not include the final examination. Attendance at the final exam is mandatory. If you miss an examination for any reason, that will be your low score and it will be the one dropped. **NO MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN ON THE EXAMS. There are no exceptions. DO NOT ASK.** The three (out of four) examinations will count for a total of 300 points.

GRADING PLAN:

Examinations will count 300 points or 100% of the Course grade. The student who cannot finish is failing has the right to drop this course on or before the last day of instruction by university policy.

The grade scale will be: 270-300=A; 240-269=B; 210-239=C; 180-209=D; 0-179=F. There will be no individual extra credit in this class.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Lectures both supplement and complement reading assignments, as well as introduce problems to be brought up in assignments.

Brief outlines of lectures, lectures maps and other supplementary materials will be distributed to students on BLACKBOARD

**ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS REQUIRED BY THE
UNIVERSITY.**

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN ATTENDING THIS CLASS. A DETAILED LIST OF THESE CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Course Outline

Please be aware that the lectures and weekly readings will not always be synchronous. By the time you take each exam, however, lectures and readings ought to coincide.

Week 1: A PROLOGUE TO THE STUDY OF WORLD CIVILIZATION.

- 1) An Introduction to History and the Early Development of Humankind.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 1.

Week 2: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND EMPIRES OF THE NEAR EAST.

- 2) Mesopotamia and Egypt.
 - 3) Hittites, Assyrians and Persians.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 1.

Week 3: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND EMPIRES OF SOUTH AND EAST ASIA.

- 4) India.
 - 5) China.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 3-4.

Week 4: CIVILIZATIONS IN MINIATURE: KINGDOMS AND CITY STATES.

- 6) Phoenicians, Sea peoples and Israelites.
 - 7) The Development of Early Greece.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 2.

Week 5: GREEK CIVILIZATION.

- 8) Hellenic Greece
 - 9) Hellenistic Greece.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 5.

FIRST EXAMINATION

Week 6: ROMAN CIVILIZATION.

- 10) Republican Rome.
 - 11) Imperial Rome.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 6.

Week 7: THE END OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.

- 12) Nomadic and Sedentary Worlds.
 - 13) Western Christendom: Its Birth and Growing Pains.
- READINGS: Hall, ch. 6, 12.
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Week 8: WESTERN CHRISTENDOM.

14) Manorialism and Feudalism.

READINGS: Hall, ch. 12.

SECOND EXAMINATION

Week 9: EASTERN CHRISTENDOM AND ISLAM.

THIRD WEB-BASED QUIZ

15) Byzantine Civilization and Early Russia.

16) The Rise of Islam in the Near East, 600-1400.

READINGS: Hall, ch. 7-8.

Week 10: SOUTH AND EAST ASIA IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

17) India and South Asia.

18) China.

READINGS: Hall, ch. 8-9.

Week 11: EAST ASIA AND AFRICA IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

19) Japan.

20) Africa.

READINGS: Hall, ch. 7, 10.

Week 12 : DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AMERICAS AND OCEANIA.

21) The Americas and Oceania.

READINGS: Hall, ch. 13.

THIRD EXAMINATION

Week 13: HOLY WARS, STEPPE EMPIRES & THE UNIFICATION OF EURASIA.

17) Expansion of Western Christendom--Towns, Trade, and Crusades..

22) The Mongol Impact Upon Asia and Europe

READINGS: Hall, ch. 11, 12.

Week 14: THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY: AN ERA OF CRISIS & TRANSITION IN EUROPE.

23) The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

READINGS: Hall, ch. 12.

Week 15: THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY: AN ERA OF TRANSITION.

24) Cultural Developments--The World and the Origin of the Renaissance.

25) Overview and Review

READINGS: Hall, ch. 12.

The FOURTH EXAMINATION will be held during Finals Week and will be announced later in the semester.