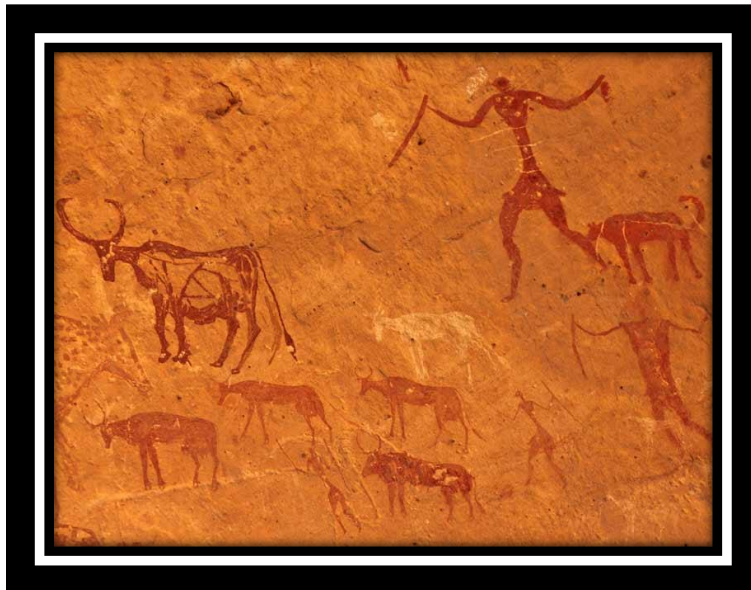


HIST 2311: World History to 1500 (*Fall 2017*)
T/Th: 12:30pm-1:50pm
AB4 302

Dr. Willis Okech Oyugi
Office: AB4 451
Phone: 4-1483
Office Hours: T/Th: 3:30-4:30 & by appointment
Email: woo002@shsu.edu



Rock art—Tassili n'Ajjer, Algeria, c. 6000 BCE

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey to major developments in world history from the origins of humanity to approximately 1500 CE. We will focus on selective topics that are organized around particular themes such early civilizations, the role of the environment in influencing the course of human history, and cross-cultural interactions. We will also analyze how political, social, economic, cultural and social developments in world history changed over time and space from the earliest times to 1500 CE.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the fundamentals of history as a discipline.
2. To familiarize students with major turning points in world history such as periodization, cause & effect, change & continuity over time, and the unique contributions made by different civilizations.

3. To enhance students' basic level of competence to understand and place contemporary events/issues in historical context.
4. To enhance students' ability to critically engage with an array of primary and secondary sources through comprehension, interpretation, and writing.

Skill Objectives

1. Students should be able to recognize the distinction between the analyses and arguments used by historians and other scholars.
2. Students should be able to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and how historians use these for their analyses and arguments.
3. Students will gain a broad objective knowledge of the field of World History from the earliest times to around 1500 CE.
4. Students will understand the influence of political, religious, social, environmental, economic, and cross-cultural exchanges on major historical events, including those of contemporary relevance.

Exams: The exams generally consist of a map/maps, identifications, and short/long essay questions. Exams will only cover course material (i.e. lectures, readings, and discussions). The final will not be cumulative.

Grading Scale

A	100–90
B	89–80
C	79–70
D	69–60
F	59–50

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class discussion (**10%**)
 2. Discussion questions x10 (**10%**)
 3. Exams x3 (Weeks 5, 10, & 16) (**each 20%**)
 4. Quizzes x4 (**20%**)
- *Please note that I would prefer to answer questions concerning grades during office hours or by appointment.*
 - **All assignment/review guidelines and grading rubrics will be posted on Blackboard.**
 - *NB: I reserve the right to change the syllabus over the course of the semester. Any changes (generally minor in nature) will be communicated in class at least one week prior to their implementation.*

Class Format, Assignments, & Other Information

Our class meetings will feature a mix of lectures, documentaries, and group discussions. As the deadlines/dates for papers and exams approach, I will give you more detailed information about my expectations. Please keep the following in mind:

- **Attendance & Participation:** You should complete the weekly readings as scheduled prior to attending lecture. This preparation will facilitate your grasp of the lecture material and enhance your participation in class discussion. Since the success of this class is also dependent on active community learning, *attendance will be recorded* at the beginning of each class.
 - **3 or more unexcused absences will result in no credit for the entire course**
- **Be Considerate:** It is disruptive to your peers to arrive late to class or leave early. Please be unobtrusive if you really must do so.
- **Communication:** I will respond to course-related emails within the shortest time possible (24hrs). Please expect delayed responses on weekends.
- **Email etiquette:** In your email messages, please include the course number and topic in the subject line. *Please remember to maintain a professional demeanor in all interactions with your peers and instructor.*
- **Assignments & Exams:** I am happy to discuss your assignments with you as you prepare them, the earlier the better. Email or come see me during office hours to talk about paper outlines, thesis paragraphs, drafts, or exams.
- **Late Work:** will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day and will only be accepted up to one week after the due date. With the exception of the final term paper, I reserve the right to allow extensions on a case by case basis.
- **Support:** If you find yourself unable or struggling to comprehend or finish the assigned readings or contribute to class discussion, please meet with me so that we can discuss some possible strategies/solutions.
 - I encourage you to take advantage of the study/writing resources SHSU offers to you outside the classroom.
- You must submit a hard copy of your paper in class. E-mail submissions will only be accepted under certain conditions. The paper must be typed in a 12-point font (Times New Roman), double-spaced, and must be cited appropriately using *footnotes* following the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
- **Electronics:** Cell phones, laptops, iPads and other technological *distractions* are not welcome.
 - *The audio or video recording of lectures is strictly prohibited without the professor's written consent.*

UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2013-2016.pdf#page=34>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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 and its official representatives 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

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 you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with

the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

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.

Required Texts/Readings

The following texts are available for purchase at the school bookstore or online. The books may be available electronically [**ER**] or have been placed on print reserve [**PR**] through the school library. In addition to these texts, the required readings include both scholarly articles on specific topics and primary sources. You can download these readings by clicking on the link to each author's name from the class web site on Blackboard (designated with [**BB**]).

1. Peter Von Sivers, Charles Desnoyers, & George Stow, *Patterns of World History: Volume One to 1600*, 2nd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014)
2. D. T. Niane, *Epic of Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (any version)

It will make a great deal of difference to your success in the class if you complete the assigned readings *before* each class meeting.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introductions

8/24: Introductions & course expectations

Week 2: Thinking historically: Prehistory & Human Origins, to c. 10,000 BCE

8/29: Thinking Historically" Primary & Secondary Sources.

- *Patterns*, "Introduction"
- Judith Berman, "Bad Hair Days in the Paleolithic: Modern (Re) Constructions of the Cave Man," *American Anthropologist*, 101, 2 (1999): 291-292.

8/31: The African Origins of Humanity

- *Patterns*, Ch. 1

Week 3: Early Civilizations: Africa & the Middle East, 11,500-600 BCE

Patterns, Ch. 2

9/5: River Valley Civilizations: Egypt & Mesopotamia.

- Jared Diamond, *History's Haves and Have Nots, Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: W.W.Norton & Co., 2005), pp. 93-103.

9/7: Origin and Spread of Writing: Sumerian cuneiforms, Babylonian Law Codes

Quiz 1

Week 4: Shifting Agrarian Centers, 5000 BCE-450 BCE: India; China

Patterns, Ch. 3

9/12: *Harappa*

9/14: *Ancient China*

Week 5: Origins Apart: The Americas and Oceania, 30,000 BCE – 600 BCE

Patterns, Ch. 5

9/19: Delayed Civilizations? The Americas, Polynesia

9/21: the origins of corn

Quiz 2

Week 6: Mid-terms

9/26: **Mid-term exam # 1.**

9/28: Documentary

Week 7: Chiefdoms & Early States in Africa & the Americas, 600 BCE – 600CE Readings:

Patterns, Ch. 6

10/3: *Aksum & Nubia*

10/5: *Maya & Teotihuacan*

Week 8: Innovations and Adaption in Western Eurasia: Persia, Greece, & Rome, 500 BCE to 600 CE

Patterns, Ch. 7: Persia

10/10: Persia

10/12: *NO CLASS*—I will be attending a conference

Finish the readings on Greece & Rome

Week 9: Alternative Pathways & Unification: Imperial China, 722 BCE to 200 CE

Readings: Ch. 9

10/17: Zhou China, the Warring Years

10/19: Confucius, Daoism, Legalism

Quiz 3

Week 10: Islamic Civilizations & Byzantine, 600 BCE to 1300 BCE

Readings: Ch. 10

10/24: the beginnings of Islam; state and society in Mamluk Egypt

10/26: **Mid-term exam # 2**

Week 11: The Western Christian World, 1000 CE to 1450 CE

Readings: Ch. 11

10/31: Church & state in medieval Europe

11/2: *The Black Death*

Week 12: Religious Wars; Conquest & Expansion

Patterns, Ch. 12 & Ch. 16 (select pages)

11/7: Asia: Korea, Japan, Ch 12.

11/9: The Iberian Peninsula: The Ottoman-Habsburg Struggle, Ch. 16

Week 13: Patterns of State Formation in Africa, 600 CE-1450 CE

Patterns, Ch. 14

11/14: Mali & Swahili City States

- Epic of Sundiata (Discussion)

11/16: Christian Ethiopia

Quiz 4**Week 14: Migrations, Trade, & Travel: 3000 BCE-1350 CE**

11/21: Austronesian, Indo-European, and Bantu Migrations

- Patrick Manning, *Migrations in World History*, 2005 [excerpt] (BB)

11/23: No Class: (Thanksgiving)

Week 15: Empires in the Americas and Global Encounters

Patterns: Ch. 15

11/28: *Maya and Aztecs*

11/30: *The Columbian Encounter*

Week 16: Review & Finals

12/5: Review

12/7: Final Exam (9:30am-11:30 am)