

HIST 2311.03 World History to 1500
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Location: AB IV 302
Spring 2018

Dr. Eric Vanden Bussche

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 11 a.m.-12 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This survey course covers world history from the earliest human societies until 1500. We will examine the connections and interactions among the cultures and civilizations around the globe. The lectures and reading materials will address crucial questions: How did human societies influence one another's development through migrations, trade, and cross-cultural exchanges? How did early states and civilizations develop their political, religious, and economic institutions and practices? By thinking about these questions, we will better comprehend the historical processes in pre-modern times. We will also develop a broader understanding of the world's cultural diversity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are:

- To become familiarized with the development and interactions between peoples, civilizations, and empires during the pre-modern era.
- To learn to examine a variety of primary sources;
- To formulate historical questions and articulate ideas clearly in written assignments.
- To develop a greater appreciation of the cultural diversity in the U.S. and around the world.

COURSE TEXT

The readings for this course includes a textbook that can be purchased either at the university bookstore or online through websites such as www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. The textbook is listed below:

- Philip J. Adler and Randall L. Pouwels. *World Civilizations, Vol. I: To 1700* (Seventh Edition). **ISBN-13:** 978-1285442792

IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING CLASS READINGS

Required readings such as primary sources will be posted on Blackboard and/or distributed in class. Students are required to bring these materials to class and be prepared to discuss them. Failure to prepare for classroom discussions will negatively affect your participation grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Essay Papers (40% of the final grade)

During the semester you will be expected to write two essay papers (1000-1200 words each) analyzing primary sources. Detailed guidelines and a rubric for the essay papers will be posted on Blackboard and explained in class. Each essay paper will be worth 20% of your final grade, for a total of 40%.

2. Exams (45%)

There will be two exams during the semester, one mid-term and one final exam. The exam questions will be based on the material covered in class. You will not be allowed to consult your notes or textbook during the exam. The mid-term exam is worth 20% of your final grade and the final exam 25%.

3. Attendance and Participation (15%)

Attendance is mandatory. Class meetings will include in-class activities. Hence, your consistent attendance is crucial to your success. To that end, I expect you to attend every class, be prompt in arriving, and come prepared. If you must miss a class, you must let me know as far in advance as possible of the absence and obtain information about the work you must do to keep up in class. Classroom participation is worth 15% of your final grade.

My grading scale is as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69, F = 59 or lower.

TECHNOLOGY ETIQUETTE

Laptops should be used for class-related work only. Emailing, updating Facebook profiles or random Internet surfing during class will not be tolerated. Cell phones should be turned off when you arrive in class. Texting during class is strictly prohibited. No recording devices are allowed. Failure to abide by these rules will negatively affect your participation grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating, will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information of the university policies, please see: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic functioning should contact the Services for Students with disabilities (SSD) Office located in the Lee Drain Annex (next to Farrington) telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786 to apply for accommodations. In the event that accommodations are approved by SSD, the student must schedule an appointment with the course instructor in order to present his/her accommodation form and discuss the arrangements for the accommodations.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the SSD.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON 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. 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/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.

COURSE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Week 1

Wednesday, January 17: Introduction to World History

Friday, January 19: Human Societies, Agriculture, and the Environment

Week 2

Monday, January 22: Mesopotamian empires, states, and societies

Wednesday, January 24: Mesopotamia empires, states, and societies

Friday, January 26: Ancient Egypt

Week 3

Monday, January 29: Ancient Egypt

Wednesday, January 31: Ancient Egypt/Central Asia and India's Beginnings

Friday, February 2: Assyrian and Persian Empires

Week 4

Monday, February 5: Assyrian and Persian Empires

Wednesday, February 7: Ancient China to 221 BC

Friday, February 9: Ancient China to 221 BCE

Week 5

Monday, February 12: Ancient China to 221 BCE

Wednesday, February 14: Ancient Greece

Friday, February 16: Ancient Greece

Week 6

Monday, February 19: Ancient Greece

Wednesday, February 21: Qin and Han dynasties in China

Friday, February 23: Roman Empire

Week 7

Monday, February 26: Roman Empire

Wednesday, February 28: Roman Empire

Friday, March 2: In-class primary source exercise

Week 8

Monday, March 5: Review for mid-term

Wednesday, March 7: Mid-term

Friday, March 9: In-class primary source exercise

Week 9

March 12-16: Spring break, no classes

Week 10

Monday, March 19: The Rise of Christianity

Wednesday, March 21: The Byzantine Empire

Friday, March 23: The Byzantine Empire

Week 11

Monday, March 26: The Holy Roman Empire
Wednesday, March 28: The Silk Road and Global Trade
Friday, March 30: The Silk Road and Global Trade

Week 12

Monday, April 2: The Silk Road and Global Trade
Wednesday, April 4: The Americas: Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas
Friday, April 6: The Americas: Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas

Week 13

Monday, April 9: The Origins and Spread of Islam
Wednesday, April 11: The Abbasid Dynasty
Friday, April 13: The Abbasid Dynasty

Week 14

Monday, April 16: Africa to 1400
Wednesday, April 18: Africa to 1400
Friday, April 20: The Mongol Empire

Week 15

Monday, April 23: The Mongol Empire
Wednesday, April 25: The Mongol Empire
Friday, April 27: The Middle Ages

Week 16

Monday, April 30: The Middle Ages
Wednesday, May 2: The End of the Middle Ages
Friday, May 4: Review for final examination
Essay Paper #2 due

*****Final exam: May 7, 2017 from 1 p.m.-3:00 p.m.*****