



**Spring Semester 2018----3 Units Credit**  
**Section 01--CID 81489: 2:00-3:20 PM -- AB-IV Rm. 305**  
**Instructor: Nicholas C. J. Pappas**  
**Office: AB4, Room 474.**  
**Office phone: 294-3617.**  
**Office hours: To be announced.**  
**E-Mail address: his\_ncp@shsu.edu**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the Near East and Mediterranean from earliest times to the end of the Fifth Century. It will investigate such areas of history as the cradles of civilization of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the empires of Babylon, Assyria, and Persia; Ancient Israel and Phoenicia; Minoan, Mycenaean, and Archaic Greece; Hellenic and Hellenistic Civilizations; the rise of Republican Rome; the Roman Empire from Principate to Autocracy; the Celts and Germans; and the end of the Ancient World. Parallel developments in other parts of the world, notably China and India, will also be analyzed. The course will also attempt to assess the impact of these and other subjects upon today's world.

#### **PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:**

- To acquaint students with the political, social, economic and cultural history of the Near East and the Mediterranean from earliest times to 500 A.D.
- To sharpen the students' skills in historical interpretation and writing.

#### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE:**

- The class schedule will consist of two 80 minute sessions each week. The instructor allots each session to lectures, while a portion of each session might be devoted to films, questions, discussion.
- Lectures 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.

#### **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and participate actively in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly and each student is responsible for keeping up with the class through attendance and blackboard announcements. Good

attendance will be weighed as a factor in borderline grades. Since there is no penalty for absences and there are no make-ups on assignments, there will be no excused absences.

- **Reading assignments:** Readings from the text and supplementary sources are given on a weekly basis.
- **Map Quizzes:** There will be 15-20 map quizzes in class, about 2-3 each week, on the geography of subjects we are studying. They will be worth ten points each and both students taking the exams or doing the film review option have to take these in class. The two to three lowest map quizzes will be dropped.
- **Discussion forums:** In lieu of examinations, students will participate in twice-weekly online Discussion Forums based upon primary and secondary source readings as well as offered documentary films. They will be given on a twice weekly basis and be worth 30 points each. The five lowest scores on the discussion forums will be dropped. 20 discussion forums will count toward the course grade. Students will show their active participation in these forums answering each question in at least one paragraph (20 points per question) and responding to at least two answers by other members (5 points per response). Further comments may count toward extra credit.
- **Makeup assignments:** There are normally no makeup assignments for this class, since the lowest of exam scores and the lowest three map quiz scores are dropped. Do not miss more than one exam or three map quizzes. Only students with legitimate excuses backed up with written documentation will be allowed to make up an exam that they have missed. Since movie reviews are optional, there are no makeup reviews or late reviews accepted. Beyond extraordinary documented circumstances, there are no make-ups. There are no exceptions. DO NOT ASK.

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#### **GRADING PLAN:**

- The 15 highest-scored Map Quizzes will count up to 150 points towards the Course grade
- The 5 web-based multiple choice quizzes will count 250 points toward the Course grade
- The 20 highest discussion forum scores will count up to 30+ points each for a possible total of 600 points.
- Student attendance and participation will play a role in the grading in cases of borderline grades. Students with one absence or less will receive grade boost if they are one percentage point below the next highest grade.
- The grade scale will be: 900-1000=A; 800-899=B; 700-799=C; 600-699=D; 0-599=F
- There will be no extra credit in this class.
- Only students who cannot finish the course because of documented health or emergency problems will be allowed a grade of "X" in order to complete coursework.

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#### **REQUIRED SUPPLIES:**

- Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class.
- Use of a computer with an internet connection for viewing films, a word processing program, and a printer is required. If you do not have these at home, please make use of computer labs on campus. If you do not have a broadband that can stream or download videos, please use university lab computers.
- All assignments will be due on blackboard, in emergency circumstances, in hard copy. No e-mailed copies are accepted.

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### **RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

General reference for Ancient History:

- *Penguin Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilizations*. Arthur Cotterell, ed. New York: Penguin Books, 1980. (Civilization)

A brief outline history of the Ancient World

- Albert Hyma, *Ancient History*

Will Durant's STORY OF CIVILIZATION in PDF form

- Volume 1--*Our Oriental Heritage*
- Volume 2--*The Life of Greece*
- Volume 3--*Caesar and Christ*

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**WEB READINGS IN ANCIENT HISTORY.** These consist of both primary and secondary sources in Ancient History. It is upon these sources that most of the discussion forums will be based, As well as web-based multiple choice questions.

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### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Attendance for this course is mandatory. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student in the class.
- I will keep a record of student attendance.
- One absence is the equivalent of missing one week of class during a semester. I reserve the right to penalize a student for excessive absences. Excessive absences can result in withdrawal from the class. I reserve the right to lower grades of students by one letter grade or more for excessive absences. You may miss two (2) classes without penalty—no excuses necessary. Absences beyond the two allowed can result in the lowering of a student's grade by one letter for the equivalent of two weeks missed (four or more absences).
- Only absences with legitimate written excuses (notes from doctors, employers and other officials, published obituaries, etc.) will be considered for exception to the above policy. The instructor will not automatically accept notes from family members. In addition, absences due to participation in extracurricular activities will not automatically be considered legitimate excuses, even with documentation. Because of instances of fraudulent excuses, authentic copies of the written excuses with addresses and telephone numbers of the issuing party must be given to the instructor. Any instances of fraud will result in expulsion from the class.

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**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/>

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