

**World Civilization I
HIST 007-10
Summer 2018**

Class Meetings:

M-Th 8:30-10:30
ICC 107

Instructor:

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Office Hours: TBA and by appointment
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Course Description

This course is designed to acquaint students with the expansive scope of human history from the appearance of “civilizations” to the dawn of the modern era, approximately 1500 C.E. It attempts to present this history in an integrative fashion. In other words, it will examine processes, trends, and other factors at the trans-regional or global level incorporated within the historical background of various regions and civilizations. As the course title indicates, it seeks to accomplish the above by emphasizing human encounters as well as material, cultural, and biological exchanges between different regions, cultures, and civilizations. In the process, we will examine a series of evolving relationships, those between human beings and their physical environment, between different religious and political systems, between different ethnic groups, and between men and women.

Course Format

This course will meet Monday through Thursday for two hours. One of those hours will be devoted to lecture, which will elaborate on or supplement your textbook readings. The second hour will be devoted to an in-class activity. Activities range from a close reading and discussion of a primary source or object to watching a movie or listening to a podcast. Lecture and readings will provide a broader context, and our activities will zoom in and look at one aspect of the lecture in greater depth.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in discussions and classroom activities is mandatory for all students. The value of each discussion ultimately rests on your willingness to come prepared to talk. Thus, all students are expected to do all of the assigned readings. The textbook is meant to provide background and context for lectures, but need not be read with the same care as supplementary readings.

Because summer courses move so swiftly and because so much material is covered each day, students may miss only one class without penalty, no questions asked. If a student misses more than four classes, he or she will automatically fail the class.

Assignments and Grading

Each student will complete four assignments: two short essays (4-6 pages each; the first paper is worth 15% of your final grade and the second paper counts for 25%), one in-class bluebook exam (worth 35% of your grade). Discussion, attendance, and participation comprise 25% of your final grade. Failure to complete ANY of these assignments may result in failure of the course.

Paper 1: Primary Source Interpretation: Throughout the term, we will be reading primary sources in class and discussing them together. For your first essay, you will read a primary source and interpret it in the context of your readings and information provided in lecture.

Paper 2: Material culture / art object essay: In the lectures, I will provide examples of how to "read" an object historically, and we'll practice similar techniques with texts and objects in discussion. For the art / material culture essay, you are to go to a DC museum (or museum in another city if you happen to be there); find an object relevant to pre-1500 World History, photograph it, photograph yourself in front of it, and write about it in an interpretive and historically contextualized way. Museum websites and accompanying texts will provide some information, but you can research further. The inspiration for this exercise is Neil MacGregor's *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, on reserve at Lauinger. You must choose your object by week 4, and discuss your choice with me. On the last day of class, you will give a brief presentation on your object and interpretation, receive feedback on the project, and be fully prepared to submit a polished final essay.

Final Exam: The final will follow the standard IDs/Essay format. Each day, I will provide a short list of IDs, relevant to that day's lecture. I will choose from these IDs (and only these) when writing the final exam.

Your first written assignment is due at the beginning of class on Jun 18. You must bring a hardcopy to me; no printer problem will save you from this responsibility. The second paper is due on July 6 by midnight. You may email me the second paper. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, conform to standard MLA conventions of structure and source citation, and observe all of the niceties of style, grammar, etc. The Lauinger Library website includes a page with citation guidelines and formats: <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/guides/mla>.

You are responsible for submitting all work on time and taking the examinations at the scheduled times. The essays are due at the beginning of class; papers will be penalized by a 1/3 grade reduction for each day they are late. Make-up examinations will be considered only under very serious circumstances and only following formal notification of the instructor by the student's Deans Office prior to the scheduled exam.

Academic Integrity

As signatories to the Georgetown University Honor Pledge, you are required to uphold academic honesty in all aspects of the course, especially on exams and papers. The professors and teaching

assistants are aware of and regularly consult all of the major internet sources for plagiarized papers. Thus, you are hereby cautioned to follow the letter and the spirit of the Standards of Conduct outlined in the Georgetown Honor System brochure pp. 3-4, 11-13. If you have any questions about conforming to rules regarding plagiarism or about the proper format for citations, consult a professor or teaching assistant.

Required Readings

Textbooks

Sivers et. al. *Patterns in World History Vol 1*. Oxford UP, 2012

Mackintosh, Tim (ed.). *The Travels of Ibn Battutah*. London: Picador Publishing, 2002.

Kahn, Paul. *Secret History of the Mongols: The Origins of Chingis Khan*.

Additional texts will be made available on Canvas or Blackboard.

Lecture and Discussion Schedule

Week 1

Monday 6/4 Introduction: From the Appearance of Homo Sapiens to the Establishment of Settled Agricultural Communities

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 1
- Watch: Cave of Forgotten Dreams

Tuesday 6/5 The Agricultural Revolution and the Emergence of Civilizations

- Skim: Patterns Chapter 2 and 3; Read: The Epic of Gilgamesh (available online)
- Listen: Radiolab, An Ice-Cold Case

Wednesday 6/6 East Asia, 1000 BCE-200 CE

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 4
- In class readings: Three Kingdoms excerpts

Thursday 6/7: Early States in the Americas

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 5

Week II

Monday 6/11 Greece and Persia, 600 BCE-200 CE

- Homer, *The Iliad* Books 1-2, 4, 6, 9, 14, 18-19, 22-24
- In class activity: Reading Greek art

Tuesday 6/12 Encounters and Exchanges on the “Silk Roads”

- Read: Patterns, Chapters 9 and begin chapter 12
- In class readings: Shahnemah excerpts

Wednesday 6/13 African Transformations, 500 BCE-1000 CE

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 6 (beginning)

Thursday 6/14 The Pastoral Revolution: The Mongols and the horse in human history

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 12
- Read: *The Secret History of the Mongols* (excerpts)

Week III

Monday 6/18 Rome and Byzantium

- Read: Patterns Chapters 7
- **Paper 1 Due**

Tuesday 6/19 Christendom

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 11

Wednesday 6/20 The Indian Ocean World: South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Africa, 200-1400 CE

- Review: Patterns, Chapter 12 and read chapter 14

Thursday 6/21 The Mystery of the Mayas

- Finish reading: Patterns, Chapter 6 and start chapter 15
- In class readings: The Popol Vu excerpts
- Watch: Cracking the Mayan Code

Week IV

Monday 6/25 The Expansion of Buddhism and Islam, 500-1500 CE

- Skim: Patterns, Chapters 10 and 12
- Read: *Ibn Battuta* (excerpts)

Tuesday 6/26 Overseas Expansion: Vikings, Ottomans, and Western Europe, 600-1500 CE

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 16
- In class reading: Excerpt of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

Wednesday 6/27 West Africa and Climate Change, 800-1500 CE

- Read: Patterns, Chapters 14 (skim) and 19

Thursday 6/28 Oceania: Polynesia, New Zealand, and Easter Island

Week V

Monday 7/2 Lecture: The Inka and the Mexica, and European Expansion

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 15, Crosby. “Conquistador y Pestilencia.”
- In class reading: Las Casas, Excerpts from *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies in 1542* and *Apologetic History of the Indies*

Tuesday 7/3 Final Examination Review

- Paper Presentations in Class

Wednesday 7/4 Holiday: No Class

Thursday 7/5 Final Exam

Friday 7/6 Final Paper Due