

**HIST-007-10 Intro to Early History: World Civilization I
Summer 2019**



[World Map, ca. 1500]

Instructor: Andrey V. Gornostaev

Monday - Thursday: 8:30-10:30 pm (ICC 117)

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Course Description

The primary goal of this course is to acquaint students with the expansive scope of human history from the emergence of “civilizations” to the dawn of the modern era, approximately 1500 C.E. It attempts to present this history in an integrative fashion. Civilizations and countries develop and change through mutual interactions and interdependence. By focusing on processes, trends, and other pertinent factors, this course demonstrates the importance of trans-regional and global perspectives for understanding various historical phenomena. The particular attention will be paid to human encounters, as well as material, cultural, and biological exchanges between different regions, cultures, and civilizations. Through the analysis of the issues of migration, war, trade, and religion, it becomes possible to examine the evolution of political systems and human relationships, and see how these issues shaped the development of our modern world.

Learning goals

- 1) Gain a deeper appreciation of history as a discipline and as the study, based on evidence, of human experiences, interactions and relationships as they change over time.
- 2) Learn that history does not consist of a simple succession of self-evident facts, and that evidence-based interpretation and analysis are central to all historical work.

- 3) Develop tools and skills vital for historical inquiry, research, analysis, argumentation, and both written and oral communication, as well as to learn to analyze and contextualize different types of primary and secondary sources.
- 4) Demonstrate the connection between the past and the present, engage with the effects of history, ask big questions about history, and think about ways to answer these questions.

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 will 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 consider a certain aspect of the lecture in greater depth.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in discussions and classroom is crucial for a successful completion of the course and 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.

Summer courses are intensive and require students to cover a great deal of material every day. Although missing classes is highly undesirable, every student is entitled to one unexcused absence without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will negatively affect one's participation grade. 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. Interpreting a Primary Source. In this course, we will devote considerable attention to reading and analyzing primary sources together, such as travelogues, memoirs, excerpts from books, etc. For your first essay, you will read a primary source and interpret it in the context of your readings and information provided in lecture. Hard copy is **due in class on June 17**.

Paper 2. Material culture/art object essay: In addition to written primary sources, we will talk about material objects and analyze them historically. In this assignment, you should 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 (from any region), photograph it, photograph yourself in front of it, and

write about it a historical and analytical essay. For information on such objects, you may refer to museum websites and objects descriptions, but ideally you need to conduct additional research. A key inspirational text for this assignment is Neil MacGregor's *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, on reserve at Lauinger. 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. Hard copy or email is **due on July 5 by midnight**.

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

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.

The University's Honor System: All students are expected to be familiar with Georgetown's Academic Regulations and respect and uphold the University's Honor System as outlined in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Georgetown faculty is required to report any instances of suspected cheating or plagiarism.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you believe you have a disability, you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. It is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodation in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies. Within the first two weeks of the semester, you should present the instructor with a letter showing the accommodations that you have arranged with the Academic Resource Center.

Sexual Misconduct: Georgetown University and its faculty are committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, harassment, or assault. University policy requires faculty members to report any disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the University's response to sexual misconduct. For more information, see <https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/>

Required Readings

Class materials will consist of primary and secondary written sources and images. Except for the books listed below, all the readings will be made available online through Canvas. It is recommended that students purchase the following books, because we will use them heavily.

- Sivers et. al. *Patterns in World History with Sources*. Vol 1. 3rd edition. Oxford UP, 2017
- Mackintosh, Tim (ed.). *The Travels of Ibn Battutah*. Macmillan, 2016.
- Kahn, Paul. *Secret History of the Mongols: The Origins of Chingis Khan*. Cheng&Tsui, 2005

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Week 1

Monday 6/3 Introduction: From the Appearance of Homo Sapiens to the Establishment of Settled Agricultural Communities

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

Tuesday 6/4 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 6/5 East Asia, 1000 BCE-200 CE

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

Thursday 6/6 Early States in the Americas

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 5

Week II

Monday 6/10 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 6/11 Encounters and Exchanges on the “Silk Roads”

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

Wednesday 6/12 African Transformations, 500 BCE-1000 CE

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 6 (beginning)

Thursday 6/13 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 6/17 Rome and Byzantium

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

Tuesday 6/18 Christendom

- Read: Patterns, Chapter 11

Wednesday 6/19 The Indian Ocean World: South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Africa, 200-1400 CE

- Review: Patterns, Chapter 12 and read chapter 14

Thursday 6/20 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 6/24 The Expansion of Buddhism and Islam, 500-1500 CE

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

Tuesday 6/25 Overseas Expansion: Vikings, Ottomans, and Western Europe, 600-1500 CE

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

Wednesday 6/26 West Africa and Climate Change, 800-1500 CE

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

Thursday 6/27 Oceania: Polynesia, New Zealand, and Easter Island 5

Week V

Monday 7/1 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 7/2 Final Examination Review

- Paper Presentations in Class

Wednesday 7/3 Final Exam

Thursday 7/4 Holiday: No Class

Friday 7/5 Final Paper Due