

**HIST 1111**  
**SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY TO 1500**  
**Fall 2006**

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Office hours: M/W, 9:30-11:45 a.m., 1:00-1:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Lectures: M/W 1:50-3:10, Bonner A

Course Description and Learning outcomes: This is an introductory survey course on selected topics in the history of major world civilizations that have shaped the foundations of our modern world. From the origins of humans in Africa to the age of discovery, we will explore how societies emerged, developed and interacted to create a synthesis of >civilization=. The course will introduce students to basic historical enquiry and prepare them to execute the oral and written presentation of ideas. This will prepare students to write about and discuss their understanding of the forces which shaped our world in order for them to live and work more effectively in it. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate their understanding, through written and verbal communications, of important themes in world history including those related to: environment, social stratification and gender relations, urbanization, warfare, technology, philosophy, government and the state, religion, economics and culture. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to conduct basic research and write essay format responses, and be able to prepare for class discussions. They will also develop basic map reading skills and be able to demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the geographic and environmental context of world history.

This is a lecture-based course. Students are reminded, however, that reading and writing are essential parts of the course. **READ. READ. READ.** Students are expected to fulfill reading assignments in order to follow the course, participate in discussions and complete written assignments. The texts and assignments are designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the course. They are by no means an exhaustive list of what you should be reading. Students are expected to **ATTEND ALL LECTURES**. Failure to do so will adversely affect your grade. **Students who miss more than three classes without documented medical excuses may have their grade dropped by one whole letter grade, students who miss more than six classes may receive an 'F' for the course.** We will be covering material in the lectures which is not available in the texts, and class discussions are vital to the course so attending class is essential.

**Required texts:**

J.R. and W. McNeill, *The Human Web* (Norton)

Riley et al. *The Global Experience. Readings in World History to 1550*, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Prentice Hall)

S. Hamdun and N. King, *Ibn Battuta in Black Africa* (Markus Wiener)

E. Gilbert and J Reynolds, *Trading Tastes*, (Prentice Hall)

## GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Document quizzes: 15% (15% for each of each three)  
Trading Tastes report 10%  
In-class review of Ibn Battuta 10%  
Mid-Term 30%  
Final Exam: 35 %

## Grade Scale

A = 90% and above  
B = 80-89 %  
C = 70-79%  
D = 60-69%  
F = below 60%

- 1) Each student must read and come prepared to class to discuss and be ready to be quizzed **on any three of the assigned documents**. Quizzes will be given on a surprise basis, and as with any class, no excuses other than verifiable and documented medical absences will be accepted for missing a quiz.
- 2) Each student will read an assigned section of the Trading Tastes book, **write a brief report and synopsis** of the section (2-3 pages typed, 750-1000 words, 12-point font) and be prepared to discuss their findings in class.
- 3) Each student will write an in-class review and analysis of the Ibn Battuta book.
- 4) Each student must write both the mid-term and final exams. **Students must write the exams and complete assignments in or for the time periods noted**. From time to time, the instructor may need to change dates of assignments, and **the syllabus is provisional and subject to change**. Students are responsible for noting any changes made by the instructor and fulfilling their responsibilities on the dates the instructor indicates. **Students are responsible for coming to each and every class and they should not schedule anything that may conflict with this responsibility. You must write the exams in the time periods noted below (unless advised otherwise by the instructor)** No re-writes will be granted for any exams or assignments missed unless in case of a verifiable and documented health matter.

### A NOTE ON ACADEMIC HONESTY and other class policies

All students are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and to **DO THEIR OWN WORK**. Cheating, in whatever form not only does a disservice to you, fellow students and the University community, it is fraud and brings severe disciplinary action. I refer all students to the section on Academic Honesty in the University Catalogue. I reserve the right to fail any student for academic dishonesty, and further disciplinary action may be taken.

-There is no extra credit provided for this course.

-The instructor will not accept work that has been submitted for another course in this course.

-Students causing a disturbance or engaging in disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the class. Persistent disruptions may be cause for being dropped from the class.

**-N.B. This syllabus is subject to change, and the instructor has final say regarding these changes and their implementation.** Students are responsible for coming to class in order to make themselves aware of these changes.

## **Assignments and lectures:**

14-16 Aug.

- 1) Introduction and Course Handouts
- 2) The Human Apprenticeship; the emergence of modern humans

**Readings: McNeills Chp. I**

21-23 Aug.

- 1) Shifting to Food Production
- 2) Food Production II

**Readings: McNeills Chp. II**

28-30 Aug.

- 1) River Valley Civilizations
- 2) Civilized achievements and synthesis **Documents. 5, 6, 7,**

**Readings: McNeills, Chp. III, pp 41-61**

4-6 Sept.

- 1) **NO CLASS: Labor Day**
- 2) Variations 'on Civilization'

**Documents. 8, 9, 11**

11-13 Sept.

- 1) India
- 2) India

**Readings: McNeills, Chp. III, pp. 62-82 and documents 19, 20, 21,**

18-20 Sept.

- 1) Chinese Civilization
- 2) The nature of the Chinese state

**Readings: Documents 25, 26, 27,**

25-27 Sept.

- 1) Greece
- 2) Greece and Rome: Hellenism

**Readings: Documents: 28, 32, 34**

2-4 Oct.

- 1) The growth of webs: 'Old World' and 'New World'
- 2) **\*\*\*\*Mid-Term Exam\*\*\*\***

**Readings: McNeills, Chp. IV**

9-11 Oct.

- 1) **NO CLASS: FALL BREAK**
- 2) Expansive monotheistic religions: Christianity

**Readings: Documents 40, 41**

16-18 Oct.

- 1) Expansive monotheistic religions: Islam
- 2) Islam and Trade

**Readings: Documents 47, 48, 49**

23-25 Oct.

- 1) Thickening Webs: Trade
- 2) Trade

**Readings: McNeills, Chp. V, pp. 116-136**

30 Oct.-1 Nov.

- 1) Ibn Battuta, Africa and the Global economy
- 2) **\*\*\*Ibn Battuta In-class review\*\*\***

**Readings: Hamdun and King, *Ibn Battuta in Black Africa***

6-8 Nov.

- 1) Trading and commodities
- 2) Tastes reports: **\*\*\*Spice and Salt Reports\*\*\***

**Readings: Gilbert and Reynolds, *Trading Tastes***

13-15 Nov.

- 1) Trading Tastes: **\*\*\*Silk and Sugar Reports\*\*\***
- 2) Setting the stage for the global web: Europe

**Readings: McNeills, chp V, pp. 137-154**

22-24 Nov.

- 1) Europe and the emerging worldwide web
- 2) NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

**Readings: McNeills, chp. VI pp.155-174, 206-212**

27-29 Nov.

- 1) The Age of expansion
- 2) The Age of European Expansion: Review for Final exam

**Documents: 92, 95, 98,100,101**

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM\*\*\*:** The Final Exam is scheduled for **Friday 8 December from 11:00-1:00**  
All students must sit the exam in this scheduled slot.

**N.B. All students must write the exams and complete assignments at the times and dates specified or as instructed by the instructor if a change of date is needed. No exceptions will be made for other than documented and verifiable medical excuses. No make-up exams will be provided and a grade of A0'' (zero) will be recorded for any missed assignments or exams. Late assignments will not be accepted.**