

SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY / CIVILIZATION TO 1500

HIST 1111-03, Summer 2011. Pafford 204, MTuWThF 10:00 AM-12:15 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to develop skills in understanding and appreciating the history of your own and other peoples' cultures. You will be introduced to important concepts, ideas, and events that have shaped our world from 1500 to the present.

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate the ability to think historically through understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of World history; comprehension of causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time; and awareness of the importance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in history. They will also increase their awareness of the multicultural nature of our world and gain the comparative perspective necessary to judge the roles played by Western Civilization in the wider world.

The written assignments will hone your skills in critical thinking, analysis of sources, and the organization and expression of ideas, skills which provide a solid foundation for all careers. They will challenge you to understand the main ideas of what you are reading, and to express these ideas in a concise manner.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading. Because of the large amount of material to be covered, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than five absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade. If you leave class early, you will be counted as absent.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend class so that you may be aware of any changes.

Grading

There will be two written examinations: a midterm worth 25%, and a final worth 30% of the final grade. The other 45% of the total grade will be distributed as follows:

5% from a basic knowledge quiz, to be given at the beginning and end of the semester. If you want to improve the grade you receive at the beginning, you can take it again at the end. If you miss it at the beginning, you can take it at the end.

10% from a written assignment based on the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and the Biblical flood story at <http://public.wsu.edu/~dee/HEBREWS/GENFLOOD.HTM>.

30% from written summaries of the chapters in Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters*. You must choose at least three chapters to write on from among Chapters 1-4, and hand in your assignment on the day indicated for each chapter. If you choose to write on all four chapters, your lowest grade for the Bentley assignments will be dropped.

Class participation is encouraged, but disruptive behavior will be considered negative participation and may result in points taken out of your quiz grade. As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade.

Your quiz and exam dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with your exam dates. No makeup quizzes will be given.

For the midterm and final exams, you will need to turn in a blank blue book with your name on the front cover at least one class meeting prior to the exam. I will mark these and return them at the exam time. No exams written in unmarked blue books will be accepted.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's policies on academic honesty. As a West Georgia student, you have pledged not to lie, cheat, steal, or commit plagiarism. It is equally wrong to give aid as it is to receive it. When copying word for word from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite your source. When paraphrasing material or borrowing another author's ideas, you must also cite your source. Assignments are to be done independently. Two or more students cannot hand in variations of the same paper, even if they study together. You are not allowed to submit your own work from a previous course without the prior instructor's and my permission. You can review the Honor Code at <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>. Any lying, cheating, stealing, or plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, test, or quiz in which it was committed.

Special Accommodations

If you are on record with the university's Disability Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please meet with me during my regular office hours as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented. Also, please note that arrangements for special accommodations must be made at least one week before the exams.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Disability Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Student Development Center at 272 Parker Hall.

Policy on Electronic Devices and Communication

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Laptops are not to be used in the classroom. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time. The use of any electronic device during a quiz or exam is strictly prohibited and will be considered a breach of academic honesty, with the result of a grade of zero for the quiz or exam.

To protect your privacy, all electronic communication with me must be conducted through your West Georgia e-mail. As all e-mail is potentially insecure, I will only discuss your grades with you in person. Please be aware that I will not always be able to respond to e-mails or phone messages immediately, and will not answer e-mails asking for information that can be easily found on the syllabus. If you have an urgent matter, talk to me in person—either in class, or in my office.

Required Books

The Epic of Gilgamesh (Penguin Epics, 2006) ISBN 9780141026282

Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters* (Oxford University Press, 1993) ISBN 9780195076400

Course Schedule:

DATE	TOPICS
July 1	Introduction and geography Feeding people: foraging and herding Basic knowledge quiz
July 4	NO CLASS
July 5	Feeding people: agriculture
July 6	The beginnings of settled life: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, Oxus, China, Mesoamerica, Andes
July 7	Later Mesopotamia: empires and Hebrews Paper on Epic of Gilgamesh due
July 8	Greece Alexander and the Hellenistic world
July 11	India: from kingdoms to empire and the emergence of Buddhism Papers on Bentley, Chapter 1, due
July 12	Rome: from city-state to empire The emergence of Christianity: from Jewish sect to state religion
July 13	China: from warring states to empire
July 14	MIDTERM EXAM
July 15	Mesoamerica: from village to city to empire Andes: from local to regional cultures to the rise of empires
July 18	The transformation of the Roman world Central Asian societies and their impact on settled life Papers on Bentley, Chapter 2, due

- July 19 The spread of Indian culture
 The rise of Islam
- July 20 The Islamic golden age
 Neoconfucian East Asia
 Papers on Bentley, Chapter 3, due
- July 21 Medieval Europe: from tribal to feudal society
 The High Middle Ages and eastern influence
- July 22 Africa: connections with the outside world
 Africa: the tropical forests
- July 25 The Mongols
 The Silk Road and the Seven Seas
 Asia after the Mongols
 Papers on Bentley, Chapter 4, due
- July 26 European Renaissance
 European Exploration
 Repeat of Basic Knowledge Quiz
- July 28 **FINAL EXAM**