

SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY / CIVILIZATION TO 1500

HIST 1111-04, Spring 2012. Pafford 204, MWF 10:00-10:50 AM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3206

Office hours: MWF 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00-2:00 PM, 3:30-5:00 PM or by appointment

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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 from ancient times to AD 1500 that continue to shape our world today.

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of World history. They will also increase their awareness of the multicultural nature of our world and gain the comparative perspective necessary to judge the place of 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 5% of your final grade, and more than ten 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 20%, and a final worth 20% of the final grade. The other 60% 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.

25% from five in-class analysis exercises whose grades will convert to 5% each (no makeups will be given). You may use your book during these exercises.

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 grade. As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade.

Your quiz, exercise, and exam dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with your exam dates. No makeup quizzes or exercises 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.

Extra Credit Opportunities

You will be allowed up to 9 extra credit points for up to 3 short papers of 3 points each. These may be analyses of myths in the Rosenberg book that are not assigned as regular class reading, or summaries of selected campus events that you attend. I will give you a list of possible groups of myths for analysis later in the semester, and will inform you of appropriate campus events as I become aware of them.

Required Books

Donna Rosenberg, *World Mythology* (McGraw-Hill, 2001) ISBN 9780844259666

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

Course Schedule:

| DATE | TOPICS |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 9 | Introduction and geography |
| Jan. 11 | Feeding people: foraging and herding Basic knowledge quiz |
| Jan. 13 | Feeding people: agriculture |
| Jan. 16 | NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Day) |
| Jan. 18 | The beginnings of settled life: Mesopotamia, Egypt Papers on Bentley, Chapter 1, due |
| Jan. 20 | The beginnings of settled life: India, Oxus, China |
| Jan. 23 | In-class exercise on Rosenberg: The Enuma Elish (3-11); Osiris, Isis, and Horus (12-21); The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe (291-295), The Creation of the Universe and Human Beings (324-329), The Creation of the Titans and the Gods (82-89) |
| Jan. 25 | Later Mesopotamia: empires and Hebrews |
| Jan. 27 | Later Mesopotamia: empires and Hebrews |
| Jan. 30 | Greece |
| Feb. 1 | Greece |

- Feb. 3 Alexander and the Hellenistic world
- Feb. 6 In-class exercise on Rosenberg: The Labors and Death of Heracles (100-105), The Iliad (106-153), The Aeneid (255-287)
- Feb. 8 Rome: from city-state to empire
- Feb. 10 Rome: from city-state to empire
- Feb. 13 India: from kingdoms to empire
- Feb. 15 India: the emergence of Buddhism
- Feb. 17 China: from warring states to empire
Papers on Bentley, Chapter 2, due
- Feb. 20 Mesoamerica: from village to city to empire
- Feb. 22 Andes: from local to regional cultures to the rise of empires
- Feb. 24 In-class exercise on Rosenberg: The Creation (595-599), The Creation Cycle (600-608), Quetzalcoatl (609-614), The Creation (570-573), The Children of the Sun (574-577)
- Feb. 27 The emergence of Christianity: from Jewish sect to state religion
- Feb. 29 The transformation of the Roman world
- Mar. 2 Central Asian societies and their impact on settled life
Last day to withdraw with a grade of W
- Mar. 5 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Mar. 7-9 NO CLASS
- Mar. 12 The spread of Indian culture
- Mar. 14 The rise of Islam
Papers on Bentley, Chapter 3, due

- Mar. 16 The Islamic golden age
- Mar. 19-23 NO CLASS (Spring Break)
- Mar. 26 East Asia
- Mar. 28 East Asia
- Mar. 30 In-class exercise on Rosenberg: The Ages of the World (369-377), The Creation, Death, and Rebirth of the Universe (459-466), Beowulf (381-416), King Arthur (418-453)
- Apr. 2 Medieval Europe: from tribal to feudal society
- Apr. 4 The High Middle Ages and eastern influence
- Apr. 6 Africa
- Apr. 9 In-class exercise on Rosenberg: The Creation of the Universe and Ife (509-514), The Quarrel between Sagbata and Sogbo (518-520), Gassire's Lute 521-526), Bakaridjan Kone (528-566)
- Apr. 11 The Mongols
- Apr. 13 Trade in the Old World
- Apr. 16 Asia after the Mongols
Papers on Bentley, Chapter 4, due
- Apr. 18 European Renaissance
- Apr. 20 European Exploration
Repeat of Basic Knowledge Quiz
- Apr. 25 **FINAL EXAM 8:00-10:30 AM**