

Survey of World Civilizations I

History 1111-02 Tues/Thurs.12: 30-1:45 TLC 1200

Instructor: Dr. Teresa Leslie
Office: TLC 3214

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 11:00, and by appointment. See me before or after class or contact me by email to arrange a meeting.

Email Address: tleslie@westga.edu

This is the most reliable and easiest way to contact me. I check my email frequently and reply as soon as possible.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This introductory course is a survey of the major developments and themes in world history from the earliest civilizations through the Age of Discovery. We will look not only at individual societies, but also at cross-cultural interactions between societies, which play a crucial role in shaping the course of human history. We will also explore how historians develop their understanding of the past, including the way concepts and theories from other academic disciplines enrich our understanding of history, and the impact of current concerns and trends in scholarship on our interpretations of the past.

You will learn to analyze and interpret information from both primary and secondary sources. You will develop map skills and an appreciation for the impact of geography on history. You will further develop your critical thinking and communication skills as well.

There will always be a connection between the way in which men contemplate the past and the way in which they contemplate the present.

Thomas Buckle

Text:

Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler, *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, Vol. 1: From the Beginnings to 1500.*

Grades:

First Exam	15%
Second Exam	20%
Third Exam	25%
Final Exam (Thurs., May 3, 11-1)	25%
Homework	15%

Not to know what took place before you were born is to remain forever a child.
Cicero

Written Homework Assignments

Several times during the semester, you will be assigned take-home, open-book quizzes covering textbook chapters that we will not have time to cover in class. You may also have other written homework assignments, such as map exercises or primary source readings.

These homework assignments will be done online through WebCT. There will be more information on WebCT provided in class prior to the first homework assignment.

Extra Credit

There MAY be limited opportunities for extra credit in this course, related to attending public events or other history-related activities. More information on this will be available later in the semester. Such extra credit activities will be available to all class members.

Students with a D or F average in the class will be accorded the opportunity to do additional work outside class in order to be more thoroughly prepared for future tests and thus to (it is hoped) bring up their grades. Extra credit points are not awarded for this work. If you fall into this category at some point in the semester, you may contact me for more details on this additional work, which is strictly voluntary.

Attendance and Behavior Policy

I do not give grades for attendance or reduce grades for non-attendance. However, students who do not attend class regularly have traditionally done poorly in the class. The tests are drawn directly from my lectures and class discussions. If you miss a class at which I announce a homework assignment, you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time and the due date for that work will NOT be adjusted. Deductions ARE made for work completed late.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. This includes talking in class, habitually entering class late or leaving early, doing work for other classes, and any other behavior that is distracting to the instructor and/or other students. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the class and dropped from the roll.

Make-up Work and Late Assignments

Make-up exams will be scheduled ONLY in rare cases, for medical or other emergency. The instructor reserves the right to require written confirmation of this emergency (such as physicians note for illness or police report for accident). If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam that does not fall into this category, please see me as soon as possible PRIOR to the exam to discuss the possibility of arranging to take an early alternative exam.

Due dates for homework assignments will usually be two class periods after the assignment is made. Late work will not be given full credit, and will be accepted only by prior arrangement with the instructor.

The aim of the historian, like that of the artist, is to enlarge our picture of the world, to give us a new way of looking at things.

James Joll

Class Schedule

This schedule is intended to suggest the general outline I hope to cover. **It is subject to change.** Tests, however, will be given on the dates listed.

Week One	Jan. 9, 11
Introduction/Prehistoric Mankind	
Early Complex Societies: Mesopotamia	
Week Two	Jan. 16, 18
Early Complex Societies: Egypt, India	
Week Three	Jan. 23, 25
Early Complex Societies: China	
Week Four	Jan. 30, Feb. 1
Early Complex Societies: Americans and Oceania	
Feb. 1	First Test
Week Five	Feb. 6, 8
Classical Civilizations: Persia	
Week Six	Feb. 13, 15
Classical Civilizations: China	
Week Seven	Feb. 20, 22
Classical Civilizations: India	
Week Eight	Feb. 27, March 1
Minoans and Mycenaeans	
March 1	Second Test
March 1, last day to withdraw with grade of W	
Week Nine	March 6, 8
Classical Civilizations: Greeks	
Week Ten	March 13, 15
Classical Civilizations: Hellenistic World, Romans	
Week Eleven	March 19-23
NO CLASSES, SPRING BREAK	

Week Twelve The Islamic World	March 27, 29
Week Thirteen The Islamic World (Continued) April 5 Third Test	April 3, 5
Week Fourteen Postclassical China and India	April 10, 12
Week Fifteen Medieval Europe	April 17, 19
Week Sixteen Renaissance/Reformation	April 24, 26

Final Exam: The final exam will be given in our regular classroom at the time listed in the course bulletin for the semester: Thursday, May 3, from 11 until 1. See instructor in case of schedule conflicts.

Anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present.
Richard von Weizsacker