

**HISTORY 1111.03
SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY/CIVILIZATION 1**

FALL SESSION 2007

DR. R. LOVE

Lectures: Tues.-Thurs., 8:00-9:15 am, Bonner A Lecture Hall
Office Hours: TELC 3-217, Tues. and Thurs., 9:30 am-10:30 am, 3:00-4:30 pm, and by appointment.
Telephone: (678) 839-6039

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

Brummet et al., *Civilization Past & Present*, concise edition, vol. 1, to 1650

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a broad general survey of world history from ancient to early modern times. Such a program of study is founded upon some broad assumptions that students should consider: first, that second-hand experience in acquiring a wider understanding of the world is valid, the fundamental assumption of all the Liberal Arts; second, that the national societies of the modern world have centuries-old roots, and that institutions and cultural patterns are more meaningful when viewed in the long perspective of their heritage; third, that the traditions of all societies in the modern world constitute a matrix of wisdom and folly, of altruism and selfishness, of dedication and irresponsibility, and that students will profit in their endeavor to define their own goals and responsibilities by the study of the legacy of the past.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: The purpose of this course is, therefore, to introduce students to a wider world than just the West, and to give them an understanding of those forces and historical factors (e.g., the emergence of the great religions, the rise and fall of empires, the formation of law, the movements of people) that fundamentally shaped civilization and established the foundations of the modern world. Because we live in a global society, we no longer can afford to consider the world as a mosaic of separate countries and cultures, but to see it as a complex and interconnected whole. Hence, a major task is to equip students with a familiarity of cultures and societies different from their own, to provide them with a basic foundation of knowledge that will allow them to place themselves and their own culture within a much wider context.

Several means will be used to achieve these objectives. History 1111 necessarily deals in a general, topical manner with the broad trends and historical forces in the global experience prior to 1600. The aim is not just to examine ancient and medieval civilizations in order to place the West in a global context. Emphasis is given to comparative themes, such as cross-cultural heritage, trade, technology, the interaction of humans and the environment, and the origins of war. To that end, exam questions are designed to engender critical thinking, to demonstrate the process of change over time, and to help students synthesize historical evidence in framing their answers. But this broad synthetic approach is meaningful only if founded upon a solid body of data. Hence, students are expected to read consistently from the assigned textbook. The material is vast and the pace rapid, so it is vital to stay abreast of the reading from the outset.

The course is lecture based. Normally, the lectures will aim at increasing student understanding of the material, not at communication of data. Thus, the lectures and readings may diverge, or a lecture may overlap only one aspect of the reading. Lectures also may attempt a broad analysis of the material of several weeks of reading. In any case, the students are responsible for keep abreast of their reading in the textbook, whether topics are developed in class or not. **A Word of Caution:** Although the textbook has been chosen to provide students with a basic overview of the course, it only compliments the lectures, and examinations will test material covered in the classroom that is not necessarily available in the text. So attendance is essential.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A final exam (75 minutes), worth **50%** of the final grade, will be written on **Tuesday, 11 December**, at 8:00-10:00 am, and it will cover material from the last third of the course.

Two mid-term exams of equal duration (75 minutes). The first mid-term, worth **40%** of the final grade, will be written in class on **Tuesday, 25 September**, and will cover material from the initial third of the course. The second mid-term, also worth **40%** of the final grade, will be written in class on **Tuesday, 30 October**, and will cover material from the second third of the class. To determine the student's final mark, the **better of the two** mid-term exam grades will be used; the weaker mid-term grade will be dropped.

Student participation, worth **10%** of the final grade. Because the student's benefit is proportional to the input of interest and effort, this too must be considered for the final grade. The participation grade will be based upon attendance at 2 public lectures, forums or exhibits on or off campus, as directed by the professor. Students may also suggest an event to the professor for approval. A one-page report, single-spaced and typewritten, must be submitted within two days of the event, which describes the event or exhibit and the student's impressions. **The first report** must be submitted **prior** to the first mid-term exam for credit; the second report must be submitted **prior** to the second mid-term exam. No reports will be accepted after **1 November**, and **none is to be submitted by email**.

NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Because all exams are based upon material from the lectures, students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. The course cannot be passed on the basis of reading the textbook alone. Otherwise, I consider university students to be adults and expect adult behavior, therefore, in terms of their commitment. That extends to common courtesies that ought to be shown to the professor and fellow-students alike, such as **turning off cell phones** before class, **arriving to lectures on time**, leaving only when the lecture is ended, and blowing noses rather than sniffing insufferably during class.

BETWEEN ME AND THEE: My office door is open to students. If you want to drop in to chat about the course, please do. If you want to drop by just to chat, do that also. Above all, should you have any difficulties in understanding the course material, see me. **If you are having problems, it is always best to get a drop on them early instead of when it becomes too late to help.**

GENERAL LECTURE TOPICS: (Consult the Table of Contents or the Index of the recommended text book for the relevant pages)

Introduction to the Course

Prehistory and the River Valley Cultures of the Near East

Early Indian and Chinese Civilization

The Four Great Revolutions in Thought and Religion:

1. Early Judaism
2. Greek Reason
3. Hinduism/Buddhism
4. China and Confucianism

Empires and Cultures of the Ancient World:

1. Rise of Greece to Alexander "the Great"
2. Rome from Republic to Empire
3. Rise of the Christian Church

The End of Rome and the Beginnings of the Medieval World:

1. The Collapse of the Roman Empire
2. The Barbarian Invasions of Europe
3. The Rise of Islam

GOOD LUCK! AND ENJOY THE CLASS