Survey of World Civilizations I

**Instructor:** Dr. Teresa Leslie  
**Office:** TLC 324

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday from 11:15 until 12:20, Weds. 2 until 4, Thursday 11 until 1, or by appointment.

**Email Address:** tleslie@westga.edu. This is the easiest, most reliable way to contact me. Email directly; please do NOT send messages through Courseden.

**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.

In this course, students will learn to analyze and interpret information from both primary and secondary sources. They will develop map skills and an appreciation for the impact of geography on history. Students will demonstrate the ability to think historically through an 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 social significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in historical events.

Students, please carefully review the information at this link: https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

It contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester. This link contains information about such things as the university honor code and class accommodations related to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Text:**


“Professor Johnston often said that if you didn't know history, you didn't know anything. You were a leaf that didn't know it was part of a tree.”  

Michael Crichton, *Timeline*
“Not to know what took place before you were born is to remain forever a child.”

Cicero

Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Exam</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grading scale—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>895 points and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>795 to 894</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>695 to 794</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>595 to 694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>594 points or less</td>
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Homework Assignments

There will be six to eight online homework assignments. These assignments will be announced in class and on Courseden. Some of these will be open-book quizzes covering textbook material that we will not have time to cover in class. Other homework assignments will be based on maps, primary source readings, or other resources provided to you in class. If classes are cancelled for any reason, we may make up some material through the posting of video or text of lectures and an accompanying homework assignment. These homework assignments will be done online through CourseDen.

Extra Credit/Improving Your Grade

Extra credit is not regularly available for this course. Any extra credit opportunity that arises will be available to ALL students in the class.

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.

**Inclement Weather/School Closings**
Bad weather and school closings cannot be predicted but can impact the class. When there is a situation such as an ice storm or tornado which might affect the university, monitor the school website for official announcements of school delays or closings. Also, please check the class Courseden site for announcements from the instructor. There is the slim possibility that conditions might arise that mean that our class might be canceled even if the university is not closed.

Deadlines for homework assignments may be extended during bad weather or natural disasters affecting the university. If the university is closed when an exam is scheduled, the exam WILL be given on the first day of class after the university reopens. Always check the class Courseden site for further information.

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

**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, unless there is a university-wide situation such as a school closing due to weather or other catastrophe that would require an adjustment of our test date.

**Week One**
Jan. 8, 10
Introduction
Early Civilization of the Near East (Bentley and Zeigler, Ch. 1)

**Week Two**
Jan. 17
MONDAY, Jan. 15 NO CLASS, MLK Day
Early Civilization of the Near East (continued)

**Week Three**
Jan. 22, 24
Early Civilization of the Near East (continued)
Ancient China (B&Z, Ch. 3)

**Week Four**
Jan. 29, 31
Ancient China, continued (B&Z, Ch. 3)

**Week Five**
Feb. 5, 7
Ancient India (B&Z, Ch. 3)

**Week Six**
Feb. 12, 14
Classical India (B&Z, Ch. 7)
Week Seven

**FIRST EXAM**  **FEB. 19**
Classical Societies: Persia (B&Z, Ch. 5)

Week Eight

Classical Persia (continued)
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH AN AUTOMATIC W—FEB. 28

Week Nine

Mediterranean World--- Greece and Rome (B&Z, Ch. 8)

Week Ten

Mediterranean World, Rome cont.

**SPRING BREAK--- NO CLASSES**  **March 19-24**

Week Eleven

Post-Classical Era, Christianity and Byzantium (Ch. 10)

Week Twelve

**SECOND EXAM**  **APRIL 2**
Origins of Islam (Ch. 11)

Week Thirteen

Expansion of Islam (Ch. 11)

Week Fourteen

Nomadic Empires--- The Mongols (Ch. 14)

Week Fifteen

Medieval Europe (Ch. 16)

Week Sixteen

Medieval Europe (continued)

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be given in our regular classroom at the time determined by the university. This semester, the final for the MW 9:30 class will take place at 8 AM (yeah, I hate 8 am finals, too) on Wednesday, May 2. The final for the MW 12:30 class will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at 11 AM.

“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

*People tend to forget that the word "history" contains the word "story".*  Ken Burns