

## HIST 1111 Honors: World Civilizations to 1500 AD, Spring 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Nadejda Williams  
**Class Time:** T 5:30-8:00 pm  
**Class Location:** TLC 3205  
**Office Location:** TLC 3239  
**On-campus office Hours:** Th 3:30-5:30 pm  
 and by appointment.

**Telephone:** 678-554-7765 (cell, please use  
 in case of emergency)  
**Telephone:** 678-839-5370 (office)  
**Online Office Hours:** MWF 11:00am-  
 2:00pm and by appointment  
**Westga email:** [nwilliam@westga.edu](mailto:nwilliam@westga.edu)

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Course Description

This course is an introductory exploration of cultures, civilizations and religions that arose and played an important part in the world before 1500 CE. Instead of taking the approach of a more tradition survey, however, in this class we will explore world history through the theme of travel, as we read the stories of real and imagined travelers from the early Hebrews, the Greek epic hero Odysseus, the Chinese folk hero Monkey, Muslim pilgrim Ibn Battuta, and more. In the process, we will consider how different individuals and groups were affected by their own travels and those of others, and how these travels shaped world history. Readings will fall into two categories. During the first (and longer) unit this semester, we will look at the stories of travel from ancient primary sources. Then in the final four weeks of the semester, we will read two case studies of modern travelers who recreated ancient journeys, and in the process, made new historical discoveries about the ancient world.

Since this is an Honors course, the class takes the format of a discussion seminar. Occasional lectures by the instructor may be necessary, but will be kept to a minimum. The goal is for **you** to participate actively, and even lead as much as possible, during the learning process!

### REQUIRED TEXTS (Available on Amazon and in UWG Bookstore)

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>ISBN Number</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
Thor Heyerdahl	<i>Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific in a Raft</i>	978-0671726522	Simon & Schuster, Mass Market Paperback
Wu Cheng-en	<i>Monkey: Folk Novel of China</i>	978-0802130860	Evergreen Books by Grove Weidenfeld
Emily Wilson/Homer	<i>The Odyssey</i>	978-0393356250	WW Norton & Co

Alberto Angela	<i>The Reach of Rome: A Journey Through the Lands of the Ancient Empire, Following a Coin</i>	978- 0847841288	Random House Trade Paperbacks
Tim Mackintosh- Smith	<i>Travels with a Tangerine: From Morocco to Turkey in the Footsteps of Islam's Greatest Traveler</i>	978- 0812971644	Rizzoli Ex Libris

Additional class readings are posted on CourseDen.

## Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have acquired the ability to do the following:

1. To understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history to 1500 AD
2. To evaluate critically primary sources of various types (both textual and visual), and to make use of these sources in posing and answering important historical questions
3. To discuss historical questions and problems in standard English prose

## Assignments and Grading Policies

Assignment Type	Description	Weight
<b>Seminar Participation</b>	Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all class discussions and activities. Please see class attendance policy below.	15%
<b>Discussion Leading OR 15-minute Presentation</b>	Each student will be responsible for leading one in-class discussion on a particular reading assigned for that day. The discussion leader will prepare questions, and will email them to the professor at least 24 hours before the discussion is scheduled. In lieu of leading a discussion, students may select to present on a topic of their choice relevant to a particular week's subject of focus. Please see options included for particular weeks, OR you may propose your own presentation topic, subject to approval by the professor.	10%
<b>Weekly Response Papers on Readings</b>	Each student will write seven 2-3 page short papers. The first of these is required, and has to address your own philosophy of history and how your worldview impacts your understanding of historical events. The remaining papers will be response papers asking a historical question prompted by the reading, and	35%

Assignment Type	Description	Weight
	proposing a possible answer, based on the course materials. Responses are due by 12 noon on CourseDen each Thursday, and must be on that day's reading. Late papers will not be considered – you will simply write a paper on a later reading. Students may write more than seven papers, in which case the seven best scores will count. You may only submit one response paper per class period.	
<b>Paper I (in lieu of midterm)</b>	In lieu of a midterm exam, you will write a 5-7 page paper considering the ways in which historians can utilize different types of primary sources to recover the historical past. Additional details will be provided.	20%
<b>Paper II (in lieu of final)</b>	In lieu of a final exam, you will write a 5-7 page paper considering ways in which the theme of travel allows us to understand the broader political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history before 1500 AD. Additional details will be provided.	20%

**Grading turnaround time:** Barring any outstanding circumstances or emergencies, I will grade all assignments within one week of the time when you submit them.

## Grading Information and Policy

All class assignments will be graded within 7 days. Semester grades will be awarded according to the following guidelines, keeping in mind that UWG does not award +/- grades.

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
< 60%	F

## Rubric for Papers

The papers in this course will be graded in accordance with the following rubric, and awarded a total score out of 100:

	0-12	13-15	16-18	19-20
<b>Quality of thesis statement</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent

<b>Organization and clarity of argument</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
<b>Use of sources/quality of examples</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
<b>Analysis of examples</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent
<b>Ability to write in standard English</b>	Unclear or absent	Weak	Very good	Excellent

## Communication Rules

Per university policy, all email communications between faculty and students should be limited to the UWG email accounts. I will not respond to emails sent from other accounts. Also in accordance with university policies, I cannot discuss your grade with you over email. I am, however, always happy to discuss your grade with you in person. Please keep in mind, also, that I will be using the CourseDen gradebook for this class, so you will always be able to find all of your grades to date entered there.

## Schedule of Class Topics, Readings, and Assignments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Topics</b>	<b>Readings and Other Assignments Due</b>
01/09	Definitions and Approaches: Historians and History	Sign up for a presentation OR discussion leading
01/16	<b>Unit I: Primary Sources and their Stories of Travel</b>  Travel at the dawn of human civilization: reconstructing the history of the Ancient Near East	Response Paper 1 due by 12:00 noon on 01/16-- Personal statement on your philosophy of history and how your worldview may impact your perception of historical events.  <i>Genesis</i> (any translation)  <a href="#">Presentation option: Gilgamesh the traveler</a>
01/23	Travel in the Bronze Age	<i>Odyssey</i> , Introduction and Books 1-12  <a href="#">Presentation option: the travels of Schliemann in search of Troy</a>
01/30	The challenges of homecoming for veterans, fictional and real	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books 13-24
02/06	Romanticizing travel in the Ancient Mediterranean	Heliodorus, <i>Aethiopian Story</i> (on Courseden)  <a href="#">Presentation option 1: The travels of the Apostle Paul</a>

Date	Class Topics	Readings and Other Assignments Due
		<a href="#">Presentation option 2: Apuleius' <i>The Golden Ass</i></a>
02/13	Special Collections Day! Class will meet at the Special Collections in the Ingram Library	Angela, <i>The Reach of Rome</i> , pp. 1-149
02/20	What material culture can teach us about travel, Part I	Angela, <i>The Reach of Rome</i> , pp. 150-297
02/27	What material culture can teach us about travel, Part II	Angela, <i>The Reach of Rome</i> , pp. 298-411
03/05	Travel, folklore, and religion in East Asia, Part I	<i>Monkey</i> (first half)  <a href="#">Presentation option: Indo-European languages family tree, and what it tells us about travels of peoples across the ancient world</a>
03/12	Travel, folklore, and religion in East Asia, Part II	<i>Monkey</i> (finish the book)
03/19	Spring Break – no class!	Read ahead!
03/26	No class – instructor away on conference; work on midterm essay!	<b>Paper I due by midnight</b>
04/02	<b>Unit II: Recreating Ancient Travels in the Modern World</b>  Recreating the journeys of Ibn Battuta, Part I	Mackintosh-Smith, <i>Travels with a Tangerine</i> , pp. 1-168  <a href="#">Presentation option: the travels of Marco Polo</a>
04/09	Recreating the journeys of Ibn Battuta, Part II	Mackintosh-Smith, <i>Travels with a Tangerine</i> , pp. 169-336
04/16	Recovering early travels across the Pacific, Part I	Thor Heyerdahl, <i>Kon-Tiki</i> , pp. 1-127  <a href="#">Presentation option: Thor Heyerdahl's Ra expedition</a>
04/23	Recovering early travels across the Pacific, Part II	Thor Heyerdahl, <i>Kon-Tiki</i> , pp. 128-230
04/30	<b>It's a wrap, folks!</b>	<b>Final Paper Due by Midnight</b>

## Course and UWG Policies

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is a pre-requisite for learning and participating in class activities. This is a seminar course, and whenever you are absent, you are not only depriving yourself of an opportunity to learn from the conversation with your professor and your classmates, you are also depriving your classmates of the opportunity to learn from your insights. Unless a medical or family emergency intervenes, I expect you to be in class and to participate

actively in the discussions and other activities. Please note that late arrivals and early departures would likewise negatively impact your participation grade.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty on any assignment in this course will result in an F for the course, and the referral of the student to the appropriate university committee. Academic dishonesty can take many shapes. Please avoid inadvertent plagiarism by ALWAYS citing any sources that you use when writing papers or essays. For further information, see <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

I strongly recommend that students keep an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the Dropbox.

## **Support and Services for Students (Not all of these services are relevant for this particular class, but they may be resources for some of your classes this semester)**

<b>CourseDen D2L Home Page</b> <a href="https://westga.view.usg.edu/">https://westga.view.usg.edu/</a>	<b>Student Services</b> <a href="http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php">http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php</a>
<b>D2L UWG Online Help</b> (8 AM – 5 PM) <a href="http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php">http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php</a> Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: <a href="mailto:online@westga.edu">online@westga.edu</a>	<b>Center for Academic Success</b> <a href="http://www.westga.edu/cas/">http://www.westga.edu/cas/</a> 678-839-6280
<b>24/7/365 D2L Help Center</b> Call 1-855-772-0423 or search: <a href="https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/">https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/</a>	<b>Distance Learning Library Services</b> <a href="http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430">http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430</a>
<b>University Bookstore</b> <a href="http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/">http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/</a>	<b>Ingram Library Services</b> <a href="http://www.westga.edu/library/">http://www.westga.edu/library/</a>

<p><b>CourseDen D2L Home Page</b>  <a href="https://westga.view.usg.edu/">https://westga.view.usg.edu/</a></p>	<p><b>Student Services</b>  <a href="http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php">http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php</a></p>
<p><b>Common Language for Course Syllabi</b>  <a href="http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf">http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Proctored Exams</b>  <a href="http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student">http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student</a></p>
<p><b>UWG Cares</b>  <a href="http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/">http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/</a></p>	<p><b>Student Services</b>  <a href="https://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php">https://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php</a></p>
<p><b>Center for Disability</b>  <a href="https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php">https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php</a></p>	<p><b>UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology</b>  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqeffvts1f">https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqeffvts1f</a></p>