

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS TO 1500

Spring 1998

History 151
M 2:00-4:50
H 221

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Course Information

Course Description:

The Neolithic/Agricultural Revolution that occurred © 7000 B.C.E. created a new historical context that allowed for the rise of civilization, the formation of states, the creation of empires, and the conception of religions and philosophies that continue to affect our daily existence. This course will concentrate on developments that have marked our past from the discovery of agriculture to 1500. The themes explored will include the coming of civilization, early religious and philosophical currents, societies of the ancient world, and consolidation and interaction in pre-modern world history. The format of this course will be a combination of lectures and class discussions.

Required Texts:

McKay, Hill, and Buckler, *A History of World Societies--Fourth Edition* (Vol. I--To 1500)
The Epic of Gilgamesh.
Eaters of the Dead.

Grading:

Students are expected to attend lectures and participate in the class discussions. Other requirements include five (5) quizzes, one (1) midterm examination, one (1) map quiz, two (2) essay assignments, and one (1) final examination. **There will be no make-up assignments.** Works submitted late will be subject to penalty. Students will be graded on a 400-point scale, with the following distribution:

- Quizzes: 25 pts (5 X 5 pts)
- Midterm examination: 100 points
- Map quiz: 20 points
- Essay assignments: 100 points (2 X 50 pts)
- Final examination: 125 points
- Class participation: 30 points

Final Grade:

Final grades will be determined by the overall accumulation of points, according to the following points spread:

- A= 360-400 points
- B= 320-359 points
- C= 280-319 points
- D= 240-279 points
- F= 239 points or less

Quizzes:

At different intervals during the semester, short quizzes will be given to ascertain that students are keeping up with the readings and understand the material covered. Quizzes based on the lectures will be given in class; quizzes based on the textbook will be in the form of take-home assignments. The date for each quiz will be announced in class.

Examinations:

Examinations will consist of three sections: multiple choice/objective, identifications, and essay. A comprehensive study guide will be provided before each examination to help students navigate through their notes and readings. The date for each examination will be announced in class.

Essays:

For each supplemental text (*Gilgamesh* and *Eaters of the Dead*), students will produce an essay presenting their thoughts on some of the themes covered in those texts. To help students choose a focus for their papers, a list of tentative topics will be provided by the instructor before each assignment. The essays must be typed, double-space, and of a length of three (3) to four (4) pages. The due date for both assignments will be given in class.

Map Quiz:

The map quiz will be based on maps found in your textbook. A map study guide will be provided some weeks before the quiz.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to actively participate in the class. Participation consists of asking/answering questions and getting involved in the class discussions and review sessions. Participation will be used to determine the final grade in "borderline" cases.

Attendance:

Students must attend class in order to pass this course. *Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of 10 points.* Students who do not attend class consistently will fail the course.

Extra Credit:

Through viewing certain historically relevant movies and documentaries (titles to be given in class) on their own time, students will have the opportunity to earn bonus points. The short quizzes and the map quiz will also give students the possibility of earning extra credit.

“Troubleshooting”:

Students are highly encouraged to meet with the instructor if struggling with the course material or to discuss any other matter/issue of relevance.

Class Cancellation:

In case the instructor is delayed, students are required to wait fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of class; thereafter, they are free to leave.

Advice for a Successful Semester

1. **DO NOT MISS CLASS.** Attending the lectures is essential to forge a good understanding of the topics covered during the semester.
2. **TAKE GOOD NOTES.** Good notetaking is the key to good performance on examinations and, therefore, a decent final grade. The instructor will provide a brief outline before discussing each topic to help students keep track of material covered.
3. **READ THE TEXTBOOK.** The textbook is a useful tool to better comprehend the material covered in class by the instructor and prepare for quizzes and examinations. Students are advised not to wait until a few days before quizzes and examinations to read assigned chapters as they may find the amount of information overwhelming. Readings should be on schedule.
4. **ASK QUESTIONS.** When in doubt concerning their understanding of a topic, students are encouraged to ask questions. Moreover, the instructor will gladly meet with any student or group of students to review problematic material and/or discuss other issues of relevance.
5. **DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN THE CLASS.** Students will find this class more enjoyable by committing themselves to learning the history of the world.
6. **STUDY HARD AND WORK HARD.** Welcome to College!

Lecture and Reading Schedule

(numbers in parentheses refer to pages to be read in the textbook)

PART ONE: THE COMING OF CIVILIZATION

1. Human Origins (5-13)
2. Early Civilization in the Near East (1): Mesopotamia (13-23)
3. Early Civilization in the Near East (2): Egypt (23-30)
4. Early Civilization in the Near East (3): The Hittites and Assyrians (30-34)
5. Early Indian Civilization (65-74)
6. Early Chinese Civilization (91-96)
7. Early American Civilization
8. Review

PART TWO: REVOLUTIONS IN THOUGHT AND RELIGION

9. Chinese Philosophies (97-100)
10. Indian Religions (74-81)
11. Judaism (43-46)
12. Review

PART THREE: ANCIENT AND CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

13. Greek and Hellenistic Civilization (117-143; 149-168)
14. Iran (52-60)
15. India (81-85)
16. China (100-112)
17. Africa (285-290)
18. Review

PART FOUR: IMPERIAL CONSOLIDATION AND CROSS-CULTURAL INTERACTION

19. Republican and Imperial Rome (173-210)
20. Medieval Europe and the Vikings (215-241; 355-359)
21. Islamic Civilization (247-279)
22. African Empires (290-306)
23. India (311-321)
24. Imperial China (321-333)
25. Japan and Korea (333-340)
26. Southeast Asia (317-319)
27. Australia and Pacific Regions
28. Americas (441-462)
29. The Mongols (262-263; 331-333)
30. Renaissance and Reformation in Europe (467-507)
31. Review