

Course Syllabus  
World Civilizations 1  
Spring, 2002

Course HIST 151  
Day/Time/Place: TTH 11-12:20, Henry 221  
Instructor: Dr. Lilia Castle  
Office Hours: TTR 3:30-4:30, F 9-11  
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**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the history, philosophy, religion, literature, and fine arts of the greatest World Civilizations. The course is designed to help students to understand the spirit of ancient cultures, the meaning and mode of life of our predecessors. Their attitude toward sex, love, marriage, war, and peace will be given in comparison with contemporary views.

**Exams and Creative Project:**

1. There will be a mid-term exam, a final exam, tests, and a research project (4-5 pages paper and 5 min. presentation on the paper)
2. Students will also take pop-quizzes, make 2-3 min. presentations, and write short analytical essays.
3. Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes, to be prepared, and participate if they wish to receive full credit for the course.

**Course Grading:**

All students will take mid-term and final exams on the dates scheduled. The exams will be given specific letter and number grades, and will count for a percentage of the total grade, as follows:

90-100	A	Mid-term – 15%
80-89	B	Final exam-15%
70-79	C	Tests-10%
60-69	D	Presentations, participation-10%
Below 60	F	Group discussions- 10%
		Essays-10%
		Quizzes-20%

Research paper–10%

**Course Texts:**

Philip J.Adler, World Civilizations, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
Additional reading and handouts will be provided.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Jan.15** Introduction to the course.

The sources of history and historiography. Progress, chaos, cycles.  
The evolution: circle or spiral? The message of God.  
“Noosphere”, ethnics sphere; a theory of ethnogenesis.

Homework: handouts

**Jan.17** Mesopotamia. Sumerian Civilization. Cuneiform Writing.

Hammurabi’s code

Homework: ch.2

**Jan.22** Sumerian religion. Legends and myths of Mesopotamian civilization.

What is Myth? Major myths of mankind (group activity).

Essay#1 (3%): to decipher the symbols of any ancient myth.

Homework: ch.3

**Jan.24** Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs. Economy and Culture of Egypt.

Pyramids of Egypt:

Natural pyramids; mummies, mausoleum; sacred numbers: 3,4,5.... 3.14?

Ancient Egypt Standard; priests and Herodotus; mystery of geometry;

crystal of pharaoh; mystery of Egyptian triangle; molecule of water;

Pythagoras, Moses, “lozohodtci”; water, tears, information; pyramids and

organic life; pyramids and North Pole; pyramids and planets; legends of

Galaxy: Sirius, Orion, “flying” pyramids;” heart and skin” of pyramid;

“singing sands”; Pythagoras and his ”10 steps of creation”; Apocalypse;

energy of pyramid; pyramid and man.

Video, slides

Homework: ch.3, lectures. Prepare your short presentation on Egypt!

**Jan. 29** Egyptian art. Students presentations on Egypt.  
Homework: prepare for the quiz.

**Jan.31** Quiz on Mesopotamia and Egypt. (5%) Ancient India. Aryans.  
Culture. Art.

**Feb.5** Spiritual tradition. Buddhism.Hinduism  
Homework: ch.5

**Feb.7** Quiz on India (5%)

**Feb.12** Ancient China.  
Eastern values: ***Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.***  
Truth through reason or intuition?  
What shall we look at for guidance: nature or man's actions?  
Reading from the Confucian "Analects" and from Japanese poets. What is  
our relationship with man and nature? How do the Eastern and Western  
approaches to virtue compare?  
From the beauty of the world toward the freedom from the world...  
Homework: ch.6, prepare for the workshop "The great people of ancient  
China"

**Feb.14** Students' workshop on ancient China (3%)  
Homework: ch.7  
***Themes for students' research paper due***

**Feb.19** Marriage and sexual life in Ancient time. Status of Women.  
Discussion (2%)  
Essay #2 (2%)

**Feb.21** Periods of Greek history. Minoans.  
Video, slides  
Homework: ch.8, handouts.

**Feb.26** Mycenaeans.  
Quiz-game (3%) on Minoan and Mycenaean cultures

***Midterm take home exam due***

**Feb.28** Greek mythology: Gods and Heroes. Trojan War. Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey".

Video, slides

Homework: ch.9, 10 handouts (will be provided); to be ready for the presentation (one of the heroes of Trojan War from "Iliad")

**March 5,7** Students' presentations on Trojan War (1%) Greek cities: Athens, Corinth, Sparta, Delphi, Olympia, and Thebes. Greek values. Olympic games.

Quiz-game on Greek mythology and Homer. (2%)

Video.

Homework: ch.8, and notes.

**March 12** Quiz on Greek cities (2%).

Greek art: architecture, sculpture, frescoes, pottery.

Video "Greek temples", slides

Homework: ch.9, handouts

Greek music, slides

**March 14** Quiz on Greek art (3%)

Greek philosophy.

Homework: ch.9, 10, "7 wise men' questions"; handouts

**March 19** Greek philosophy (cont.) Socrates: his life and teaching.

Video: "Barefoot in Athens".

To bring "7 wise answers" (1%)

**March 21** Quiz on Greek philosophy (5%).

Group discussion of Socrates dialogues and "Barefoot in Athens"(3%)

Homework: Essay #3 (5%)

**March 26** Holiday

**March 28**

Greek theater; the sense of tragedy as an expression of Dionisian ideal; Dionisus and Christianity: religion of Dionisus as a New Testament of Hellens. Orphic mysteries; Original sin in the views of Orphics; Passions of Gods and Heroes; Orgiastic sacraments; Esthetic ambivalence of tragedy:

Dionisus and Apollo as two poles in art; Catharsis in the theory of Aristotle; Dionisus and Nietzsche.

Homework: Prepare for the group presentations of Greek plays: "Oedipus the king" by Sophocles; "Medea" by Euripedes, "Agamemnon" by Aeschylus; "Lisistrata" by Aristophanes ( 5%)

**Apr.2** Group presentations.

**Apr.4** The Etruscans and early Rome. Roman Republic. Conquest of Italy &East  
Homework: ch.12

**Apr. 9 .** Roman Emperors. Roman culture.

**Apr.11, 16** Byzantine Empire. The foundations of Christianity.  
Neoplatonism. Rivals of Christianity  
Homework: ch.12, 13. Ch.14

**Apr. 18** Quiz on Rome and Byzantine Empire (5%)

**Apr. 23** Islamic world.

**Apr.26** Medieval Europe

**Apr. 30.** Art of Medieval Europe.

**Research paper due.**

**May 2** Students presentations

**May 7** Review for final exam

**Final exam (15%)**