HIST 1110 - Introduction to World Civilizations

Instructor: Matt Hutchinson
Office Hours: M/W 3:30 – 4:45 & 6:30 – 7:45 (Room: SS 4005)
Email: mhutchi7@kennesaw.edu

Section 1110/07
M/W 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM
Room: SS 3029

Section 1110/09
M/W 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM
Room: SS 2034

Section 1110/32
M/W 8:00 PM – 9:15 PM
Room: SS 3021

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Beginning with the hunter gathers of early history, the course will follow the major migrations and eventual settling of humankind. Significance will be placed on the introduction of technology or ideas that lead to the “growth” of civilization. The intent of this course is to provide a global perspective the whole of human history. Lectures, readings and discussions will focus on the origins of the socio-economic, political institutions, and shared ways of thinking in the world’s major cultures. Using a variety of methods, including primary and secondary sources, this course will assist students in strengthening their critical thinking skills. In addition to assigned readings, the course will utilize multimedia and group discussions to further an understanding of the themes discussed. Both the instructor and the students will use primary sources and individual research to analyze the similarities and differences between civilizations.

Readings and lectures will emphasize the historical importance of new ideas on a culture or civilization. Course will cover the originations of the five major world religions, and explore their commonalities and differences. Students will participate in an examination of major scientific (natural philosophy) discoveries. Students will regularly evaluate the role of geography in the development of societies.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Text:

Students can expect 30-50 pages of reading per week. It is expected that the student will have completed the reading PRIOR to the class meeting.

Other reading materials and supplemental materials will be provided through the instructor's website. Many of the materials provided will be presented in PDF and will require the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded for free from www.adobe.com. If you have a Mac, you can use Preview to open these files.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING SCALE

I. Participation (10%) – Class participation is an important component of college level courses, as such it commands a high importance in the grading rubric. Instructor will randomly take attendance throughout the semester. (Hint: It gets less random when I sense that attendance is down.) While attendance is at the student’s discretion, habitual absences will negatively affect their final grade. Students whose grade is “on-the-bubble” at the end of the term will be rewarded for their attendance.

II. Vocabulary (10%) – A list of words pertinent to the course will be presented to the students each week. Definitions for each word will be provided during lectures and in the assigned readings. Students will turn in their handwritten definitions at two points during the semester (midterm and finals).

III. Quizzes (40%) – Five non-cumulative quizzes will include multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. The purpose of the quizzes will be for both the instructor and the student to gauge the student’s understanding of the course material. The lowest of the 5 quiz scores will be dropped.

IV. Midterm (20%) - Exam will include definitions, multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. Students can expect to use the entire dedicated class period to complete the exam.

V. Final Exam (20%) - Exam will include definitions, multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. Students can expect to use the majority of the dedicated final exam time to complete the exam. Any student with a 95% or better in the class will be excused from the final without penalty.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

The course will be divided between lectures, readings and group discussions. Each class will begin with a lecture that will compliment the reading assigned for the date specified in the syllabus. At the conclusion of the lecture, the instructor will lead a group discussion about the key themes or ideas introduced in the reading/lecture. When appropriate, the instructor will include a video or other multimedia presentation to the class. Students will be responsible for the information contained in these presentations just as they would from a lecture or assigned reading.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1.) Develop critical thinking skills in order to analyze and critique primary historical sources
2.) Familiarize students with basic facts of geography, history, and culture
3.) Provide a foundation for later courses in history (for major students)
4.) Trace how intellectual traditions are transmitted across texts and epochs
5.) Gain valuable experience in close reading of original texts
6.) Improve oral expression of ideas in a seminar-style setting
7.) Improve writing skills
LAPTOP USAGE:

Students are free to use laptop computers during class time provided usage is limited to course related activities. All students who wish to use their laptops **MUST** sit in the **front two rows** of available seats. If a student can provide a medical reason (and proof) for a need to sit in another row, the instructor will make an exception for this requirement.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a specific, and documented, physical, psychiatric, or learning disability and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disabled Student Support Services office, located in the Student Center room 267, and obtain a list of approved accommodations. All discussions will remain confidential.

COURSE SCHEDULE *(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)*:

Wednesday, August 17 – Introduction; Syllabus; History of the Universe; First Peoples

Monday, August 22 – First Peoples; Agricultural Revolution
Wednesday, August 24 – Agricultural Revolution; First Civilizations

Monday, August 29 – First Civilizations
Wednesday, August 31 – Quiz #1

Monday, September 5 – No Class
Wednesday, September 7 – Europe: 500 BCE – 500 CE

Monday, September 12 – Africa and the Americas: 500 BCE – 1200 CE
Wednesday, September 14 – China: 500 BCE – 1300 CE

Monday, September 19 – Quiz #2
Wednesday, September 21 – Axial Age

Monday, September 26 - Christianity
Wednesday, September 28 - Islam

Monday, October 3 – Quiz #3
Wednesday, October 5 – The World in the 15th Century

Monday, October 10 – Colonialism
Wednesday, October 12 – The Renaissance *(Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty)*

Monday, October 17 - MIDTERM
Wednesday, October 19 – The Enlightenment

Monday, October 24 – Atlantic Revolutions
Wednesday, October 26 – Industrial Revolution
Monday, October 31 – Quiz #4
Wednesday, November 2 – Japan and China: 1800 - 1914

Monday, November 7 – Modern Colonialism
Wednesday, November 9 – World War I

Monday, November 14 – Rise (and Fall) of Communism
Wednesday, November 16 – Quiz #5

Monday, November 21 World War II
Wednesday, November 23 – No Class

Monday, November 28 – Rise of the Global South
Wednesday, November 30 – Cold War

Monday, December 5 – Final Review

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE
Section 1110/07 (M/W 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM) - Wednesday, December 7, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Section 1110/09 (M/W 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM) - Wednesday, December 7, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Section 1110/32 (M/W 8:00 PM – 9:15 PM) - Wednesday, December 7, 8:00pm - 10:00pm