Syllabus

Introduction to World History

Course Requirements

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Read Carefully and KEEP. You are responsible for the contents.

Course Description: An overview of world history which provides an introduction to the origin and development of the world’s societies and their political, cultural, and economic traditions. The course uses a global approach to world history.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is not mandatory, but regular attendance is essential for successful academic performance. Please be on time and be prepared to begin. Please turn off beepers and portable phones during class.

TEXTBOOK: Antony Esler, The Human Venture: A World History from Prehistory to the Present. 5th edition. The text is an essential part of the course. Its primary purpose will be to provide chronological order and cover those areas not discussed in class. You also need Hammond’s Historical Atlas of the World.

TESTS:

I. Procedure:

A. The course will be based on objective quizzes, two map exercises and two essay tests. The quizzes will be worth 65%, the maps 5%, and the essays 30%.

B. See the test structure and study guides for detailed information on the tests and the material for which you will be responsible.

C. Please make sure you are on time, class will meet after each quiz or test.

D. No make-up tests will be given for the objective quizzes, however, the lowest
grade will be dropped. Essay make-ups will be given only if you have proof of a 
bona-fide emergency for missing the essay.

II. Grade Divisions: The grading system is standard: 90-100, A; 80-89, B; 70-79, C; 60-69, 
D; 59 and below, F.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: You are expected to be a responsible student. Please read pages 241-243 in the 
2003-2004 Kennesaw State University Catalog and familiarize yourself with such concepts as 
misrepresentation, plagiarism, unauthorized access to official materials and other regulations.

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TEST STRUCTURE

Study guides will be provided to help you with the material in the text. See me if you have any difficulty 
understanding what you need to study.

Part I: Objective quizzes (65% of your course grade).

Twenty questions: The tests will be multiple choice and/or true/false and will cover:

1. Text readings (see the study guides)

2. Lecture materials

3. Chronological order

Part II: Maps (5% of your course grade).

You will need outline maps of Europe, Asia, and Africa (two Europe, two Asia and 
one Africa). They are available in the book store. The larger maps are easier to use.

I will provide a list of countries, cities and geographical areas you need to locate. The 
maps you can do at home.

Part III: Essays (Test one will count 10% of your grade and test two 20%).

A list of seven essays will be provided for the first test and ten for the second. I will 
select three of these and you will answer two. The last essay counts more because you 
need to be keenly aware of the tremendous changes that have taken place in the last 
150 years.
The lectures will provide all the material you need for the essays. I strongly suggest you prepare them as soon as we cover the material in class. Should you have any problems with the questions, I will be glad to help. I won’t answer them for you, but I will make sure you are taking the proper approach.

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World Civilizations - Course Outline

Text Readings and Lectures  *indicates material that will not be covered in class*

**PART I: *Introduction (pages 1-5)*

I. The nature of history: definitions, methods, etc.

*II. Beginnings:

A. Chapter 1

*III. The First Civilizations  A. Chapter 2

**PART II: Early Civilizations

*I.

A. India - Chapter 4

B. China - Chapter 4

II. A Comparison: Mesopotamia and Egypt

III. The Horse and Cattle Nomads

IV. The Rise of Ethical Monotheism

*A. The Hebrews, Hitties, and Phoenicians - Chapter 3

B. The Persians and Zoroaster – Chapter 6 (pages 155-156 only)

C. Monotheism

1. Zoroastrianism

2. Judaism
PART III: The Classical World

*I. Introduction

A. India - Chapter 4

B. China - Chapter 4

C. The Phoenician Diaspora - Chapter 5

D. Overview I

   E. Overview II

   F. Rome - Chapter 6

II. The development of the Great Patterns of Thought

A. Causes of the Classical Age

B. China

   1. Confucius

   2. Taoism

   3. Legalism

C. India

   1. Literary Background

   2. Hinduism

   3. Social Turmoil

      a. Jainism

      b. Buddhism

D. The Greeks

   1. Background

   2. Hellenic Thought

      a. The Sophists

      b. Socrates and Plato
c. Aristotle

3. Hellenistic Thought
a. Diogenes and Epicurus
b. Zeno and Stoicism

PART IV: Religious Development and Diffusion

*I. Asia
A. India - Chapters 7 and 11
B. China - Chapters 7 and 12

*II. Africa - Chapter 8 and 13

III. Christianity
A. Religious and Political background
B. Early Development
  1. Theological
  2. Problem of Heresy and the Council of Nicaea
  3. Administration
C. The Roman Catholic Church
  1. Church Fathers
  2. Papacy
  3. Monasticism
D. The Eastern Orthodox Church

V. The Rise of Islam
A. The Arabian Background
B. Muhammed
  1. His life and teachings
  2. Spread
3. Divisions
   a. Orthodox (Sunni)
   b. Messianic (Shia or Shi’ite)
   c. Mystical (Sufi)

PART V: The World of the Middle Ages

*I. The Middle Ages - Chapter 9

*II. The Spread of Islam - Chapter 10

III. The Christian West

*A. Toward A Larger World - Chapter 14

*B. Introduction and Overview IV (pages 354-358)

*C. The West Reborn - Chapter 15

*D. Overview V

*E. Caravels and Cannon - Chapter 19

F. Medieval Patterns of Thought
   1. Background
   2. Scholasticism
   3. Christian Mysticism

G. A Changing Europe

******************ESSAY TEST #1******************

PART VI: The Modern World Developing

I. Europe in Renaissance and Reformation
   A. The Growth of Western Europe
   B. The Renaissance and Reformations
1. Nature of the periods
2. Luther and Calvin
3. England in Reformation
4. The Catholic Reformation

*II. Beyond Europe
A. The Civilizations
   1. The Islamic World - Chapter 16
   2. China - Chapter 17
   3. Africa - Chapter 18
B. The Rise of Western Imperialism - Chapter 19

III. Three Creative Revolutions in Thought
A. The Scientific Revolution
   1. “Have you ever heard of Ulug Bek??”
   2. The Rise of Modern Science
   3. The Potential of Science
B. The Commercial Revolution
   1. The Silk Road (i.e., the influence of the East)
   2. European Economic background
   3. The Rise of Modern Capitalism
*C. Absolutism and the Enlightenment - Chapter 20
D. Social and Political Revolutions
   1. Natural Rights and Modern Political Theory
   2. The Ideal of the Enlightenment

PART VII: Western Hegemony
I. The Growth of Europe
A. The Political Revolutions - Chapter 20

B. Three Great ‘Isms’
   1. Conservatism
   2. Liberalism
   3. Nationalism

C. Industrialism and its Critics
   1. The Industrial Revolution: An Overview
   2. Socialism as a Reaction
      a. Utopian Socialism
      b. Marxism
      c. Anarchism, Syndicalism, and Re-visionary Socialism

D. Challenges to the Status Quo: Charles Darwin and Evolution

II. New Imperialism
   *A. Background
      1. Asia - Chapter 22
      2. Africa - Chapter 22
   B. Imperialism - Chapter 23
      1. Motives
      *2. Events

PART VIII: The Early 20th Century - *Overview VI

*I. The World Picture in 1900 - Chapter 24

II. World War I
A. Theory and Methods of the War

*III. The West between the Wars - Chapter 25

IV. The Revolutionary Age

A. Revolution in Russia

1. Background

2. Events

V. A Generation of Dictators

B. The Radical Right

1. Fascism

2. Nazism

*VI. World War II - Chapter 26

PART IX: The Modern World

*I. Cold War - Chapter 27

A. Background and Causes

B. Events

1. Europe

2. Asia

C. War and Peace in the Nuclear Age

II. The End of the Colonial Empires

A. Reasons why

B. Events and Problems

1. Africa, India, and Southeast Asia

2. The Arab World

   a. The Rise of Israel

   b. Arab Nationalism
c. The Importance of Oil

d. Islamic Fundamentalism

*III. Rich Nations and Poor Nations - Chapter 28

*IV. Culture - Chapter 29

V. The Collapse of the Soviet Union

A. “The Light that Failed”

B. Independence and Conflict in Eastern Europe

What Next? - Chapter 30