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.

Plagiarism and Cheating
No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

ADA Compliance
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

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
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.

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