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.”

Course Aims:

This course attempts to bring together a large-canvas history of the globe since early hominids to the recent past. In so doing, it familiarizes students with the world historical perspective, both its inherent strengths and weaknesses.

Basis for Final Grades:

You will be assessed in several ways in this course. There will be periodic short quizzes to encourage thoughtful reading of course materials. There will be three conventional examinations with the primary objective of assessing retention of historical content knowledge and crucial concepts. As this is an honors course, there will also be a writing/close reading project focused on the analysis of primary sources. Final grades will be tabulated according to the following plan:

Quizzes: 10%
First Mid-term: 20%
Second Mid-term: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Primary Source Project: 25%

The course uses a conventional grading scale (detailed below.)
A=89.5 or better
B=79.5 to 89.49
C=69.5 to 79.49
D=59.5 to 69.49
F=59.49 or below

Required Texts:
The World: A Brief History (Combined Edition), Fernandez-Armesto, Felipe
Nervous Conditions, Tsitsi Dangarembga

Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Attendance Policy:

Success in this course will in large part depend upon regular attendance of, and participation in, class. Attendance will be taken at random, and quizzes on assigned readings and presented materials will be a regular occurrence.

Class Schedule:

Week One:
August
21 Course expectations and introductions. What is history? [Introduction]
23 History, Prehistory, and the Foundations of Humanity [Chapter One]

Week Two:
28 Beginnings of Agriculture [Chapter Two]
30 The Great River Valleys [Chapter Three]
September
1-3 (Labor Day-No Classes)

Week Three:
4 Early Fragile Empires [Chapter Four]
6 Rebuilding the World [Chapter Five]

Week Four:
11 The Great Schools [Chapter Six].
13 Primary source analysis in ancient history [Provided Online]

Week Five:
18 The Great Empires [Chapter Seven]
20 Collapsing Empires [Chapter Eight]

Week Six:
25 Rise of World Religions [Chapter Nine] First Examination Posted Online.
27 Environmental Innovation and Isolation [Chapters Ten and Eleven]

Week Seven:
October
2 Nomadic Frontiers [Chapter Twelve]
4 The Mongols [Chapter Thirteen]

Week Eight:
9 Disease and Environmental Disaster in the 14th Century [Chapter Fourteen]
11 The Expanding World [Chapter Fifteen]

Week Nine:
16 Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Maritime and Land Empire [Chapter Sixteen]
18 Ecological Transformations and the Columbian Exchange [Chapter Seventeen]

Week Ten:

25 In-class Film. [No Reading]

Week Eleven:
30 Religious Synchtretism in the New World. Candomble and Santeria. [Chapter Eighteen (review)]
November
1 18th Century Global Economy [Chapter Twenty]

Week Twelve:
6 Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade [Voyages Website-Emory University]
8 Global Enlightenments [Chapter Twenty-Two]

Week Thirteen:
Readings:
13 Nineteenth Century Energy Revolutions [Chapter Twenty-Three]

Week Fourteen:
Readings:
20 Rise of Western Science [Chapter Twenty-Seven]
21-25 Fall Break-No Classes
Week Fifteen:
27 World Wars, the Cold War, and Decolonization. [Chapter Twenty-Eight]
29 Imperial Legacies and the Developing World. Discussion of Nervous Conditions. [Have finished Nervous Conditions]

Week Sixteen:
December
1 Seeing the world through the lens of history. [Chapter Twenty-Nine]
3 In-class Debate: Global Responsibility and State Sovereignty. Final Examination Posted Online.