Overview

This course offers a basic introduction to the history of humankind until about the year 1700. It can act only as an overview of human history, and is designed to be general in its
coverage, but with detailed examination of particular episodes and subjects that highlight particularly interesting or provocative questions for consideration. The thematic focus of this course is what happens when the various world cultures intersect and how they end up influencing each other. My hope is that along the way, we can see through to enjoying ourselves as fellow time travelers, as we speed through space and time.

It is the view of Kennesaw State University (and of this instructor) that an educated person should have a basic knowledge of outlines of world history. This is why this course has been included in the General Education curriculum. The stated, basic objectives of the Department of History for History 1111 are as follows:

1. Acquaint the student with the broad sweep of world history from the Neolithic period to ca. 1700.
2. Introduce the student to the nature and sources of historical knowledge.
3. Introduce the student to diverse cultural traditions and norms that have developed in different civilizations and different eras.
4. Familiarize the student with geographical knowledge relevant to world history and contemporary affairs.
5. Contribute to developing the student’s ability to write clear, coherent prose.

PLEASE READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY, AS YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ITS CONTENTS.

Texts


Voltaire, Candide, Penguin Classics, ISBN 9780143039426

Primary Sources accessible by hyperlinks in the class schedule below

D2L - Brightspace

This course is supported by DESIRE2LEARN Brightspace (hereafter D2L - BS), and students should consult the course’s BS site regularly. This syllabus is available at the course’s site, as are additional readings and assignment guidelines. Please access the material there and print it out for your own use. BS also host dropboxes at which you will hand in all of your written assignments. I will also post your grades on BS, and will occasionally solicit your participation in discussion forums. From time to time, I will post additional materials of interest to the class on the site. I will announce when we do this in class, but please also check the class BS site regularly. If you are not familiar with the BS course management program, please spend some time getting to know it.

D2L-BS may be accessed at http://d2l.kennesaw.edu/

Required Work
• 2 in-class exams, on September 28 and November 2 (40%)
• Final exam on December 7 (25%)
• A 2-page assignment on the works of Aristophanes, due September 21 (10%)
• Announced and unannounced periodic reading quizzes (15%)
• A critical essay of ca. 3 pages, on a subject to be announced, due November 16 (20%)

Other considerations:
• I do not give extra credit assignments
• All written assignments must be submitted in the D2L-BS dropbox. An assignment is not considered turned in until this has been done. All files submitted should be in Word, in 12-pt font and double spaced, with your name clearly indicated.
• Assignments are due on the day indicated in this syllabus. Late work will be penalized one full grade for each class day it is late. Exceptions will be made only with a signed note from a physician or lawyer and these must be submitted within one week of the missed due date. Work that is more than one week late will not be accepted for credit.
• Missed exams and assignments will be scored as a ‘0’.
• Grading scale:  
  90-100 A  
  80-89 B  
  70-79 C  
  60-69 D  
  <60 F  
• Grade appeals must be submitted to me in writing and within two weeks of receiving the grade.
• Please read carefully the information on academic integrity included in this syllabus

Attendance

Attendance is essential for success in this course. All the material that we discuss in class meetings will be tested. Should you miss class, you remain responsible for all handouts, notes and announcements about schedules and assignments. I am contractually bound by the federal government (for real) to keep track of who comes to class. I use a sign-in sheet for attendance that will be distributed in class – I am required by federal law to take attendance. You are permitted 5 unexcused absences in the course of the semester: all documentation must be provided within one week of the absence. Only documented medical or legal absences will be excused – car trouble, romantic entanglements and working an extra shift at your job don’t count, so don’t ask. I will deduct a letter grade from your final grade for each absence beyond 5. Please note that this policy is non-negotiable.

Please be on time to class – if you are more than 15 minutes late, I consider that an absence. In his autobiography, Nelson Mandela wrote that he always sought to be on time, as tardiness was indicative of a lack of respect for the other individual – words to live by. Nelson Mandela, as far as I know, said nothing about leaving class to go to the bathroom or talk on one’s cellphone. But don’t do that either – take care of it before class.
**Academic Integrity:**

Research has indicated that 40-60% of American college students reported cheating on examinations in college. Over half of the students who reported cheating in college were repeat offenders who used a variety of nefarious techniques to achieve their objective. While I assume the best of all students, I am also well aware of these realities.

Please read the statement on Academic Honesty in the Kennesaw State University Undergraduate Catalog. 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.

I take instances of plagiarism very seriously. If I have questions about the integrity of your work, I will ask to meet with you. If outstanding questions remain, I will adhere to the policies above. **Please note: the penalty for cheating and/or plagiarism in this course is a failing grade for the semester.** I will report all incidents of plagiarism to the Office of Student Affairs, and the incident will become part of your official record. **Cheating is simply not worth it — it jeopardizes your good name and academic standing, is an insult to me, and is not fair to your classmates who do not cheat.**

**Student Conduct:**

In striving to create a scholarly, collegial and efficient classroom environment for my students, I cannot and will not tolerate rude and obnoxious behavior such as talking, texting and other use of smart phones, reading of extraneous material such as newspapers or Harlequin romances, sleeping, and other antisocial activities. Please also consult the guidelines for the use of electronic devices below.

**Electronic Devices in Class:**

Tape recording of class sessions is permitted, but beepers and cell phones are to be turned off in class. If such devices are needed for emergency use, please let the instructors know before class and set them to silent or pulse. If your cell phone rings or beeps during class, you will be asked to leave. In the course of the semester, I will give you one warning regarding the unauthorized use of smart devices. The second time you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period. You may use laptop computers during class time, but under no circumstances use them to send e-mail, update your Facebook status, check your fantasy team, gamble, or try your luck
with Match.com. If I find you using them for any non-scholarly purposes, or if you are an exceptionally loud typist, I reserve the right to rescind your laptop privileges.

**Class and Reading Schedule**

Please note: this schedule is subject to change, at the instructor's discretion.

**M, August 15** – The Past, History and Historians

**W, August 17** – Earth: the First 4.5395 Billion Years
Video: PBS’ Origins of the Earth

**M, August 22** – The Original Affluent Society?
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 1

**W, August 24** – Welcome to the Holocene

**M, August 29** – Cities and the Invention of Culture
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 2
Source: The Law Code of Hammurabi (ca. 1780 BCE)

**W, August 31** – Iron Age: Empires and Hierarchies
Source: Herodotus describes Babylon

**M, September 3** – Labor Day (no class)

**W, September 5** – Hardware and Software: the Invention of Writing

**M, September 10** – It’s all Greek to me
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 3
Source: Aristotle’s Politics on the origins of the polis

**W, September 12** – The Clouds
Reading: The Clouds (Aristophanes, 65-130)

**M, September 19** – Lysistrata
Reading: Lysistrata (Aristophanes, 133-193)

**W, September 21** – The Axial Age
Source: The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
Source: Buddha’s First Sermon
Source: Confucius’ Analects (selections)
Essay on Aristophanes due in D2L-BS Dropbox

**M, September 26** – When in Rome
Source: The Deeds of the Divine Augustus

**W, September 28** – Exam #1
**M, October 3** – Human Migration and the Fate of Empires  
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 4  
Source: Jordanes, *The Battle of Châlons*  
Source: Building and Maintaining the Great Wall of China (a narrative Han history)

**W, October 5** – Christ and Christianities  
Source: Celsus’ view of Christians  
Source: The Nicene Creed  
**Last day to withdraw without penalty**

**M, October 10** – The Seal of the Prophets  
Source: Qu’ran Surahs 1, 47

**W, October 12** – The Chinese Accomplishment  
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 5  
Source: Marco Polo’s Description of Hangchow

**M, October 17** – A New Kind of Society: Medieval Europe  
Source: Extracts from Einhard’s *Life of Charlemagne*

**W, October 19** – Ibn Fadlân  
Reading: *Ibn Fadlân and the Land of Darkness* (xii-xxxi & 3-58)

**M, October 24** – Other Arab Accounts  
Reading: *Ibn Fadlân and the Land of Darkness* (61-92, 105-109, 144-152)

**W, October 26** – The Mongol Explosion  
Source: The Journey of Friar John of Pian de Carpine to the Court of Kuyuk Khan, 1245-1247

**M, October 31** – The Americas before Columbus  
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 6

**W, November 2** – Exam #2

**M, November 7** – Islam’s Second Wave and the Indian Ocean System  
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 7  
Source: François Bernier, *An Account of the Great Moghul*

**W, November 9** – The Shrinking of the World  
Source: Manuel Jose Quintana, *Balboa Sees the Pacific Ocean* (1513)

**M, November 14** – The Transatlantic Slave Trade  
Reading: Reilly, Chapter 8

**W, November 16** – Reformations, Enlightenment and the Scientific Worldview
Source: [Extracts from René Descartes’ Discourse on Method (1637)](#)

Critical Essay Due in D2L-BS Dropbox

**Thanksgiving Break**

**M, 28 November** – *Candide*
Reading: *Candide*, Chapters 1-16

**W, 30 November** – *Candide*
Reading: *Candide*, Chapters 17-30

**M, 5 December** – Back to the Future: the Promise and Perils of Modernity

**W, 7 December @ 8AM** – Final Exam section 7 (M, 12 December @ 10:30AM – section 08)