HIST 1110 - Introduction to World Civilizations

Instructor: Matt Hutchinson
Office Hours: M/W 11:00 – 12:15, Room SS 4005
Email: mhutchi7@kennesaw.edu

Section 1110/22
M/W 9:30 AM – 10:45 PM
Room: SS 2034

Section 1110/04
M/W 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM
Room: SS 3029

Section 1110/16
T/Th 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM
Room: SS 3029

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Beginning with the hunter gatherers 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 origins 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 discussions are a significant portion of this course, as such participation commands a high importance in the grading rubric. Instructor will take attendance at the beginning of each class. 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 (midterms and finals)

III. **Quizzes (40%)** – Four non-cumulative quizzes will include multiple choice and short answer questions. Quizzes should not take more than 30 – 45 minutes. The purpose of the quizzes will be for both the instructor and the student to gauge the student’s understanding of the course material.

IV. **Midterm (20%)** - Blue book style exam. Exam will include a definition, short answer and essay questions that will explore the larger themes presented in the readings, lectures and discussions. One class will be dedicated to review before the mid-term.

V. **Final Exam (20%)** - Blue book style exam based on the 2nd half of the term. 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):

Week of Jan 10 - Jan 13
Course introduction; History of the universe; History of the Earth; Early hominids; Early man; Paleolithic Era; Global Migrations

Week of Jan 17 - Jan 20
No Class on 1/17
Agricultural Revolution; First Civilizations

Week of Jan 24 - Jan 27
First Civilizations
Quiz #1

Week of Jan 31 - Feb 3
Axial age: World Religions and Philosophy

Week of Feb 7 - Feb 10
Minoan, Greek and Persian empires

Week of Feb 14 - Feb 17
Rome (Kingdom, Republic, Empire)
Quiz #2

Week of Feb 21 - Feb 24
Rome (Kingdom, Republic, Empire)
Rise of Christianity and the fall of the Roman Empire

Week of Feb 28 - Mar 3
Midterm Review
Midterm

Week of Mar 7 - Mar 10
Spring Break

MARCH 14, 2010 IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY.

Week of Mar 14 - Mar 17
Americas and Africa

Week of Mar 21 - Mar 24
Middle Ages (Early, High and Late)
Week of Mar 28 - Mar 31
Middle Ages (Early, High and Late)
Quiz #3

Week of Apr 4 - Apr 7
Age of Discovery/Exploration; Colonization

Week of Apr 11 - Apr 14
Atlantic Revolutions; Industrial Revolution; Post Colonial Age

Week of Apr 18 - Apr 21
World War I; World War II; Rise of Communism

Week of Apr 25 - Apr 28
Cold War
Quiz #4

Week of May 2
Modern World

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**

HIST 1110/22 (M/W 9:30 – 10:45) - Wednesday, May 4, 2011 - 8:00am - 10:00am

HIST 1110/04 (M/W 12:30 – 1:45) - Monday, May 9, 2011 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm

HIST 1110/16 (T/Th 2:00 – 3:15) - Thursday, May 5, 2011 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm