HIST 1110 - Introduction to World Civilizations – Spring 2012

Instructor: Matt Hutchinson
Office Hours: M/W 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, T/TH 9:30 – 10:45 (Room: SS 4005)
Email: mhutchi7@kennesaw.edu

Section 1110/04
M/W 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM
Room: SS 1017

Section 1110/14
T/TH 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM
Room: SS 1021

Section 1110/24
M/W 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM
Room: SS 2034

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Beginning with the hunter gathers 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 originations 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:


Recommended 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. Attendance / Participation (10%) – Instructor will take attendance at ten randomly chosen days during the semester. If a student is present for all 10 dates, they will receive full credit, 9 days will earn 9%, etc. Class participation, while not mandatory, will only aid the students overall performance in the course.

II. Tests (50%) – Five non-cumulative tests will include multiple choice, map identification, matching and fill-in-the-blank questions. The purpose of the tests will be for both the instructor and the student to gauge the student’s understanding of the course material.

III. Midterm Exam (20%) – Take home written exam based on the 1st half of the term. Exam will include 2-3 writing prompts based on assigned readings, class lectures and videos. Students will write 3-5 pages based on the criteria presented by the professor.

IV. Final Exam (20%) - Take home written exam based on the 2nd half of the term. Exam will include 2-3 writing prompts based on assigned readings, class lectures and videos. Students will write 3-5 pages based on the criteria presented by the professor. 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 multimedia presentations. Each class will contain a lecture that will complement the reading assigned for the date specified in the syllabus. 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.
ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT:
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 that 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).

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):

Monday, Jan 9 - Introduction; Syllabus; History of the Universe
Wednesday, Jan 11 – First Peoples

Monday, Jan 16 – NO CLASS
Wednesday, Jan 18 – Agricultural Revolution

Monday, Jan 23 – First Civilizations
Wednesday, Jan 25 – First Civilizations

Monday, Jan 30 – TEST #1
Wednesday, Feb 1 – Europe: 500 BCE – 500 CE

Monday, Feb 6 – Europe: 500 BCE – 500 CE
Wednesday, Feb 8 – Africa and the Americas: 500 BCE – 1200 CE

Monday, Feb 13 – China: 500 BCE – 1300 CE
Wednesday, Feb 15 – TEST #2

Monday, Feb 20 – Axial Age
Wednesday, Feb 22 - Christianity

Monday, Feb 27 - Islam
Wednesday, Feb 29 – TEST #3

Monday, Mar 5 – SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
Wednesday, Mar 7 – SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
MARCH 12, 2010 IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY.

Monday, Mar 12 – The World in the 15th Century (MIDTERM DUE)
Wednesday, Mar 14 – Colonialism (1ST Wave)

Monday, Mar 19 – The Renaissance
Wednesday, Mar 21 – The Enlightenment

Monday, Mar 26 – Atlantic Revolutions
Wednesday, Mar 28 – Industrial Revolution

Monday, Apr 2 – TEST #4
Wednesday, Apr 4 – Japan and China: 1800 - 1914

Monday, Apr 9 – World War I
Wednesday, Apr 11 – Rise (and Fall) of Communism

Monday, Apr 16 - World War II
Wednesday, Apr 18 – Rise of the Global South

Monday, Apr 23 – TEST #5
Wednesday, Apr 25 – Cold War

Week of Apr 30 – Final Review

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

HIST 1110/22 (M/W 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM) - Monday, May 7, 2012 - 8:00am - 10:00am

HIST 1110/14 (T/TH 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM) - Tuesday, May 1, 2012 - 8:00am - 10:00am

HIST 1110/24 (M/W 12:30 PM – 1:45PM) - Monday, May 7, 2012 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm