History 1110–10 – Introduction to World History

Marco Polo at the Court of Kublai Khan

MW, 11:00-13:45
Social Science Building 3010

Professor Paul Dover
Social Science Building 4108
Office Hours: MW 8:30-10:45 and right after class, or by appointment
Phone: 770-423-6728
pdover@kennesaw.edu (for questions pertaining to the content or conduct of the
course, please contact me via the e-mail service on GEORGIAVIEW VISTA)

NB: Students are responsible for the contents of this syllabus. It is understood that
all students taking this course have read the syllabus and understand its
stipulations and expectations. The instructor reserves the right to change the
syllabus at any time during the semester – students are expected to keep abreast of
any alterations to the syllabus and schedule announced by the instructor.

Overview

This course offers a basic introduction to the history of humankind. It can act only as an
overview of human history, and is designed to be general in its coverage, but with detailed
examination of specific 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 110, Introduction to World History, are as follows:

1. Acquaint the student with the broad sweep of world history from the Neolithic period to the present.
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.

**Texts**

The following three texts are required and are available from the Kennesaw State University Bookstore:

Cynthia Stoke Brown, *Big History. From the Big Bang to the Present* (The New Press, 2007)

There will also be selected on-line readings that will be identified by the instructor.

**GEORGIAVIEW VISTA (Blackboard)**

This course uses GEORGIAVIEW VISTA. At the site for this course, you will find:

- This syllabus
- Outlines for all class lectures
- Discussion strings on certain topics
- Announcements by the professor
- Selected reading assignments (see above)
- Review guides for the mid-term and final exams

Please familiarize yourself with the course’s site, and check it regularly.

**Required Work**

NB: All assigned work must be completed in order to pass this course.

- Mid-term examination on Thursday, 2 July (20%)
- final exam, due on Monday, 30 July (20%)
- 2 map assignments, due 18 June and 9 July (10%)
• Research paper (due 25 July) and presentation; topic and prospective bibliography due to professor by 11 July (30%)
• Contribution to on-line and in-class discussions (20%)

Other considerations:
• I do not give extra credit assignments
• All written assignments must be submitted in hard copy – I do not accept assignments electronically unless specified. Assignments should be stapled, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and in a 12-point, black font.
• Assignments are due in class on the day indicated. Late work will be penalized one full grade for each day it is late. Exceptions will be made only with a signed note from a physician. Work that is more than 2 days late will not be accepted for credit.
• Missed exams and assignments will be scored as a ‘o’.
• Grade appeals must be submitted to me in writing and within a week of receiving the grade.
• Please read carefully the information on academic integrity that follows this syllabus

Attendance Policy

• Attendance is essential for success in this course and I expect regular attendance. 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. I take the class roll daily – you are permitted 3 days’ absence in this course (please remember that one day is the equivalent of a full week in a regular semester). Please note that I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences; it is my belief that should you miss more than 3 days’ worth of class, you will not be able to complete the course demands satisfactorily. Each day absent beyond 3 will be penalized one letter grade on the final grade.
• Similarly, I expect students to be on time to class. I understand that the vagaries of I-75, among other things, sometimes make this impossible. If you are late, please take a seat quietly close to the door, making sure not to slam the door. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be counted absent. Do not ask to be able to sign the roll if you are more than 20 minutes late.

In-class comportment

• Barring compelling medical reasons, do not leave the classroom during class. Go to the bathroom before class. We will have a 15-minute break between our two daily sessions that will provide ample time to visit the lavatory.
• Laptops: I permit the use of laptops in class, but if you intend to use them, you must sit in the front two rows of the class. If you are found to be using your computer for activities other than those directly related to the course, you will forfeit your right to employ a laptop.
• Recording devices: I have no objection to the use of recording devices in class – just please let me know if you intend to use them.
• Cell phones and Smart devices: Cell phones should be switched off during class. Should your cell phone ring, I will ask you to leave for the remainder of the class session. If a phone is needed for emergency use, please let the instructor know before class and set it to silent or pulse. Text messaging in class is strictly verboten – if I catch you doing so, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class session and will be counted as absent.

• I want my classroom environment to be rooted in a spirit of mutual respect between the professor and students and between fellow students. 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 social chatting, reading of extraneous material such as newspapers, sleeping, and other antisocial activities. Please do not continue in this course if you intend to do any of these.

Ethical considerations: I take instances of academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism very seriously – proof of such activity will result in a failing grade for the semester and a referral to the Office of Student Affairs. The bottom line about cheating and plagiarism is this: do not do it. It is not worth it – you can seriously damage your reputation among the faculty, your academic standing at this and other universities and your viability in the professional world.

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 we assume the best of all students, we are also well aware of these realities.

Please read the statement on Academic Honesty in the Kennesaw State University Undergraduate Catalog on pages 243-4. 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. Ignorance of these guidelines does not excuse violations.

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. I reiterate: 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.

Class and Reading Schedule
Classes will generally be a mixture of lecture and discussion. When I am lecturing, I invite you to ask questions if anything should be unclear or if you wish to make a comment. You should have completed the reading listed for each day before that day’s class meeting, and you should be prepared to answer questions about it.

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

Monday, 4 June – History and Historians; Our Universe, Our Planet, Our Species
Reading: Brown, 1-71

Wednesday, 6 June – Life before Agriculture
Film: The Cave of Forgotten Dreams (in class)

Monday, 11 June – The Holocene & Agriculture

Wednesday, 13 June – Civilization
Reading: Brown, 75-109; selections from Epic of Gilgamesh, the Code of Hammurabi and “Be a Scribe” (VISTA)

Monday, 18 June – Monotheism and World Religions
Reading: Brown, 111-126; The Buddha’s first sermon (http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00ambedkar/ambedkar_buddha/02_2.html); Gospel of Matthew, Books 5-7 (from any version of the Bible, biblegateway.org for online access)

Map of Eurasia due

Wednesday, 20 June – The Classical Ecumene and its Demise
Reading: Pericles’ Funeral Oration (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp); Polybius’ account of Rome at the end of the Punic Wars (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/polybius6.asp)

Monday, 25 June – Medieval Globalizers: the Chinese and Islamic worlds
Reading: Brown, 127-187

Wednesday, 27 June – The Creation of Europe; Nomads Revenge: the Mongols
Reading: extract from Fulcher of Chartres’ account of the First Crusade (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/fulcher-cde.asp); Usamah Ibn Munqidh, excerpt from Autobiography, on the Franks (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/Usamah2.asp)

Monday, 2 July – Mid-term exam; Pre-Columbian America
Reading: Brown, 147-167

Wednesday, 4 July – No class

Monday, 9 July – The Shrinking of the World and the Columbian Exchange
Reading: Brown, 188-209; Crosby, 45-58.

Map of Africa and the Americas due

Wednesday, 11 July – The ‘Old’ World and the ‘New’
Film: The Mission (in class)

Research Topic Due

Monday, 16 July – The Atlantic and Indian Ocean Systems
Reading: Brook, entire.

Wednesday, 18 July – Industry, Nation and Imperialism
Reading: Crosby, 59-158; Brown 210-229.

Monday, 23 July– The Twentieth Century in Historical Perspective
Reading: Crosby, 159-166; Brown, 230-248.

Wednesday 25 July – Research Presentations

Research Paper Due

Monday, 30 July – Take-home final exam due