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:**


**Recommended Text:**

Students can expect 50-75 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](http://www.adobe.com). If you have a Mac, you can use Preview to open these files.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING SCALE

I. Attendance (5%) – 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. Quizzes (35%) – Seven non-cumulative quizzes will include multiple choice, map identification, matching and fill-in-the-blank questions. The purpose of the quizzes will be for both the instructor and the student to gauge the student's understanding of the course material. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of our Monday classes.

III. Midterm Exam (30%) – 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 approximately 5 pages based on the criteria presented by the professor.

IV. Final Exam (30%) - Exam will include definitions, multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. Students can expect to use the majority of the dedicated final exam time to complete the exam. Any student with a 95% or better in the class at the time of the final 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):

Wednesday, May 30 – Introduction; Syllabus; History of the Universe
First Peoples (Chp. 1)

Monday, June 4 – Agricultural Revolution / First Farmers (Chp. 2)
First Civilizations (Chp. 3)

Wednesday, June 6 – First Civilizations (Chp. 3)

Monday, June 11 – Eurasian Empires (Chp. 4)

Wednesday, June 13 – Axial Age (Chp. 5)

Monday, June 18 – Eurasian Social Hierarchies, 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E. (Chp. 6)

Wednesday, June 20 – Africa and the Americas, 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E. (Chp. 7)
China, 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E. (Chp. 9)

Monday, June 25 – MIDTERM DUE
Christianity
European Christendom, 500 – 1300 (Chp. 10)
Islam (Chp. 11)
Wednesday, June 27 - **Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty**
The Worlds of the Fifteenth Century (Chp. 13)
Empires and Encounters (Chp. 14)

Monday, July 2 –
The Scientific Revolution (Chp. 16)
The Renaissance (Chp. 16)
The Protestant Reformation (Chp. 16)
The Age of Enlightenment (Chp. 16)

Wednesday, July 4 – **NO CLASS**

Monday, July 16 –
The Atlantic Revolutions (Chp. 17)
The Industrial Revolution (Chp. 18)

Wednesday, July 18 –
China, the Ottoman Empire and Japan (Chp. 19)
Colonial Encounters (Chp. 20)

Monday, July 23 –
World War I and World War II (Chp. 21)

Wednesday, July 25 –
Rise and Fall of Communism (Chp. 22)
Rise of Global South (Chp. 23)
The World Since 1945 (Chp. 24)

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**

Monday, July 30, 2012  (5:00 – 7:00 PM)