Timur feasts in the gardens of Samarkand (MS IOS AS Uzbek SSR ca. 1627)

Maymester 2017
Monday-Friday 8:00-12:30
Social Science Building 2035

Professor Paul Dover
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Office Hours: M-F 12:30-2
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 class outlines, 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 your written assignment. I will also post your grades on BS, and will occasionally solicit your participation in discussion forums. From time to time, I may 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 Thursday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 24 (40%)
- Final exam on Friday, May 26 (25%)
- A 2-3 page assignment on the works of Aristophanes, due Monday, May 22 (20%)
- 5 reading quizzes on days when no exam is given (15%)

**Other considerations:**

- I do not give extra credit assignments
- The written assignment 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.
- Late papers 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. Essays that is more than two days late will not be accepted.
- Missed exams and assignments will be scored as a ‘0’.
- Grading scale:
  
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- Grade appeals must be submitted to me in writing and within a day of receiving the grade.
- Please read carefully the information on academic integrity included in this syllabus

**Attendance**

Each day we will meet for three 75 minute sessions, separated by 2 15-minute breaks. 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 1 absence in the course of the Maymester: all documentation must be provided within 2 days 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. If you miss more than one day of class, you will not pass the class.

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 Deportment:**

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, set them to silent or pulse, and place them out of sight. Your cell phone should not be taken out under any circumstances. If you choose to take it out or if it rings during class, I will ask you to leave for the rest of the class period.

I would prefer that you not use laptops in class – if you provide me with a compelling reason for why you must, I will allow it. Under no circumstances should you 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, May 15**
1. The Past, History and Historians
2. Earth: the First 4.5395 Billion Years
3. The Original Affluent Society?

**T, May 16**
1. Quiz #1; Welcome to the Holocene
2. Cities and the Invention of Culture
3. Iron Age: Empires and Hierarchies

Reading: Reilly, Chapters 1-2
Sources: *The Law Code of Hammurabi (ca. 1780 BCE)*
*Herodotus describes Babylon*

**W, May 17**
1. Quiz #2; Hardware and Software: the Invention of Writing
2. It's all Greek to me
3. The Axial Age

Reading: Reilly, Chapter 3
Sources: *Aristotle’s Politics on the origins of the polis*
*The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)*
*Buddha’s First Sermon*
*Confucius’ Analects (selections)*

**Th, May 18**
1. *The Clouds*
2. *Lysistrata*
3. Exam #1

Reading: Aristophanes, *The Clouds and Lysistrata* (entire)

**F, May 19**
1. Quiz #3; When in Rome
2. Monotheism
3. Human Migration and the Fate of Empires

Reading: Reilly, Chapter 5
Sources: *The Deeds of the Divine Augustus*
*Celsius’ view of Christians*
*The Nicene Creed*
*Building and Maintaining the Great Wall of China (a narrative Han history)*
M, May 22
1. The Seal of the Prophets
2. The Chinese Accomplishment
3. A New Kind of Society: Medieval Europe

Reading: Reilly, Chapter 5
Sources: Qu’ran Surahs 1, 47, Marco Polo’s Description of Hangchow, Extracts from Einhard’s Life of Charlemagne

Essay on Aristophanes due in class in hard copy and electronically on D2L-BS.

T, May 23
1. Quiz #4; The Mongol Explosion
2. The Americas before Columbus
3. Islam’s Second Wave and the Indian Ocean System

Reading: Reilly, Chapters 6-7
Sources: The Journey of Friar John of Pian de Carpine to the Court of the Khan, 1245-1247, François Bernier, An Account of the Great Moghul

W, May 24
1. Exam #2
2. The Shrinking of the World
3. The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Reading: Reilly, Chapter 8
Sources: Manuel Jose Quintana, Balboa Sees the Pacific Ocean (1513)

Th, May 25
1. Quiz #5; The Scientific World View
2. Candide

Reading: Voltaire, Candide
Source: Galileo’s letter to Grand Duchess Cristina of Tuscany

F, May 26 – Final exam