WORLD HISTORY TO 1500
Spring Term 2022

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Course Description:
The study of world history offers insight and perspective into our own national and regional histories. When we contrast our own histories with the alternate paths taken by others, we gain a better understanding of the imaginati on of cultural difference which defines the modern mind.
This course will examine the origins, development, and character of the major world civilizations and historical patterns that evolved over time up to 1500. The course will particularly focus on the connections between these civilizations' political systems, religion, economics, and social structure and their relationships to one another in history to 1500.

Objectives:
This course seeks to provide an introduction into the wide processes leading to the emergence of the present world as well as an introduction to the field of history and the historian's craft. We will cover the time period from the emergence of human societies to 1500. As you will learn, the world was rather widely connected between Europe, Asia, and Africa prior to 1500. In the late 1400s, however, the Europeans embarked on exploring alternate routes to Asia and as a consequence connected Europe and Africa, in particular, with the Americas, thereby ushering a new era in world history
Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the origins and development of the major centers of civilizations, interactions between them over time, and patterns that emerged.
- Have a better understanding of how societies are interrelated around the globe through politics, economics, culture, and technology.
- Have a deeper appreciation of the role of history and historical knowledge in modern politics and international relations.
- Obtain the ability to read texts critically, develop strong communication skills, and improve your knowledge of world geography.

Required Readings:
1. William J. Duiker, Jackson J. Spielvogel, *World History*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Boston, 2010.

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2. Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A brief global history with sources.* Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.
3. Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization* (collections), Simon and Schuster Press, New York, 1935-1975.
Necessary websites: Please bookmark these on your home computer or write them down in a safe place.

World History Project: http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/World_History
World History for Us All: http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/
Bridging World History: http://www.learner.org/courses/worldhistory/units.html

Please consult this site for additional information via video, audio, textual, and visual assistance in understanding world history and making your presentation

Course requirements: Read required documents before the class; attend all the classes and participate in the class discussions and other activities; complete all class assignments including oral presentations, group discussions, and essays.
Course policies: Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will result in a failing COURSE grade and be subject to university discipline; Without specific prior approval from instructor, no early and make-up exams; Please be on time for class; frequent tardiness, early departures, or absence without valid reasons (documentation required) will affect your grade seriously (one absence=10% participation grade deduction, while 3 absences lead to a failing COURSE grade); Late submission of class assignments will be penalized.
Technology: Projector for slides and documents
Grading Policy: **This course assigns plus/minus grades**.
Student learning will be assessed on the basis of student performance in:
1. Class participation: 10%
2. Group assignment: 20%
3. Midterm exam: 20%
4. Final exam: 50%.

Grading Scale: A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C:70-79; D:60-69; F:<60

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview:

- Why study world history?
- Overview of world history to 1500
- Course requirements
- Course organizations

Week 2: Beginnings in History

- First people: populating the planet

- First farmers: the revolutions of agriculture

Reading: Robert W. Strayer (2011), pp 3-67.

Week 3: First civilizations 1: Mesopotamia

- *The city-states of Ancient Mesopotamia*
- *Empires of Ancient Mesopotamia*
- *The culture of Mesopotamia*

Readings: Duiker&Spielvogel (2010), pp.10-15

Week 4: First civilizations 2: Egyptian Civilization

- The geography
- The historical development from Old to New kingdoms
- Society and economy in Ancient Egypt
- The culture of Egypt

Readings: Duiker&Spielvogel (2010), 16-21

Week 5: Ancient India

- The geography
- Harapan and Mohenjo-Daro civilizations
- The arrival of Aryan
- The caste and class
- Society and Economy
- Hinduism and Buddhism
- The expansion of Indian culture

Readings: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp. 40-60

Week 6: China and the World

- The land and people of China
- Chinese dynasties
- Daily life in ancient China
- Chinese culture
- Confucianism and Daoism
- Chinese world order

Readings: Duiker&Spielvogel (2010), pp.68-93; **275-300**

Week 7: The Worlds of Islam: Afro-Eurasian Connections

- The birth of a new religion: the homeland of Islam and Mohammad
- The Arab empire and its successors
- Islam and Cultural encounter
- The world of Islam

Readings*:* Strayer (2011), 473-499

Week 8: Mid-term exam

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Week 9: The civilizations of the Greek

- Early Greece: Minoan Crete and Mycenae
- The city-states: Sparta and Athens
- The culture of Classical Greece
- The rise of Macedonia and the conquest
- The Hellenistic world

Readings***:*** Duiker&Spielvogel (2010), pp.96-121

Week 10*: *The Roman Civilization

- Early Rome and the Republic
- The roman empire
- Crisis and the late empire
- Transformation of the Roman world: Christianity
- From Eastern Roman to Byzantine empire

Readings***:*** Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp.130- 151; 364-378

Week 11: Europe in the Early Middle Ages (1)

- The new Germanic kingdoms
- The role of the Christian church
- Charlemagne and the Carolingians
- The world of lords and vassals

Readings: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), 333-339; Strayer (2011), 434-438

Week 12: Europe in the High Middle Ages (2)

- The new world of trade and cities
- Christianity and medieval civilization
- The culture of the high middle ages
- Medieval Europe and the world: crusades
- The Black Death,

Readings: Duiker&Spielvogel (2010), 340-360, 378-384.

Week 13: World networks and exchanges before 1500

- Ancient silk road
- Sea roads: exchange cross the Indian Ocean
- Sand roads: exchange across the Sahara
- Commerce and connections in Americas

Readings: Strayer (2011), pp. 333-366;

Week 14: Vietnam in world history

No readings for this week

Week 15: Final Exam