

**** Spring 2002 Course Syllabi****



**** Washburn History Department****

SYLLABUS FOR HI 100 EA

World Civilization I

MO 158 5:30–6:45 MW

Instructor: Thomas Prasch

Office: HC 311 B

Office Hours: M–Th 1:00–3:00 or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: HI 100EA surveys world history from the origin of civilization to around 1200 CE. The course emphasizes doing history by introducing students to primary sources—works produced at the time under study—and the methods historians employ to interpret them; this will be supplemented by lectures and text material that demonstrate how historians shape material into historical narratives and arrive at interpretations of the past. Students will be taught how to think historically as well as learning the broad outlines of world history and the basic information about the period. The course also addresses requirements for general education by developing students' abilities in reading intelligently, writing effectively, and processing information. (Hand-outs prepared by the history department covering each of these skills will be handed out with this syllabus.) These skills will be developed in part through direct encounters with primary sources, with some lectures employed to acquaint students with the methods with which historians deal with such sources. Lectures and text readings will also augment students' reading and interpretive abilities. Reading and writing skills will also be developed and assessed through both take-home and in-class tests, as discussed below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The required text for HI 100EA is Richard W. Bulliet, et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples*, vol. A, Second Edition. Students will also be required to read three primary source selections through the course of the semester, from choices indicated on the syllabus or choices of their own approved by the professor. These will be available at the library reserve and at the professor's office, and some are also available on internet sites; students will not have to purchase additional texts.

The syllabus indicates a range of primary sources. Students do not have to read all of them. Students will select one of the suggested primary sources for each test period (three over the course of the semester), or they will select alternative primary sources of their own, subject to the professor's approval. This allows students to tailor their readings to their specific interests; the professor's selections are designed to give students a sense of the range of possibilities in terms of thematic focus, genre, and area of the world. Lectures will provide students with some assistance in how to read and interpret primary sources.

The three hour examinations will each have both in-class and take-home components. The in-class examinations will consist of short identification questions and essay questions; they will cover material in lectures and assigned text readings. Students are expected to provide blue books for the in-class portions of tests; these are available at the Washburn Bookstore. The take-home portion of the test will consist of a longer (3–5 page, typed) essay question concerning the primary source the student has chosen. Questions will be designed both to ensure that the students have actually read the primary sources they have selected and to make them connect their reading of the primary source with other knowledge (from text and lectures) of the period and place in which it was composed. For the first two tests, questions for the take-home portion will be available at the review session preceding the in-class test, and the essays will be due the class following the in-class examination, at the beginning of class. For the final, the take-home portion will be due on the last day of class. The final examination will not be comprehensive, covering only material covered after the second examination.

In-class and take-home portions of tests will each be graded on a 100 point scale. On in-class tests, identification will be worth 20 points (4 points per identification), and essays will be worth 40 points each. Take-home portions of the test will also be worth 100 points. The final grade will consist of an average of these scores. Active class participation will be taken into account as a positive factor in borderline cases or, at the discretion of the professor, to raise grades up to one level higher when participation seems to indicate that the student has a better grasp of material than test averages indicate. Evidence of cheating on in-class tests or plagiarism on take-home portions of the tests will result in automatic failure. What plagiarism consists of and how to avoid it in writing assignments will be discussed in class before the first test.

Students who are having difficulties with either the reading or writing demands of the class should avail themselves of assistance from departmental tutors or from the English Department's Writing Center (Morgan 257). Students having trouble with the material should also meet with the professor during scheduled office hours (or by appointment).

Students with disabilities may identify themselves voluntarily to the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSWDO) to request accommodations. The office is responsible for assisting in arranging accommodations (including in-class notetakers, test readers and/or scribes, adaptive computer technology, and brailled materials) and for identifying resources on campus. New requests for accommodations should be submitted two months or more prior to the date services should begin; however, check with the SSWDO office as soon as a need may arise. The SSWDO office is at Morgan Hall 150; their phone number is (785)231-1010 ext. 1629. Students may also voluntarily identify themselves to the instructor to discuss accommodations.

Class attendance is not required. Students should be aware, however, that lecture material will not duplicate text readings, and students will be responsible for lecture material on tests. And, obviously, routine absence will prevent active class participation. Students who miss scheduled tests or due dates for take-home test portions will be required to provide valid excuses for their absence.

Reading Assignments and Tentative Lecture Schedule

January 23: Introduction

January 28: Origins of civilization

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 1

Primary source reading: *Epic of Gilgamesh*

January 30: Mesopotamian civilizations

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 2

Primary source reading: comparative law codes in Louis Cohn-Haft, *Source Readings in Ancient History*

February 4: Egyptian civilization

Primary source reading: *Egyptian Book of the Dead*

February 6: Indus Valley Civilization

February 11: The Origins of Chinese Civilization

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 3

February 13: The Diffusion of Civilization

February 18: The Peopling of the Americas

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 4

February 20: Celtic Europe

Primary source reading: *Mabinogion*

February 25: Regional Civilizations and Empire in the Middle East: Israel, Phoenicia, Assyria

February 27: Review Session

March 4: FIRST IN-CLASS TEST

March 6: FIRST TAKE-HOME TEST DUE

Emergence of New Civilizations: Persia and Greece

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 5

March 11: Classical Greece Civilization

Primary source reading: Sophocles, *The Theban Plays* or selections from Plato, *The Republic*

March 13: Greece continued; Rome begun

March 18–24: SPRING BREAK

March 25: Rome from Republic to Empire

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 6

Primary source selection: Vergil, *Aeneid* (selections) or Petronius, *Satyricon*

March 27: Rome continued

April 1: The Consolidation of Chinese Civilization

Primary source selections: Confucius, *Analects* or Lao Zi (Lao Tzu), *Dao De Jing (Tao Te Ching)*

April 3: The Golden Age of India

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 7

Primary source reading: *Bhagavad Gita*

April 8: Review session

April 10: SECOND IN-CLASS TEST

April 15: SECOND TAKE-HOME TEST DUE

Trade and Civilization in Africa and Asia

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 8

April 17: The Making of World Religions: The Spread of Buddhism and Christianity

April 22: After the Fall (West): Medieval Europe

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 9

Primary source selection: Asser, *Life of Alfred* plus Bede, *Life of Cuthbert*

April 24: After the Fall (East): Byzantium

April 29: Origins of Islam

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 10

Primary source selection: *Koran* (selections)

May 1: Islamic Civilization: Religion, Empire, Culture

Primary source reading: *1001 Nights* (selections)

May 3: Tang China and Asian Civilizations after Tang

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 11

Primary source selection: Lady Murasaki, *Tale of Genji* (excerpt)

May 6: Centralized Civilizations in the Americas

Text reading: Bulliet, chapter 12

Primary source selection: Lopez-Portilla, *Broken Spears*

May 8: THIRD TAKE-HOME TEST DUE

Review Session

May 15, 5:30: FINAL IN-CLASS EXAMINATION

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