

The World to 1500
University of California, Santa Cruz
History 2A
Winter Quarter 2021

Instructor: Noel Smyth, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Monday 12:30-2:30PM, and by appointment

Office: On Zoom, please email in advance to set up a zoom meeting during office hours

Zoom Link for Office Hours:

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/99734114580?pwd=ZU9aSWM4TnE0VjQ1TkVWK3lWMXpMdz09>

Zoom Password for Office Hours: Chris Eyre

E-mail: egs10897@ucsc.edu

Teaching Assistants (TA's):

1) Alexyss McClellan-Ufugusuku <amcclell@ucsc.edu>

2) Christina Wang <mwang151@ucsc.edu>

Discussion Sections (on Zoom)

[DIS 01A](#) [Monday](#) [6:40PM-07:45PM](#)

[DIS 01B](#) [Friday](#) [2:40PM-03:45PM](#)

[DIS 01C](#) [Tuesday](#) [8:30AM-09:35AM](#)

[DIS01D](#) [Thursday](#) [6:40PM-07:45PM](#)

- **Zoom Password** for all discussion sections: Sahara

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history of the world to 1500. We will examine different areas of the world and investigate how various cultures and societies have interacted with each other and how they have changed over time. There is an emphasis to understand how the world became the way it is today. We will focus on a number of themes including the interconnections between people across time and space, the movements of people around the world, the emergence of empires and other types of states. There will also be a focus on families and gender. We will look at the political, social, and cultural aspects of many world societies over time and you will be asked to draw comparisons and to make connections among the history of humans on this planet with the goal of better understanding the diversity of people and places in our world today.

Required Textbook:

1) B.G. Smith, M. Van de Mieroop, R. Von Glahn, K. Lane. *World in the Making: A Global History, Volume One: To 1500* (Oxford University Press, 2019). ISBN: 978-0-190-84923-8

-The book is available for purchase through the [Bay Tree Bookstore](#).

2) Additional readings are posted to the Canvas course page.

Canvas Course Page:

Additional readings, lecture slides, discussion forums, zoom links, assignment information, and the syllabus can all be found on the course Canvas page: <https://canvas.ucsc.edu/>

Course Evaluation

Grading for the course will be based on the following:

Participation in Discussion Forums	5%
Primary Source Analysis Assignments	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm 1	15%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

100-98%: A+
97-93%: A
92-90%: A-
89-88%: B+
87-83%: B
82-80%: B-
79-78%: C+
77-73%: C
72-70%: C- (or No Pass)
69-68%: D+ (or No Pass)
67-63%: D (or No Pass)
62-60%: D- (or No Pass)
59% or below: F (or No Pass)

Primary Source Analysis Assignments:

You will complete primary source analysis assignments most weeks based on primary source readings for each module. The assignments will usually be due at the end of each week. Due dates and additional instructions for each assignment will be found on Canvas.

Quizzes:

There will be a quiz in most weeks. There will be a total of 7 quizzes, and I will drop the lowest quiz score when computing your final grade. Due dates and additional instructions for each quiz will be found on Canvas. Each quiz will be based on the textbook reading for a particular module. For each quiz, you will have a set amount of time to answer map questions, multiple choice questions, and to define key terms in your own words. Each quiz can only be taken once. Even though the quiz is open-book, the best scores will go to students who complete the readings before taking the quiz.

Midterm Exams:

There are 2 midterm exams for this course. The midterms will be administered through Canvas and you will get more information about the exams in the modules. The first exam will be due around week 4-5 and the second exam will be due around week 7-8.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be due during finals week. Further details and instructions for the exam will be given on Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Writers will often draw upon what they have read and are influenced by the writing and thoughts of others. When you write, you enter into a dialogue with others and citing your sources is the best way to enter the conversation and to acknowledge those who have written before you!

Writers also use citations to alert a reader where to find more information about the subject matter under discussion and citing also provides transparency to the ideas and sources that helped influence your viewpoint. However, when a student does not cite their source of reference, it is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity that has penalties including failing the class and expulsion from the university. So, when in doubt, cite your sources!!! Further information on how to cite properly and avoid plagiarism can be found on the UCSC library website: <https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/citesources/plagiarism>

Distribution of Lecture Notes and Materials: Please note that students may be disciplined for selling, preparing, or distributing course lecture notes, including notes created independently by students. The unauthorized sale of lecture notes, handouts, readers or other course materials is a violation of campus policies as well as state law. Violation by distribution to the public may also constitute copyright infringement subject to legal action.

NOTE: Please do no record any discussion sections.

Accommodations and Inclusivity:

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your “Accommodation Authorization Letter” from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, as soon as possible in the academic quarter, preferably during week 1. I also encourage you to discuss with me ways I/we can ensure your full participation in this course. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to learn more about the many services offered by the DRC. You can visit their website (<http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.html>), make an appointment, and meet in-person with a DRC staff member. The phone number is 831-459-2089 or email drc@ucsc.edu

Additional support:

College can be wonderful but it can also exacerbate emotional and financial challenges. If you are confronting circumstances that undermine your ability to succeed in your studies, or know someone having such challenges, please contact [Slug Support](#) or the [Dean of Students](#) which can help you access a variety of support resources including [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) and Food Access Resources. If you need help navigating these services, please speak with me and I will help you navigate potential support systems at UCSC.

Course Schedule

Note #1: I reserve the right to change the syllabus if it is needed. If I make any revisions to the course schedule, I will alert the class of any changes in class and on Canvas. Make sure to check your email regularly for any updates, particularly if you must miss class.

Module 1: The Ancient World of Humans to 4000 BCE

Module 2: Cities and States: Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley

Module 3: Early Empires: Shang Dynasty, Egypt, Assyria, and Persia

Module 4: Greece, Rome, and Han China

Module 5: The Ancient Americas and Christianity in Eurasia

Module 6: Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism

Module 7: Oceania, Polynesia, Mesoamerica, and the Andes

Module 8: Networks of Trade and Knowledge in Eurasia

Module 9: The Crusades and the Mongol World Empire

Module 10: Black Death and the emergence of a global system