**North South University**

**Department of History and Philosophy**

**Course Title: Introduction to World Civilization**

**Course code: His 102**

**Fall, 2018**

**Course Teacher: Professor Dr. Mohammad Shah**

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**Introduction**

The course is an overview of the development of selected major civilizations of the world. Many scholars define civilization as a complex culture (the way of life, common practices, and shared understandings of a group of people) with five characteristics of Civilization:

1. Advanced cities (center of trade with large group of people living together).
2. Specialized workers, such as traders, government officials, soldiers, police, potters, teachers, metalworkers, farmers, barbers, weavers, cobblers, blacksmiths. The wide range of craft artisans helped cities become center of trade.
3. Complex institutions, such as government, religion, education, economy.
4. Record Keeping: As government, religion, and the economy became more complex, people recognized the need to keep records of business transactions, historical events, and traditions by developing the systems of writing.
5. Improved technology: New tools and techniques are always needed to solve problems that emerge when large groups of people live together, For example, in early civilizations some farmers harnessed the powers of animals and nature. They used ox or horse-drawn ploughs to turn the ploughs. Sumerian artisans relied on new technology to make their tasks easier.

The course has been designed on the idea that the study of the history of world civilizations makes one realize the essential lessons of by gone years.

Secondly, awareness of civilization helps to compare the past civilizations with the present, and the past examples of civilizations help to make better choices in solving everyday problems.

Finally, in course of our learning civilizations, it will be felt that while every individual civilization is unique, these civilizations were created by similar, though not exact, forces. In telling the stories of civilizations, special attention has been given to significant and recurring themes:

1. Since the earliest times, humans have had to deal with their surroundings in order to survive.
2. From early times to the present, human cultures have been concerned with how to use their scarce resources to satisfy their needs.
3. Since the beginning of the time, human cultures have shared a similar desire to grow more powerful – often by dominating other groups, through empire building.
4. Development of science and technology has played a key role in building civilizations.
5. Civilizations were built by people and institutions in power.
6. Often great changes have been made only through force or revolutions.
7. Throughout history of world civilizations, humans around the world have been guided by, as much as anything else, the religious and ethical beliefs.
8. Today, people around the world share many things, from art and architecture, to food, to ideas.
9. Most importantly, people are more alike than they realize. Throughout the history of civilizations, it will appear that humans have confronted similar obstacles, have struggled to achieve similar goals, and continually have strived to better themselves and the world around them.

Keeping all these perspectives in mind we have organized our course under the following heads:

1. Human Settlement in Pre-historic Age
2. Mesopotamian Civilization
3. Egyptian Civilization
4. Indus valley civilization
5. Persian Civilization
6. Greek Civilization
7. Roman Civilization
8. Chinese Civilization
9. **Mid Term Examination 1**
10. Muslim Civilization
11. World Religions and Ethical Systems
12. Feudal System
13. Medieval Education: Growth of Universities
14. Civilization under Holy Roman Empire
15. The Renaissance in Europe
16. The Crusades and its Impact
17. **Mid Term Examination II**
18. **Students’ Group Presentation**
19. The Industrial Revolution and its Impact
20. Colonialism and Imperialism
21. Nationalism and the Emergence of New Nations
22. Impact of Science and Technology
23. Economic Globalization
24. Global Security Issues and Global Interdependence

**Final Examination will be conducted as per the NSU Schedule**

**Assessment of exam scripts will take into consideration of the following points:**

1. **Analysis of Facts**
2. **Skills of Arguments, and**
3. **Linguistic skill and intelligibility**

**Marks Distribution:**

**Attendance in Classes: 5% of Total 100**

**Mid-term Examination I: 25% ditto**

**Mid Term Examination II: 25% ditto**

**Students’ Group Presentation: 10% ditto**

**Assignment writing: 5% ditto**

**Final Exam: 30% ditto**

**Grading of Marks: As Per NSU Rule**