

World History to 1500 (HIS 121)

Humanities Division, History Department Fall 2013

Instructor: Chris Laney

Office: M238 (236-4631)

Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30 AM; Tue 9:00-10:00 AM

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of the origins of humankind and the development of ancient and Medieval societies across the world (India, China, Africa, the Americas, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East). *Skills Prerequisites: ENG 020 and 060.* See complete student learning outcomes here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14_XtHXJH2bjYacZU5uEo95niUhwda4CJG-S4r7-ae-s/edit#

COURSE MATERIALS:

- Textbook: Strayer, Robert W., *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History, Volume 1*, 2nd edition, Bedford St. Martins, 2013.
- Colored pencils or graphics software (e.g., Photoshop)
- Course Website (Moodle): Login here - <http://berkshirecc.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>. Read the Moodle User's Guide (<http://www.berkshirecc.edu/MoodleUsersGuide>) and follow the directions for logging in. If you have difficulties with access or with technical features of Moodle, email OnlineHelp@berkshirecc.edu, along with a copy (CC) of your email to me at claney@berkshirecc.edu. Put **"Online Help"** in the subject box, and in the message include your course and section numbers (HIS-121-03/ 04) and a brief explanation of your technical problem.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:

Assignment	Points
3 Tests @ 70 points each Consist of: Essays, multiple choice, matching, and map questions.	210
Comprehensive Essay @30 points A take-home essay in which you will reflect on and analyze major themes from the course. Submitted at the time of the Final (Test 3).	30
Introduction @ 10 points Posted in the "Introductions" forum in the course homepage in the first few days of class.	10
11 Chapter Quizzes @ 5 points each	50

Quizzes will be taken in Moodle, outside of class. They will typically be available from 3:00 pm the day before they are due, until 11:59 pm of the due date. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.	
6 Map Assignments @ 10 points each Derived from maps in your book as well as various map resources available online.	60
3 Reading Assignments @ 20 points each You will interpret and write about a variety of historical sources and articles.	60
TOTAL POINTS	420

Optional Assignments and Extra Credit:

You have the option of earning **extra credit** by watching up to *two* history-related films and writing essays about those films. Additionally, you may also choose to do any of the following **optional assignments**: Book Review (50 points); Research Paper (100 points); Class Presentation (50 points). All Extra Credit and Optional Assignments are due by **Monday, December 9** (but there are earlier due dates for optional assignments, e.g., rough drafts). For more information go here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UFLCkMp5HrIJXzmsHe-Vin0xA2LG9fneS7OG6OQVOgA/edit?usp=sharing>

CORE COMPETENCIES:

In this course the embedded core competencies are **Historical Knowledge and Reasoning (CC-HK)** and **Community and Global Awareness (CC-CG)**. Go here for more about the Core Competencies requirement:

<http://www.berkshirecc.edu/CoreCompetencies>.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

More than three missed hours of class is excessive and can be a factor in calculating your course grade. If you miss a regular class session, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and for getting assignments from other students or from the website. Before dropping the course, please feel free to talk to me first; sometimes there are alternatives to such a drastic measure. If you decide to drop, do not stop attending without officially withdrawing through the Registrar. I may withdraw you after one week of missed class, but *not necessarily*. If you simply stop attending you may receive an F on your transcript.

Makeup Policies: There are no makeup quizzes. However, you will be allowed to take ***one makeup test*** during the semester. If you miss a regularly scheduled test date and do not show up for any of the makeup dates, you will receive a zero on the missed test. There are six makeup test dates during the semester, and you must sign up to take your makeup during one of those times (there are no individually scheduled makeup tests). The makeup dates and the sign-up sheet are here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1frzEXDDU8ZfoUhbmgDG9zSW89cHf1Z8J48ryOrN9N-Lk/edit>

Late Assignments: Only *map assignments* will be accepted late - up to one class period after the due date - but they will be automatically deducted **10%** in grade. No other assignments are accepted late; however, some missed points can be made up by doing the [extra credit](#).

Mobile Devices: You are welcome to use tablets or laptops for taking notes in class (be prepared to show me your notes). Use of a cell phones or other mobile device for games, texting, email, etc., will result in the deduction of 1 numerical point from your course grade. If the *instructor's* cell phone rings in class, everyone in the class will receive one extra credit point.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The penalties for academic misconduct range from a zero grade on the assignment or test to a failing grade in the course. For detailed information, including tips on how to avoid plagiarism, go to this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IdHK4Yk1Qs0jKJU16nRH591UMApLRsbDWfppi3_kIS4/edit

COURSE OUTLINE:

UNIT 1: Prehistory to 500 BCE

Origins and Evolution: the Universe, Earth, Life

Early Humans, Climate, and Agriculture

First Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China

Test 1: Monday, October 7

UNIT 2: 500 BCE - 500 CE

Classical Civilizations (e.g., Greece, Rome, Han China)

Emergence of World Religions (e.g., Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism)

Civilizations in Africa and the Americas (e.g, Meroe, The Maya)

Test 2: Wednesday, November 13

UNIT 3: 500-1500 CE

Commerce and Culture: Roads of Silk, Sea, and Sand

China at its Peak

The Arabs; Islam

Medieval Europe

The Mongols

Test 3 (Final Exam):

11:00 class: Thursday, December 19, 10:30-12:30

12:00 class: Wednesday, December 18, 1:00-3:00