

HIST 103 006
WORLD HISTORY TO 1500

Fall 2008
Maybank Hall, Room 306
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12:00 p.m.-12:50 p.m.

Professor GAO Bei
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Office Hours:
MWF: 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Course Description

This course aims to explore the world's societies and civilizations from the earliest times to the Age of European Exploration. It seeks to encourage students to think about history from a "global," non-Western, perspective. At the same time, it will require students to make constant comparisons and to examine the encounters and exchanges between different regions, cultures and peoples. It will underscore that it is important to appreciate how the world, East and West, became integrated economically and culturally well before the Age of Exploration.

This class will consist of lectures, discussions, research-based oral presentations, quizzes, exams and writing assignments. Students must come well prepared to discussion sections and participate. In the course of the semester, students will learn to read, think and write critically and analytically about history.

Required Readings

Students will be required to purchase the following textbooks from the College of Charleston Bookstore:

John P. McKay, Bennett D. Hill, John Buckler, Patricia Buckley Ebrey, and Roger B. Beck, *A History of World Societies, Vol. I, to 1715*, 7th edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Mark A Kishlansky, *Sources of World History: Readings for World Civilization, Vol. I*, 4th edition (Thomson Wadsworth, 2007)

Marco Polo, *Travels of Marco Polo*, (Signet Classics, 2004)

Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes* (Saqi Essentials, 2006)

NOTE: Course readings and lectures do NOT cover identical material. Rather, they complement one another. You are responsible for material in both lectures and reading assignments.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Pop Quizzes – 10% of final grade

Research-Based Oral Presentation – 10% of final grade

Midterm Examination – 25% of final grade

Critical Book Essay – 20% of final grade

Cumulative Final Examination – 25% of final grade

Class discussion and participation– 10% of final grade

Grading Policy:

A = 93-100

A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89

B = 83-86

B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79

C = 73-76

C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69

D = 63-66

D- = 60-62

F = below 60

Pop Quizzes

During the course of the semester, the professor will administer six unannounced multiple choice quizzes consisting of five questions taken from that period's reading assignments and lecture notes. You must take **FIVE** of these quizzes; your best five grades will be recorded. The quizzes will be administered during the first five minutes of that week's lecture class. No make-up quizzes will be given. Students arriving late to class will not be given extra time to complete the quiz. Students arriving more than five minutes after the period begins will not be allowed to take the quiz.

Research-Based Oral Presentation for "World History Project -- Traditional Dress of the World"

The history of the world can be read in clothing. The different materials, designs, colors and functions of clothing can tell us a lot about the societies and cultures of specific historical periods. While today business suits and T-shirts are overwhelmingly accepted by most of the world, traditional dress can help us understand the history and identity of different cultures.

Each student should choose one country on which to perform research (you can also choose more than one country if you want to make a comparison). The research should focus on questions such as how, when and why traditional dress was designed? What do the patterns or colors of the clothing mean? What can we learn about that country's history from its traditional dress? The presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes including a two to three minute question and answer time.

NOTE: You must consult and list at least **TWO BOOKS** for your presentation.

Research-Based Oral Presentations will be conducted at the beginning of each week's discussion section. On **Friday, September 5**, the professor will pass out a sign up sheet on which students will register for their presentations.

Critical Book Essay:

Students are required to write a short (4-5 pages) critical essay concerning **ONE** of the books on our reading list (Marco Polo and Amin Maalouf) during the semester. The essay must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced, with one-inch margins all around.

The due dates for these reviews will be:

Travels of Marco Polo

Monday, November 17

Crusades Through Arab Eyes

Friday, December 5

Again, you may choose to write about any ONE of these books. Well in advance of the due date the professor will supply you with a handout describing the issue or issues you should address thoughtfully in your essays. Your papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day on which it is due. Essays will be penalized one half letter grade for each day they are late. Failure to submit a paper will result in a grade of zero (0).

Class Discussions

You will see from the syllabus that most Fridays are reserved for class-wide discussions of our readings and lectures. This will give us an opportunity to clarify themes from the lectures, explore in more depth the issues we have addressed earlier in the week, and to examine closely the sources historians use as they reconstruct the story of the world's past. This portion of your grade will be based upon attendance and your full participation. **Note:** It is impossible to receive an "A" for the course without contributing actively to our discussions!

Examinations

A midterm examination will be given in class on **October 10**. The final examination, on **December 15**, will be cumulative in nature; it will cover material for the entire period. No make-up examinations will be allowed (except if you have a note from your physician). Failure to take an examination will result in a grade of zero (0).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend EVERY class. No student may accumulate more than **FIVE** absences (EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED) without suffering a penalty to his or her grade. For each absence after the fifth, a half letter grade will be deducted from the student's final examination score. Students who do not attend class can be assured that their grade will suffer dramatically.

Classroom Etiquette

- YOU MUST TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES ONCE IN THE CLASSROOM.
- TEXT MESSAGING IS NOT ALLOWED DURING THE LECTURES.

NOTE: the professor will reserve the right to penalize the violation of these rules.

Academic Integrity

You are all part of a community of honor here at the College of Charleston. As such, you are bound in your behavior by the college's Honor System. As this system makes clear, dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated in your academic work. Cheating and plagiarism will be discovered and punished severely. For a thorough treatment of the college's Honor Code, you are encouraged to read the College of Charleston Student Handbook available on the college's web site. If plagiarism or cheating is discovered on any assignment, the student will fail that assignment.

Lectures and Required Readings

Wednesday, August 27, Introduction to the Course

The syllabus, the themes of the course, and some thoughts on reading a work of history critically and analytically

Readings: --None

Friday, August 29, "What is History?"

Discussion and the model Research Oral Presentation by the professor

Monday, September 1

The Beginning of Human History

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 3-6.

Wednesday, September 3

Early Civilizations- (1) Mesopotamia

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 6-12.

Friday, September 5

Discussion and Research Oral Presentations

Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 3-4, 6-7, (pp.11- 23, 29-36).

Sign Up for Oral Presentations

Monday, September 8

Early Civilizations- (2) Egypt

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.12-22.

Wednesday, September 10

Early Civilizations - (3) Other Peoples of the Near East and Europe

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.22-32.

Friday, September 12

Discussion and Research Oral Presentations

Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 4, 8-10, (pp.16-23, 37-46).

Monday, September 15

The Emergence of Civilization in India

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 37-46.

Wednesday, September 17

Ancient India -- Religion and Culture

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 46-57.

Friday, September 19

Discussion and Research Oral Presentations

Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 16-18, (pp. 69-81).

Monday, September 22

The Dawn of Civilization in China -- the Early Dynasties

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 63-76.

Wednesday, September 24

The "Hundred Schools" of Chinese Thoughts

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 76-84.

Friday, September 26

Discussion and Research Oral Presentations

Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 19-24 (pp. 81-104).

Monday, September 29

Ancient Greece -- (1) from the Earliest Times to the Archaic Period

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 89- 97.

Wednesday, October 1

Ancient Greece -- (2) Classical Greece and Hellenism

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 97-123.

Friday, October 3

Discussion and Research Oral Presentations

Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 11-15, (pp.47-68).

Monday, October 6

Ancient Rome - (1) from the Founding to the Republic

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.125-136.

Wednesday, October 8

Ancient Rome - (2) the Roman Empire

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.136-159.

Friday, October 10

Midterm Examination

Monday, October 13
Fall Break

Wednesday, October 15
The Rise of Chinese Empires -- the Qin and Han Dynasties
Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 161- 174.

Friday, October 17
Discussion and Research Oral Presentations
Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapter 38, (pp. 164-169).

Monday, October 20
Traditional China -- Sui and Tang Dynasties
McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 174 -180.

Wednesday, October 22
Encounters and Exchanges along the Silk Road
Readings: -- none.

Friday, October 24
Discussion and Research Oral Presentations
Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 40-41, (pp. 172-179).

Monday, October 27
The Making of Europe -- Europe during the "Dark Ages"
Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 191- 206.

Wednesday, October 29
The Byzantine Empire
Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 206-214.

Friday, October 31
Discussion and Research Oral Presentations
Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 47-48, (pp. 195-203).

Monday, November 3
The Early Islamic World
Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 219-257.

Wednesday, November 5
Early Civilizations in Africa
Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.259- 284

Friday, November 7
Discussion and Research Oral Presentations
Readings: -- Kishlansky, chapters 31-31, 36- 37 (pp. 128- 136, 154-162)

Monday, November 10

Civilizations in Central and Southern Asia

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 289-319.

Wednesday, November 12

Traditional East Asia

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 321-341.

Friday, November 14

Discussion: *Travels of Marco Polo*

Monday, November 17

Medieval Europe

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.347-382.

Book Review on *Travels of Marco Polo* due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, November 19

The Crusades

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp.355-357.

Friday, November 21

Research Oral Presentations

Monday, November 24

Early Civilization in the Americas

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 387-415

Wednesday and Friday, November 26 and 28

Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, December 1

Discussion: *Crusades Through Arab Eyes*

Wednesday, December 3

The Renaissance

Readings: -- McKay, Hill, Buckler, Ebrey and Beck, pp. 417- 455.

Friday, December 5

The Birth of the Global Marketplace

Readings: -- none.

Book Review on *Crusades Through Arab Eyes* due at the beginning of class

Monday, December 8: Summing Up and Review for the Final Exam

Monday, December 15

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAMINATION