

History 103 (016)
World History to 1500
Autumn 2008

TR 12:15-1:30 Rm. 304 Maybank
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Dr. Robert Crout
Office: 114 Maybank Hall
Office hours: TR 3-3:30,
and by appointment

Catalogue Description: “An introduction to civilizations and cultures in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas and the interactions among them, dealing with themes such as political, economic, social, and intellectual systems, religion, science, and technology.”

Instructor’s Course Objectives: By the end of this course, you should be able to meet the following objectives that I have identified:

- 1) understand and appreciate the nature of history and the historical inquiry,
- 2) understand and describe the interaction of political, economic, geographic, religious, and social factors in World History,
- 3) identify the major personalities of World History who have significantly influenced the development of the world, and
- 4) analyze the developments that have influenced the structure and content of the contemporary world.
- 5) apply reading, writing, and oral skills to the development, formulation, and expression of an understanding of the subject matter covered in this course.

Student Objectives: These objectives you will determine by vote:

- 1)
- 2)

Course Requirements:

The following required printed books are available for purchase at the Bookstore:

Textbook:

Peter Stearns and others, *World History in Brief*, 6th ed., vol. 1 (N.Y.: Pearson, Longman, 2007). ISBN 0-321-48832-6

Documents Book:

Peter Stearns and others, *Documents in World History, The Great Traditions*, vol. 1 ISBN 0-321-33054-4

Other Books for the Topic of the Semester:

John Kelly, *The Great Mortality* (New York: HarperCollins, 2005) ISBN 0-06-000693-5

John Aberth, *The Black Death: The Great Mortality* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2005) ISBN 0-312-40087-X

Please bring the text and documents books with you every day to class because there are artifacts (documents and illustrations) in them we shall be studying and analyzing. If you do not bring your textbook to class, you may lose points on pop exams that carry points on your section exams.

Grades:

It is your responsibility to keep up with the assignments in the Course Schedule and to prepare yourself fully to participate in class discussions over assignments. There will be no make-up examinations for section tests; I’ll add the weight of the missed examination onto that of the final examination. Your final grade in the course will include:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>percentages</u>
Class participation and discussion	20
Comparative Book Review	20
2 Section Tests	40
Final exam with take-home essays	20
	100

The following grade structure will apply:

A 93-100	C 73-75	
A- 89-92	C- 69-72	
B+ 86-88	D+ 66-68	
B 83-85	D 63-65	
B- 79-82	D- 60-62	
C+ 76-78	F less than 60	WA

While I do not post grades or communicate them by phone or e-mail (for legal confidentiality considerations), I can respond if you provide a stamped self-addressed envelope or postcard.

Behavior: Please don't bring active computers, telephone devices, pagers, or electronic recorders to class without my prior approval and that only for verifiable medical cause. These or other disruptive behaviors can result in your temporary or permanent removal from this class. Please check the "Classroom Code of Conduct" in the Student Handbook. Students are responsible for obtaining any materials shown or handed out in classes they miss.

Attendance: Your regular attendance in and attentiveness to classes is important. We'll be discussing material, documents, and artifacts not in the textbook which may appear in tests. You are personally responsible for material covered in the readings but not presented in class; you are also responsible for material covered in class that is not in the textbook. It is your responsibility to obtain such information; it is not my responsibility to make it available to you outside of class. Class discussion over your and my ideas has proven to be a valuable activity in preparing you for examinations. Unannounced quizzes may be given on assigned readings and the textbook; these will count as points on your section exams.

Comparative Book Reviews: (No less than three full pages nor more than five full pages in 12 point Times New Roman with no more than one inch margins; just title it Comparative Book Review with your name underneath) This analytical paper is due no later than classtime on November 13. The essential purpose of a comparative book review is to identify the theses of the (two) scholars, compare their credentials and approaches, and analyze how they reach their conclusions. The first task in finding their credentials is to identify their terminal degrees and institutions, the field and topic of that research (thesis or dissertation), the specific areas/titles in which they have published, and the kinds of sources they have used in preparing these books. To what degree were they successful, and do their approaches or conclusions differ? How?

Class assignments: Students must complete all assignments (including the final exam) to pass the course. All requirements must be completed by the last day of classes. Papers should be typed, proofread, and written according to the standards of modern English usage. Written work will have correct spelling, appropriate punctuation, and exact grammar. Papers with insufficiently dark, readable print will be returned ungraded. Only hard copies will be accepted. Students should retain a hard copy of their own work. It is the responsibility of the student to insure that I receive all papers and exams. Technological problems (such as computer-printer-disc issues) are not a valid excuse. The College of Charleston provides a Writing Lab for issues related to modern English usage.

Class Discussions: I may divide the class roll into several discussion groups. These groups will provide you with an opportunity to interact on a regular basis with a small peer group for more intimate discussion of issues during and outside class. You may find these groups helpful for studying for tests, sharing class notes, and discussing assignments. Occasionally I'll use these groups during class for demonstrations or simulations to enhance your understanding. Class

discussion is meant to draw out the implications of what is said. I'll often follow your answer with another question. The intention is not to embarrass but to stimulate critical thinking skills and to explore historical issues more deeply. This may cause some discomfort but is not unusual in a college level course. Please don't speak until first recognized. Students who are not present or who do not participate in discussions should not expect to receive a satisfactory class participation grade.

To benefit most from the class:

Complete the assigned readings before, not after, each class. Keep up with the readings; do not fall behind. If you miss class, borrow notes from a fellow student. While I do not provide class notes or outside tutoring, please feel free to come by during office hours to ask any individual questions you have. If you are unable to meet scheduled office hours, ask for an appointment to arrange another time. For a very brief response, I am on e-mail (croutr@cofc.edu); however, I can't not make complex responses by e-mail. Come see me. If you make an appointment to see me outside regular office hours and cannot attend, contact me immediately beforehand.

College of Charleston Honor Code: You are responsible for reading and complying with the College of Charleston Honor Code (Student handbook). Plagiarism is a serious offense.

Schedule of Class Assignments:

Topic One. Introduction to the Course; What is History? (beginning)

Aug. 26, 28 Introductions; review of syllabus; instructor's course objectives; Identifying student-based course objectives; What do you think "history" is, and why do you think that? A definition of history.

Topic Two Early Civilizations, Nomadic Societies

Sep. 2, 4 Textbook, chs. 1, 2, 3 (pp.1-46)
Documents: The Gilgamesh Epic, The Code of Hammurabi, Book of the Dead

Topic Three Classical China

Sep. 9, 11 Textbook, ch. 4 (pp. 47-73)
Documents: Confucius, The Small Analects, Han Feizi, Dao de Jing, Ban Zhao

Topic Four Classical India

Sep. 16, 18 Textbook, ch. 5 (pp. 74-92)
Documents: The Bhagavad Gita, Buddha, Four Noble Truths, The Arthashastra

Topic Five The Classical Mediterranean and Persia

Sep. 23, 25 Textbook, ch. 6 (pp. 93-114)
Documents: Aristotle, Cicero, Zarathustra

Topic Six Conclusion of the Classical Era

Sep. 30, Oct. 2 Textbook, ch. 7 (pp. 115-138)
Documents: Acts of [according to] John

Topic Seven The Rise of Islam

Oct. 7, 9 Textbook, ch. 8 (pp. 139-169)
Documents: The Koran, The Hadith

Exam No. 1: Oct. 9 The Classical Era (topics one through six)

Fall Break Oct. 12-14

Topic Eight India and Southeast Asia under Islam

Oct. 16 Textbook, ch. 9 (pp. 170-179)

Topic Nine Africa and Islam
Oct. 21, 23 Textbook, ch. 10 (pp. 180-191)
Documents: Ibn Battuta

Topic Ten Byzantium and Russia
Oct. 28, 30 Textbook, ch. 11 (pp. 192-206)
Documents: Procopius, Russian Primary Chronicle

Topic Eleven The Medieval West
Nov. 4, 6 Textbook, ch. 12 (pp. 207-225)
Documents: Feudal Documents

Comparative Book Review of Kelly and Aberth due no later than classtime, Nov. 6

Topic Twelve East Asia
Nov. 11 Textbook, ch. 13 (pp. 226-245)
Documents: Samurai Values

Exam No. 2: Nov. 13 Medieval Christendom and Islam (topics seven through eleven)

Discussion of Books on The Black Death
Nov. 18, 20 Kelly, *The Great Mortality*, Aberth, *The Black Death*

Topic Thirteen The Mongols
Nov. 25 Textbook, ch. 15 (pp. 257-265)
Documents: Secret History of the Mongols, Asian and European Sources

Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 26-29

Topic Fourteen The Americas
Dec. 5, 7 Textbook, ch. 14 (pp. 246-256)
Documents: Popul Vuh; Aztec Creation Story

Final Exam (Comprehensive Exam) Thursday, December 11, 12-3 P.M.

Do not plan to stop attending this course before completing its requirements (including the final exam) unless you accept the consequences upon your grades. Any uncompleted assignments may result in a course grade of F. Requests for a change in the final exam date must be accompanied by the appropriate written form. Early departure from campus is NOT a valid reason. For the College policy on final exams, see "Absence from Final Examinations" in the College Bulletin.

Do not consider this syllabus as a contract; it is a tentative work plan, and therefore subject to changes that I consider reasonable as circumstances warrant. Records gathered in this course are for my use only and not for commercial purposes (as consistent with South Carolina law). Students are prohibited from selling or being paid to take notes during this course for or by any person or commercial firm without my express, written consent.