

World History to 1500

Maybank Hall, Office # 214
Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-12pm
Thursday 10am-12pm
And by appointment:
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Office phone #: (843) 953-3033

Fall 2008
MWF, 8-8:50am, 10-10:50am
Maybank 304, 306

Purpose of the course:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the beginnings of world history from the ancient world through 1500. It focuses on political, social, economic, cultural, gender, and religious history of early societies around the world in a thematic as well as chronological format. The class particularly concentrates on examining how interactions and cross-cultural exchanges worked to shape and form societies throughout the ancient world. Understanding how societies linked together through trade networks, communication, the exchange of religious and cultural traditions, linguistic connections, similar social structures, and differences in cultures demonstrate the formation of a truly world and global history rather than one that is European or Western-centric. The class aims to examine how the unique traditions found in each society mixed with the interactions of groups of people over time to form the early history of the world to 1500. The class is designed to have students understand the past on its own terms to see the differences as well as to draw similarities with issues found in the world today. To this end, the class concentrates on reading primary sources in depth to examine the perspectives of a variety of people and issues throughout World history.

Required Texts:

Traditions and Encounters, A Global Perspective on the Past, vol. 1 From the Beginning to 1500, 4th edition. Edited by Jerry Bentley and Herbert Ziegler. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2008.

Sources of World History, Readings for World Civilization, vol. 1, 4th edition. Edited by Mark Kishlansky. Belmont, California: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.

Marco Polo. The Travels. Translated by Ronald Latham. New York: Penguin Books, 1958.

Ibn Battutah, The Travels of Ibn Battutah. Edited by Tim Macintosh-Smith. New York: London: Picador Books, 2002.

Course Requirements:

Response Paper # 1 : 10 % 2-3 pages

Response Paper # 2: 10 % 2-3 pages

Response Paper # 3: 20 % 4-6 pages

Midterm: 20 %

Final: 25 %

Participation (includes attendance, oral presentations, in-class assignments): 15 %

Your papers and exams will be assessed according to your ability to demonstrate critical thinking, textual analysis, clear use of evidence, and an understanding of the course material. Your grades will be based on your ability to construct a clear thesis and support the argument with relevant evidence from the text. This also requires that each student produce his or her own individual and original work. You should work individually unless otherwise authorized. Plagiarism, such as borrowing from Internet sources, scholarly writing, or other student's papers without citation, will not be tolerated. I will be happy to address any questions or concerns you might have about writing papers, citing sources, etc...both in class or in office hours. There is also a writing lab available on campus at the Center for Student Learning for any questions you have about citation or style, grammar, and how to craft an argument for papers.

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C - = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D + = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D - = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = 59 or less

Turn your papers into me on the day that they are due. Late papers are not tolerated and will result in half a percentage point drop in the grade for everyday that they are late. I will accept papers via email only under exceptional circumstances with prior approval.

Policies

Absences: Since this class focuses heavily on discussion, you are expected to attend every class. You are allowed two unexcused absences before it counts against your participation grade. In case of illness or emergency, please let me know as soon as possible. For absences due to illness, scheduled athletic events or other school sponsored trips where you miss class or intend to miss class please visit the Absence Memo Office on 67 George Street (next to the Stern Center) to fill out the appropriate documentation.

Honor Code: There is an honor code at the College of Charleston that is taken very seriously. Any evidence of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism or other forms of cheating will be reported to Academic Affairs. You will be given an F for the assignment and possibly an F for the course. If you have questions about proper behavior with class assignments please see me or check the student handbook website:
http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/general_info/studenthandbook.html

Classroom conduct: Please turn off your cell phones during class. I understand that everyone forgets to turn it off at some point, but please make every effort to have it turned off as you arrive in class. This is a discussion oriented class where everyone's opinions and ideas are valued so please respect your fellow students. Late arrival is

discouraged as it is disruptive to the class. More than three late arrivals will result in one unexcused absence.

The College has accommodations in place for students with documented disabilities from the Center for Disability Services/SNAP in the Lightsey Center. Please come talk to me in office hours as soon as possible to make any arrangements needed.

I encourage you to use office hours throughout the semester to discuss any questions, comments, or concerns you might have about the class. Feel free to stop by with questions, drafts of papers, and any ideas, issues, or concerns that you want to talk about. The most effective way to reach me is through email. I am willing to meet outside office hours either after class or at another time by appointment. I look forward to working with you throughout the semester!

Course Schedule:

Week One: The Early Complex Societies, 3500-500 B.C.E.

Wednesday (Aug. 27th) Introduction, How would you define World history?

Friday (Aug. 29th) Early History and the Rise of Cities

Read Bentley: Chapter 1

Read Kishlansky: The Creation Epic

Week Two

Monday (Sept. 1) Mesopotamia

Read Kishlansky: The Epic of Gilgamesh

Wednesday (Sept. 3) Mesopotamia

Read Kishlansky: The Code of Hammurabi

Read Bentley: Chapter 2

Friday (Sept. 5th) Early African Societies: Egypt and the Bantu Migrations

Read Kishlansky: The Book of the Dead, Instructions in Letter Writing by an Egyptian

Read Bentley: Chapter 3

Week Three

Monday (Sept. 8th) Indus River Valley Civilizations and Early India

Read Kishlansky: The Upanishads

Read Bentley: Chapter 4

Wednesday (Sept. 10th) Early India

Friday (Sept. 12th) Early China

Read Kishlansky: The Book of Songs

Read Bentley: Chapter 5

Week Four

Monday (Sept. 15th) Early China

Read Kishlansky: The Art of War

Wednesday (Sept. 17th) The Americas

Read Kishlansky: Popol Vuh and The Ancestors of the People Called Indians

Read Bentley: Chapter 6
Friday (Sept. 19th) Persia
Read Bentley: Chapter 7
Response Paper # 1 Due

Week Five: Formation of Classical Societies, 500 B.C.E. to 500 C.E.

Monday (Sept. 22nd) The Unification of China
Read Kishlansky: Confucius, The Analects
Read Bentley: Chapter 8
Wednesday (Sept. 24th) China
Read Kishlansky: The Records of the Grand Historian of China
Friday (Sept. 26th) India
Read Kishlansky: Buddha, Sermons and Teachings

Week Six

Monday (Sept. 29th) India
Read Kishlansky: Bhagavad Gita
Read Bentley: Chapter 9
Wednesday (Oct. 1st) Greece
Read Kishlansky: Homer, The Iliad
Friday (Oct. 3rd) Greece
Read Kishlansky: Plato's The Apology and The Republic
Read Bentley: Chapter 10

Week Seven

Monday (Oct. 6th) Greece and the Hellenistic World
Read Kishlansky: Aristotle, Politics
Wednesday (Oct. 8th) Rome
Read Kishlansky: Virgil, The Aeneid
Friday (Oct. 10th) **Midterm**

Week Eight

Monday (Oct. 13th) Fall Break
Wednesday (Oct. 15th) Rome
Read Kishlansky: Cicero, On the Laws
Read Bentley: Chapter 11
Friday (Oct. 17th) Rome
Read Kishlansky: Suetonius, The Life of Augustus

Week Nine

Monday (Oct. 20th) Rise of Christianity
Read Kishlansky: Sermon on the Mount, Augustine of Hippo, The City of God
Wednesday (Oct. 22nd) The Silk Road
Read Bentley, Chapter 12
Friday (Oct. 24th) End of Classical Societies

Read Kishlansky: Tacitus, Germania

Week Ten – The Postclassical Era, 500 C.E. to 1500 C.E.

Monday (Oct. 27th) Byzantium

Read Kishlansky: Justinian, The Code, Procopius, Secret History

Read Bentley: Chapter 13, p. 317-336

Wednesday (Oct. 29th) Rise of Islam

Read Kishlansky: The Koran

Friday (Oct. 31st) Expansion of Islam

Read Bentley, Chapter 14

Read Kishlansky: Ibn Ishaq, The Life of Muhammad (after 733), Al-Biruni, The Life of the Brahmin (1030 C.E.), Ibn Said, Book of the Maghrib (13th century C.E.)

Week Eleven

Monday (Nov. 3rd) Empires in East Asia: China

Read Kishlansky: Lessons for Women, Precepts for Social Life

Wednesday (Nov. 5th) Early Japan

Read Kishlansky: The Lotus of the Wonderful Life, The Tale of Genji

Friday (Nov. 7th) Japan

Read Bentley Chapter 15

Read Kishlansky: The Hojo Code

Response Paper # 2 Due

Week Twelve

Monday (Nov. 10th) Early European Middle Ages

Read Kishlansky: Einhard, The Life of Charlemagne, Benedict of Nursia, The Rule

Read Bentley: Chapter 17

Wednesday (Nov. 12th) Crusades, Clash of Cultures

Read Kishlansky: Anna Comnena, Odo of Deuil, Usama ibn Munqidh, Jamal Ad-Din Ibn Wasil

Friday (Nov. 14th) High European Middle Ages

Read Kishlansky: Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Witchcraft Documents, Boccaccio's Decameron (on-line)

Read Bentley: Chapter 20

Week Thirteen

Monday (Nov. 17th) Nomadic Societies

Read excerpt about Mongol Empire

Read Kishlansky: Kritovoulos, The History of Mehmed the Conqueror

Read Bentley, Chapter 18

Wednesday (Nov. 19th) **Discussion of Marco Polo**

Friday (Nov. 21st) Africa

Read Bentley: Chapter 19

Week Fourteen

Monday (Nov. 24th) Cross-Cultural Interactions, **Discussion of Ibn Battutah**

Wednesday (Nov. 26th) Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday (Nov. 28th) Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen

Monday (Dec. 1st) The Americas

Read Bentley: Chapter 21

Response Paper # 3 Due

Wednesday (Dec. 3rd) European Encounters in the Americas

Read Kishlansky: Journal of the First Voyage of Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, Bernal Diaz, An Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico

Friday (Dec. 5th) World history around 1500

Read Bentley: Chapter 22

Week Sixteen

Monday (Dec. 8th) Review and Wrap-up

Tuesday (Dec. 9th) Reading Day

History 103 001, MWF 8am class, final exam: Monday Dec. 15th 8am-11am

History 103 003, MWF 10am class, final exam: Friday December 12th 8am-11am

College policy dictates that final exam dates are not subject to change unless the student is ill or has a conflicting schedule in which case they need permission from the instructor and the Registrar's office. Permission must be obtained before the first day of the exam period begins at the end of the semester.