

History 103: World History to 1500

Dr. James Vincent

Maybank Hall #106

843.953.1916

vincentj@cofc.edu

Office Hours:

W, 8-11a.m.; TTH, 8-9a.m.

and by appointment

Course Description: An introduction to world history from the beginnings of civilization to the 16th century. Special attention will be paid to analyzing and understanding the historical developments that defined individual civilizations, as well as how those civilizations influenced each other. Through lecture, class discussion and the analysis of primary and secondary source materials, it is intended that students will develop a greater appreciation of our global past and the times in which we live.

Required Texts

Bulliet, Crossley, et.al. *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History*. Volume 1: To 1500. Fourth Edition. Houghton Mifflin: 2008.

Riley, Gerome, et.al. *The Global Experience: Readings in World History to 1550*. Fifth Edition. Person Prentice Hall: 2006.

On-line Primary Source Readings. Found on several different scholarly history web sites, these documents will be assigned intermittently by the instructor to supplement the Riley text.

In the case of the Riley text and the on-line documents, is required that students read these documents prior to the assigned class, bring them to class and be prepared to discuss them. Given that these documents are an important element of this class, occasional unannounced quizzes may be given as part of assessing class participation.

Exams/Writing Assignments and Grades

1. Take-home first exam/writing assignment will be due at the beginning of class period on Tuesday, 30 September. (20% of final grade)
2. Take-home second exam/writing assignment will be due at the beginning of class period on Thursday, 13 November. (30%)
3. Comprehensive take-home final exam/writing assignment will be due on TBA. (30%)
4. Class Participation. See *Class Participation/Personal Responsibility* section below. Additional details to be given in class. (20%)

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

Attendance

Attendance is required. Missing more than 3 classes will result in the loss of one full letter grade for the course; more than 4 absences will result in a failing grade. Absences will be excused in only the most extreme cases. Chronic lateness will be penalized. **It is the responsibility of any student who arrives late to ensure before the end of that class session that his/her name is included on the roll.**

Late Paper Policy

You may hand in your paper late, but will lose one full letter grade for each day it is overdue. Late papers must be handed directly to me or signed and dated by the Department's administrative assistant. There will be no deviation from this policy. No papers may be submitted electronically.

E-mail Communication

I am happy to communicate with you via e-mail, but will read and respond to them only during normal business hours. Absolutely no assignments will be accepted via e-mail.

Personal Responsibility/Class Participation

Accepting personal responsibility lies at the heart of all success, whether in school or the work place. To that end it is essential that everyone in this class accept responsibility for doing the best job possible. I, therefore, commit to providing you the best educational experience I possibly can, both in and out of the classroom. In return, I expect that you will take your work seriously, abide by the policies set out in this syllabus and conduct yourself in a manner that shows your commitment to doing the very best you possibly can.

In accepting personal responsibility for doing well, it is essential that you recognize that class participation is essential. This involves preparing all assignments in a timely manner, coming to class each day and being intellectually involved in all that we do. A natural outcome of such preparation and involvement is taking part in class discussion, responding to questions and being unafraid to state your opinion or share your thoughts concerning the issues we will be studying. The great joy of studying history lies in discussion, debate and relating historical events and issues to our own lives. To that end, it is expected that you will be an engaged, active and thoughtful participant in this class. **Please note that the reading and discussion of the assigned primary source documents is a prominent component of class participation.**

Plagiarism

The Department of History will not tolerate plagiarism in any form. All infractions will be reported to the Honor Board and the violator will receive a failing grade for the course. See *College of Charleston Student Handbook* for definition of plagiarism.

Class Schedule

- Week 1: 26-29 August
Introduction; what is history?
- Week 2: 1-5 September
River Valley Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt and India
Bulliet, p.1-55
Riley, p.1-22
- Week 3: 8-12 September
River Valley Civilizations; Israel
Bulliet: p.56-121
Riley: 51-61
- Week 4: 15-19 September
Classical Civilizations: India, China
Bulliet, p.122-221
Riley/Primary source: To be announced (TBA)
- Week 5: 22-26 September
Classical Civilizations: Greece
Bulliet: p.122-221
Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 6: 29 September-3 October

- 1st writing assignment/exam due on Tuesday, 30 September
 Classical Civilizations: Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Age
 Bulliet: p.121-221
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 7: 6-10 October
 Classical Civilizations: Rome
 Bulliet: 122-221
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 8: 13-17 October
 Fall Break, 13,14th
 Classical Civilizations: China, India
 Bulliet: 122-221
 Riley/primary source: TBA
- Week 9: 20-24 October
 Post Classical Civilizations: Christian Europe,
 Bulliet: 222-357
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 10: 27-31 October
 Post Classical Civilizations: Islam
 Bulliet: 222-357
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 11: 3-7 November
 Post Classical Civilizations: The Crusades
 Bulliet: p. 222-357
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 12: 10-14 November
 2nd writing assignment due: Thursday, 13 November
 Post Classical Civilizations: The Americas
 Bulliet: p. 222-337
- Week 13: 17-21 November
 Post Classical Civilizations: Africa
 Bulliet: 336-458
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 14: 24-28 November
 Thanksgiving holiday: no class on 26,27,28 November
 Post Classical Civilizations; Maritime Expansion
 Bulliet: p. 336-458
 Riley/Primary source: TBA
- Week 15: 1-5 December
 The World in 1500
 Bulliet: p. 336-458
 Conclusion