

George Mason University
Spring 2016

HIST 125 DL1 History of World Civilizations (online)

Course No. 12884

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13th century terracotta sculpture from Djenné-Jeno, the oldest known city in sub-Saharan Africa

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a survey of the development of the world from early civilizations to the present. Major themes include the rise and fall of governments and empires, the evolution of cultures and society, economics, and commerce, and in the end, globalization. We will examine these themes through a variety of venues including readings in the textbook, primary documents, articles, and film. **IMPORTANT: Students should possess college-level reading and writing skills. If you have a question about this, please see the instructor or your academic advisor.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of World Civilization.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in World Civilization.
- Students will develop historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events.
- Students will communicate effectively—in writing and on discussion board—their understanding and response to patterns, processes, and themes in the history of world civilization.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History* (Boston & NY: Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2013), ISBN 978-0-312-44443-3 (combined edition). **NOTE: We are using the second edition.** Be sure to get the correct ISBN number. A third edition has just been published, but we are finishing this school year with the second edition so that students can still purchase a used copy if they like.
- Tom Standage, *The History of the World in 6 Glasses* (Walker Publishing Company, 2006) ISBN-10: 0802715524 (or any edition)

GRADING AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92;

B+ = 87-89; B = 82-86; B- = 80-81;

C+ = 77-79; C = 72-76; C- = 70-71;

D+ = 67-69; D = 62-66; D- = 60-61; F = below 60

Grades are based on weekly homework assignments (30% all together), Discussion Board (10%), and two response papers (30% each). See "Homework Grade," "Response Papers" and "Discussion Board" below.

- **HOMWORK GRADE**
The homework assignments are all worth the same percentage in the final grade, which is calculated by Blackboard, regardless of the number of questions each week. This homework grade is not just an average of the number of points in each week's homework assignment.
- **RESPONSE PAPERS**
There are no formal exams for this course. Instead, twice during the semester you will be assigned an article or chapter to read and write a 700-900 word response paper related to that article or chapter. You will be given several questions to answer within the response paper about the article or chapter. The idea is to explain the thesis of the article or chapter and discuss (in your own words) how it relates to the class material that you studied in that section. The article or chapter and questions will be posted at the beginning of the week that it is due, and will be due at the end of that week. Response papers are worth 100 points, like an exam. More information will be available on Blackboard.
- **DISCUSSION BOARD**
You will be assessed on your participation in the class. You should submit one thoughtful comment or question on Discussion Board each week in order to receive full participation credit. Each week is worth 1 point (only one counts per week, but feel free to submit multiple posts in a discussion).
Like the homework grade, the discussion board grade is not just an average of the number of points in each week's discussion board. The discussion board posts are all together worth 10% of the final semester grade. This is calculated by the Blackboard computer.
Suggestions for discussion will be available on Blackboard each week.
- **Understanding your "Grade so far" on Blackboard:**
In the Grade Center on Blackboard, you will see a column labeled "Grade so far." This shows your current course grade based on the work you have completed and I have graded so far. This lets you know how you have performed in this course so far. It does NOT say "this will be your final grade if you stop working now." So use "Grade so far" to know how you have performed so far and to inspire you to keep your work at a high quality for the rest of the semester!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must be responsible for their own work. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Any student found cheating, including plagiarism, will receive a grade of "0" for the assignment or exam and may also be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional disciplinary action. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, you should read through this website: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

MasonLive/EMAIL (GMU Email)

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students must follow the university policies. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>].

RESPONSIBLE USE OF COMPUTING

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

If you choose to withdraw from this class, it is your responsibility to check the appropriate deadlines and proceed with the withdrawal process.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

NOTE: This schedule is an outline only and subject to change. See Blackboard for weekly assignments.

*Each week begins on Monday, on this date

WEEK 1

*January 18

Monday, Martin Luther King Day (No classes)
Introduction to class / Getting to know each other
Begin the reading assignment for Week 2

WEEK 2

January 25

Read: Strayer, Chapters 1-2; and Standage, Chapter 1, "A Stone Age Brew"
Study topics: First Peoples to 4000 BCE / First civilizations 3500 BCE-500 BCE

WEEK 3

February 1

Read: Strayer, Chapters 3-4, and Standage, Chapter 3, Wine in Greece
Study topics: Second-wave Empires and new religions

WEEK 4

February 8

Read: Strayer, Chapters 5-6; and Standage, Chapter 4, Wine in Rome
Study topics: Social hierarchies, 500 BCE – 500 CE: Caste System / Slavery / Africa and the Americas, 500 B.C.E. – 1200 C.E.

WEEK 5

February 15

Read: Strayer, Chapters 7-8
Study topics: Commerce and Culture, 500-1500 C.E.: Silk Roads, Sea Roads, Desert Roads, American Roads / East Asian Connections 500-1300

WEEK 6

February 22

Read: Strayer, Chapters 9-10
Study topics: Islam, 600-1500 / Christendom, 500-1300

WEEK 7

February 29 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 11; and film on Blackboard: “Wild Horses of Mongolia, with Julia Roberts”
 Study topics: The Mongols 1200-1500

WEEK 8 **Monday, March 7- Sunday, March 13. SPRING BREAK. No assignments.**

WEEK 9
 March 14 No homework assignment.
 RESPONSE PAPER #1 due Sunday, March 20. See Blackboard.

WEEK 10
 March 21 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 12-13, and Standage, Chapter 5: “High Spirits, High Seas”
 Study topics: Worlds of the Fifteenth Century/ Empires and Encounters, 1450-1750

WEEK 11
 March 28 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 14, and Standage, Chapter 6: “The Drinks that Built America”; and Strayer, Chapter 15, only pages 491-506
 Study topics: Economic transformations, and Religion 1450-1750

WEEK 12
 April 4 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 15, page 506-524; and Chapter 16; and Standage, Chapters 7- 8, “The Great Soberer,” and “The Coffeehouse Internet”
 Study topics: Science and the Enlightenment; National Revolutions

WEEK 13
 April 11 *Read:* Strayer, Chapters 17-18; and Standage, Chapter 9, “Empires of Tea”
 Study topics: Industrial Revolution and Latin America, 1750-1914 / European Colonization 1759-1914

WEEK 14
 April 18 *Read:* Strayer, Chapters 19-20
 Study topics: Empires in Collision 1800-1914 / World War I and II

WEEK 15
 April 25 *Read:* Strayer, Chapters 21-22; and Standage, Chapter 12, “Globalization in a Bottle”
 Study topics: Rise and Fall of Communism / The Cold War / End of the Cold War / Decolonization in India and Africa

WEEK 16
 May 2 Monday, May 2 Last day of classes
 Tuesday, May 3 Reading day
 Wed. May 4 – Wed. May 11 Exam period

RESPONSE PAPER #2 due Tuesday, May 10