

George Mason University, Fall 2012

# HIST 125 History of World Civilizations

Course No. 79498, Section 002

Art and Design Building, Room 2003

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Gail Hook

Email: ghook@gmu.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 12 noon – 12:45 p.m. or by appointment. Location to be announced.



13<sup>th</sup> 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 ancient times to the present. Major themes include the rise and fall of governments and empires, the evolution of cultures and society, philosophy, 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 multiple 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—orally, in writing, and/or using digital media—their understanding of 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, 2009), ISBN-13:978-0-312-45287-2 (combined edition)
- Tom Standage, *The History of the World in 6 Glasses* (Walker Publishing Company, 2006) ISN-10: 0802715524

## GRADING

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60.

Grades are based on 2 exams (33% each) and a short paper (33%). **The exams** cover material from the lectures, reading assignments listed in the syllabus and on Blackboard, and films. **For the paper**, you will choose a country or culture (except the U.S.) at the beginning of the semester, research a brief history of the country, and follow that country through the semester via websites and/or newspapers. You should also consider making a site visit: a museum or cultural center; a church, temple, or mosque; or other site that relates to your chosen country or culture. Then you will type a 3-page, single-space paper about what you discovered about that country or culture this semester. Further details will be posted on Blackboard.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. Exams will cover material from the lectures, films, and in-class exercises as well as readings, so attendance is important. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for arranging your academic and personal schedule so you can arrive on time and remain for the entire class period.

### APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

**\*\*Appropriate classroom behavior is a requirement for remaining in this class. This means specifically that private conversations, sleeping, texting or other use of cell phones, or any other disruption in the classroom are strictly prohibited. This also requires you to be courteous and respectful of other students in the class in relation to ethnicity or religious beliefs.**

You may use your laptop computer to take lecture notes, but not for any other purpose during class time. No work for other classes will be allowed during class time.

Students violating these rules will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of that class period. Repeated violations will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional action.

NOTE that arriving late disturbs the class, so IF you must arrive late for reasons beyond your control, be sure to be quiet and not disrupt the class. Habitual tardiness will be reason for a conference with the Instructor, academic advisor, or Dean of Student Services about whether you should remain in the class.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Assignments in the textbook and the supplementary documents or websites should be read before that week's class. Please be prepared to participate in class discussions about the assigned readings and homework assignments.

## EXAMINATION POLICIES

All students are required to take all exams at the scheduled dates and times, including the final exam, which is scheduled by the college. No makeup exams will be given without a medical excuse or other documentation or reason of extreme emergency beyond the students' control. **\*\*NOTE that vacations are not excused absences for exams. NO** early final exams will be given. Makeup exams will be given only in cases of emergency or unavoidable *documented* absence.

Note that no restroom breaks are given during exams. If there is a medical problem with this, please let me know ahead of time so we can make other examination arrangements for you.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

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 might read through this website:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Please let me know if you have documented special needs or require special accommodations, or if there is any other situation that may prevent you from fully participating in the class or completing the assignments so that I can help to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

## 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

### Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

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#### WEEK 1

August 28-30

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 1-3; and Standage, Chapters 1-2, "Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt"

*Lecture topics:* Introduction to the class / Paleolithic and Neolithic periods / First civilizations / Comparing Egypt and Mesopotamia

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#### WEEK 2

September 3

Labor Day Holiday, University closed

September 4-6

*Read:* Strayer, Chapter 4 to page 112; and Standage, Chapters 3-4, "Wine in Greece and Rome"

*Lecture topics:* Classical Greece and the Hellenistic Era

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#### WEEK 3

September 11-13

*Read:* Strayer, Chapter 5, and the article posted on Blackboard, "Why is the Buddha Śākyamuni Accompanied by Hercules?"

*Lecture topics:* Roman, Chinese, and Indian Empires / Eastern and Middle Eastern religions / Zoroastrianism / Judaism / Christianity

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#### WEEK 4

September 18-20

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 6-7

*Lecture topics:* Eurasian Social Hierarchies, 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E.  
Africa and Mesoamerica, 500 B.C.E. – 1200 C.E.

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#### WEEK 5

September 25-27

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 8-9

*Lecture topics:* Commerce and Culture 500-1500: Silk Roads, Sea Roads, Sand Roads, and the American Web  
East Asian Connections 500-1300: China and World / Comparing Korea, Vietnam, and Japan / Asian Buddhism after 200 C.E.  
Film: "Mustang: Journey of Transformation"

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#### WEEK 6

October 2-4

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 10-11

*Lecture topics:* Western Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages  
Exam review

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#### WEEK 7

**October 8-9**

**Columbus Day recess. NO CLASS on Tuesday.**

(Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet)

**Thursday, October 11**

**EXAM #1**

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#### WEEK 8

October 16-18

*Read:* Strayer, Chapter 12, and the article "The Black Death in the Middle East" posted on Blackboard

*Lecture topics:* The Mongols / The Plague / Pastoral Societies  
Film: "Wild Horses of Mongolia with Julia Roberts"

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WEEK 9

October 23-24

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 13- 15*Lecture topics:* Civilizations of the Fifteenth Century  
Columbian Exchange / Sugar Colonies / Global Commerce

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## WEEK 10

October 30-November 1

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 16-17, and Standage, Chapters 7-8, "Coffee in the Age of Reason" and Standage, Chapters 5-6, "Spirits in the Colonial Period"*Lecture topics:* Modern Science / Enlightenment / American and French Revolutions / Nationalism

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## WEEK 11

November 6-8

*Read:* Chapter 18 and readings posted on Blackboard*Lecture topics:* Industrial Revolution, 1750-1914 / Engels, Marxism , Russian Revolution / Latin America / Mexican Revolution

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## WEEK 12

November 13-15

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 19-20, and Standage, Chapters 9-10, "Tea and the British Empire"*Lecture topics:* China declining, 1800-1914 / Ottoman Empire / Japanese modernization and the world / European Colonization 1759-1914 / Tea and the British Empire

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## WEEK 13

November 20

*Read:* Strayer, Chapter 21 to page 641*Lecture topics:* World War I, 1914-1919 / Rise of Hitler

November 22

**NO CLASS ON THURSDAY: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY Nov. 21-25**

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## WEEK 14

November 27-29

*Read:* Strayer, the rest of Chapter 21 and Chapter 22*Lecture topics:* World War II / Rise and Fall of Communism / The Cold War

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***Research papers due Thursday, November 29, at beginning of class***

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## WEEK 15

December 4-6

*Read:* Strayer, Chapters 23-24, and Standage, Chapters 11-12, "Coca-Cola and the Rise of America"*Lecture topics:* Decolonization / Independence movements: India, South Africa, Algeria, Turkey, Iran / The Arab Spring, 2011 / Globalization and an American Empire

(December 6 Last day of class)

Exam review

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## WEEK 16

December 10-11

Reading Days (No Classes)

December 11-19

Final exam period (No classes)

**Tuesday, December 18****EXAM #2, 1:30-4:15 p.m.**