HIST 104
World History I (Ancient to Medieval)
Fall, 2013

Course Description

The history of the Ancient and Medieval world is a tale of the collision of civilizations, seemingly endless conflict between nomadic peoples and empires, the emergence of nation states, and the creation of new artistic, legal, religious, and scientific traditions in both the West and the East. It is a tale of both continuity and change, of great accomplishment and equally great atrocity, of conflict, innovation, and great diversity of experience. We will explore some of this diversity of experience in this course and attempt to gain an appreciation for the unique contributions of the civilizations of the past to the world in which we live today.

Required Reading

The following titles are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore.

I-Clicker (available at the bookstore)

Additional Readings indicated with an asterisk (*) are available online or at Blackboard.

Grading

Discussion Section Assignments: 25%
Marco Polo Analysis 15%
Midterm Examination: 25%
I-Clicker Quizzes 5%
Final Examination: 30%

Please note: All elements are required in order to receive a passing grade.
Course Policies

Attendance

Lecture Attendance, while not mandatory, is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all information given as part of any lecture or reading assignment in this course. The Midterm and Final exams will both contain questions requiring a thorough understanding of material presented in lecture. It will be difficult to do well in the course if you do not attend and take good notes. Finally, I will give unannounced I-Clicker quizzes periodically.

Discussion Section Attendance is Mandatory. Your Section Instructor will take roll and evaluate your participation on a weekly basis. There will also be a weekly quiz, prepared paper, or in-class writing due during your section meetings, conducted on the following schedule:

- Two one-page assignments due in weeks 4 and 7.
- Quizzes or in-class exercises during weeks 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8.

Your instructors will grade the assignments on a “check” system (\(\checkmark+ = \text{‘A’}, \checkmark = \text{‘B’}, \checkmark- = \text{‘C’}\)), and this grade will form the basis for your Section grade for the week. However, participation counts – if your participation is good during discussion, you will receive a ‘+’ to your existing letter grade; if you do not participate but seem engaged, your grade will remain as it stands; if you are inattentive, clearly unprepared, or disruptive, you will receive a ‘-‘ to the weekly grade.

Your instructors will accept no late papers or assignments. You must be present in Section from beginning to end of class in order to receive credit for your attendance and participation, as well as for any assignments or quizzes given or due during the meeting.

One Exception: You may choose to miss one section during the term for any reason and submit your paper (or for a missed quiz, attend your GTF’s office hours to make it up). Your instructor must receive this makeup assignment prior to or during the next Section meeting.

Required Format for Papers due in Section:

- Margins: 1” maximum top, bottom, left, right.
- Spacing: Double-spaced.
- Heading: Name, date, and title on one line.

You must notify me or your Instructor of any scheduling problems with either the Midterm or the Final examination by the end of the first week of classes. I will consider these matters on a case by case basis, but you must realize that you may be unable to continue in the course if you cannot sit for the exams as scheduled.
**General Student Conduct**

- Please turn off all cell phone ringers before class begins. No texting or reading text messages during class.
- Please refrain from reading materials unrelated to our course during class.
- Please do not engage in conversations during lecture; remember that others may be trying to concentrate as they listen and take notes. If you have a question, please ask.
- The lecture hall is an expensive and uncomfortable bedroom. If you are too tired to stay awake during class, please go find somewhere else to sleep.
- If you know you will be leaving class early, please sit near an exit to avoid disturbing the lecturer or other students.
- You may use laptops or tablets only for taking notes, as activities unrelated to the course are distracting to others and will not be tolerated.

  I reserve the right to ban the use of electronic devices at any time for all students.

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES**

**Week 1 – Roots of Civilization**

Monday, Sep. 30  
Introduction

Wednesday, Oct 2nd  
Domestication and Agriculture

*Read:* Jared Diamond; *World*, 31-33; 42-43 (Map); 51-56

Friday, Oct 4  
Civilization

*Read:* “Hymn to the Nile”; *Sumerian hymns*; *World*, 68 – 78

**Section Assignment:** Make a list of the five most important events in World History during your lifetime that you feel will be included in a future history textbook and indicate your justifications for your choices. **Register your I-Clicker at Blackboard before Friday. Print a copy of the Syllabus and bring it to Section with you.**

**Week 2 – Civilization and Empire**

Monday, Oct 7  
The First Empires

*Read:* Mesopotamian legal documents; *Banquet of Ashurnasirpal*; *World*, 78-83; 196-200

Wednesday, Oct. 9  
The State in Ancient China

*Read:* Oracle bones; *Shi Qiang bronze inscription*; *World*, 83-84
Friday, Oct. 11 The Technology of Writing

*Read:* DeFrancis; *World*, 88-89

**Section Assignment:** Map Quiz. Prepare using docs located at MyHistoryLab. Discussion of the significance of ancient reliance on oracles.

**Week 3 – Philosophy, Religion, and the State**

Monday, Oct. 14 Confucius

*Read:* Analects

Wednesday, Oct. 16 Buddhism

*Read:* World, Chapter 9 (Entire)

Friday, Oct. 18 Humanism & the Hellenistic World

*Read:* Plato; *World*, 129-137

**Section Assignment:** Discussion: *Mystery Text: Confucian or Buddhist?*

**Week 4 -**

Monday, Oct. 21 The Tragedy and Triumph of Greece

*Read:* Funeral Oration of Pericles*; Thucydides, the Peloponnesian War*

Wednesday, Oct. 23 The Roman Republic and Empire

*Read:* Res Gestae Divi Augusti (The Deeds of the Divine Augustus); *World*, 200-210

Friday, Oct. 25 Christianity

*Read:* Romans 1-3, 12-16; *Gospel of Thomas*

**Section Assignment:** Write a one page paper summarizing why you believe Augustus was successful in creating a disguised military monarchy, citing specific examples from your source material as support.

**Week 5**

Monday, Oct. 28 The “Silk Road”

*Read:* World, 189-196

Wednesday, Oct. 30 The Period of Division and Buddhism in China
**Read:** *Lotus Sutra; World, 108-109; 138-139; 215-220*
Friday, Nov 1  Germanic Peoples and the “Fall” of Rome

**Read:** *Tacitus; *Procopius
Section Assignment: Comparison of *Gospel of Thomas with Lotus Sutra; Midterm Prep.

**Week 6**

Monday, Nov 4  **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Wednesday, Nov. 6  Islam and Expansion

**Read:** *Qur’an; Review relevant sections in World, Chapter 9.*
Friday, Nov. 8  Tang and early Song China

**Read:** *Examination anecdotes; World, 257-266*

**Section Assignment:** Analysis and discussion of study habits; Discussion of the distinction between Islamic governance and that of the Chinese.

**Week 7**

Monday, Nov. 11  The ‘Abbasid Empire

**Read:** *al-Tabari; World, 252-257 (Note comparison chart on pg. 256)*
Wednesday Nov. 13  The Carolingian Empire

**Read:** *Einhard*
Friday, Nov. 15  The Mongols

**Read:** Begin *Marco Polo; World, 411-429*

**Section Assignment:** Write a one page paper in which you compare and contrast the Abbasid Empire and that of Charlemagne.

**Week 8**

Monday, Nov. 18  Song & Yuan China and Late Medieval Europe

**Read:** Continue *Marco Polo; World, 396-404*
Wednesday, Nov. 20  “Southernization” and the Indian Ocean Trade

**Read:** Continue *Marco Polo; World, 191-195*
Friday, Nov. 22  Southeast Asia & Africa

Read: *East African Coast; World, 465-467; 349-355

Section Assignment:  Discussion of *Marco Polo

Week 9

Monday, Nov. 25  The Calamitous 14th Century

Read: World, Chapter 14 (Entire).

Wednesday, Nov. 27  Review and Discussion  Marco Polo Paper Due Today

Friday, Nov. 29  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Section Assignment:  (No Assignment)

Week 10 – Empires and Encounters

Monday, Dec. 2  Maya Civilization

Read:  World, 110-115; 221-223; 347-349

Wednesday, Dec. 4  The Aztec and Incan Empires

Read:  *Florentine Codex

Friday, Dec. 6  1492

Section Assignment:  Discuss the concept of Civilization as seen in the Florentine codex; Final Exam Prep.

Final Examination: Monday, December 9, 10:15 AM
McKenzie 129