

History 301-01
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University of Calgary
2009-10 Academic Year
Winter Session

THE WORLD TO 1500

An overview of human history from the beginnings of civilization to about 1500, examining differing forms of political and economic organization, religions, and systems of thought, as well as the historical reasons for the rise and decline of different civilizations.

Required texts:

Peter N. Stearns, *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity*, 6th edition, vol. 1: to 1450
Merry Wiesner, et al., *Discovering the Global Past: A Look at the Evidence*, vol. 1: to 1650, 3rd edition
Department of History Essay Guide (available in the bookstore or online at <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/essay/Handbook.htm>)

Your grade for the course will be determined in the following manner:

first paper (due Thursday Feb. 11).....	25%
midterm test (Tuesday March 2).....	25%
second paper (due Thursday April 8).....	25%
final exam (scheduled by the registrar).....	25%
	100%

Lecture outlines and other materials are available through a web page devoted to this course. The web page is available at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or through your U of C portal (“My U of C”). There is also a bulletin board where questions related to course material of interest to the class as a whole may be posted. Individual questions regarding extensions, etc., should be communicated to the instructor in person or via email.

The following scheme will be used in converting percentages to letter grades, and vice versa:

A+ = 95% and above	C+ = 77-79%
A = 92-95%	C = 73-76%
A- = 90-91%	C- = 70-72%
B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 65-69%
B = 83-86%	D = 60-64%
B- = 80-82%	F = 59% and lower

COURSE OUTLINE

I. The Origins of Civilization: Jan. 5-14

- A. Human Origins and Hunting and Gathering Societies
- B. The Neolithic Revolution

Readings: Stearns, Ch. 1.

II. The First Civilizations: Jan. 19–Feb. 2

- A. The Near East: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Crete, the Hebrews, and Phoenicians
- B. Asia's First Civilizations: the Indus Valley and China
- C. Nomadic Invasions and the Fall of Ancient Civilizations

Readings: Stearns, Chapters 2-3
Wiesner et al., Chapters 1-2

III. The Rise of Classical Civilizations: Feb. 4-25

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Persia
- D. Greco-Roman Civilization

Readings: Stearns, Chapters 4-6
Wiesner et al., *Discovering the Global Past*, Chapter 4

Midterm Test (Parts I-III) Thursday March 2

IV. The Decline and Fall of Classical Civilizations: March 4-11

- A. The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
- B. The Survivors: China, India, and Byzantium

Readings: Stearns, Chapter 7
Wiesner et al., Chapter 5

IV. Post-Classical, or "Medieval" Civilizations: March 16-April 15

- A. Islamic Civilization
- B. Medieval Europe
- C. Crusades, Turks, and Mongols
- D. China and India in the Post-Classical Period
- E. Europe: Crisis and Recovery

Readings: Stearns, Chapters 8-15
Wiesner et al., *Discovering the Global Past*, Chapter. 7, 9, 13

EXAMS

There are two exams in this course: a midterm (March 2) and a final exam, which is scheduled by the registrar. Both exams will consist of a series of short answers (identify and give the significance) and an essay. In both cases, there will be a choice of questions to answer. I will supply you with a review sheet and study guide approximately 10-14 days before each exam. Moreover, the material on each exam will be selected from the review sheet. The final exam is not cumulative.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will write two short papers of about 1500-1800 words (5-7 pages, typed, double-spaced). These papers are to be based on the problems and questions presented for analysis in Wiesner, Wheeler, Doeringer, and Curtis, *Discovering the Global Past: A Look at the Evidence*, vol. I. All the information you need for the assignment is contained in the chapters; there is no need to consult other sources. You may, however, do so if you wish. In that case, other sources must be acknowledged in a proper bibliography and footnotes, and you must keep in mind the information regarding plagiarism contained in the course outline. If all your information comes from the Wiesner book, formal footnotes are not necessary. You may document quotations and references in brackets, either by page number or chapter and document number. In all cases, however, you must analyze one of the questions below based on the evidence presented in the relevant chapter. **Outside research is no substitute for this analysis, no matter how complete or impressive.**

Questions for First Paper

Your first paper is due on Thursday February 11, and is to be based on the problems and questions presented for analysis in Wiesner, Wheeler, Doeringer, and Curtis, *Discovering the Global Past: A Look at the Evidence*, vol. I, chapters 1, 2, or 4. Select one of the following topics:

1. Chapter 1– The Need for Water in Ancient Societies (3100 BCE-100 CE)

How did the need for a steady supply of water affect the technological, economic, political, and legal development of ancient societies?

2. Chapter 2– Writing and Power: Defining World-Views (1750-200 BCE)

From evidence presented in chapter 2, discuss, compare and contrast the cosmologies of the 4 ancient peoples represented there, as revealed in their respective accounts of creation. What do these accounts tell us about their values, their view of history, their relationship to the universe, and to a god or gods?

3. Chapter 4– Han and Rome: Asserting Imperial Authority (300 BCE-400 CE)

Compare and contrast Han and Roman views of political authority. How did they conceptualize and justify the political power necessary to govern far-flung and diverse empires?

Questions for Second Paper

Your second paper is due on Thursday April 8, and is to be based on the problems and questions presented for analysis in Wiesner, Wheeler, Doeringer, and Curtis, *Discovering the Global Past: A Look at the Evidence*, vol. I, chapters 5, 7, 9, 10, or 14. Select one of the following topics:

1. Chapter 5— International Religious Communities (300 BCE- 800 CE)

How did political leaders within Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam encourage the growth of their chosen religious community? What differences do you see in their actions and in what they viewed as most important in the lives of their communities?

2. Chapter 7— Two Faces of “Holy War:” Christians and Muslims (1095-1270s)

In the written accounts by Muslims and Christians, what impressions did each side create of the other? How might those perceptions or stereotypes have influenced the way each side chose to deal with and treat each other, both during and after the period that Europeans refer to as the Crusades?

3. Chapter 9-- The Mongol Impact

Analyze the sources in Chapter 9 to assess the impact of the Mongol conquests on Eurasian civilizations. What might the long-term consequences of this impact be? Which civilizations do you think might be most affected?

4. Chapter 13— Facing the Black Death (1300-1400)

Compare and contrast Muslim and Christian views as to the causes and consequences of the Black Death. What were their respective medical, religious, political and economic reactions to the Black Death? In what ways were their responses similar or different?

All assignments are due on the date indicated. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 of a grade per day, unless an extension is granted by the instructor prior to the due date. Assignments are to be submitted both electronically and on paper. Electronic copies are to be submitted via the Assignments function in Blackboard, while paper copies are to be submitted in person in class. Electronic copies must be submitted before 4:30 on the due date (Blackboard automatically records the time and date of submission). **Failure to meet either of these criteria will result in late penalties.** Paper copies may also be put into the red box on the wall outside the History Department office (SS656), provided they are turned in by 4:30 on the due date. After this time, they will be stamped with the next day’s date and will be penalized accordingly.

Computer problems are not a legitimate excuse for a late paper. Be sure to back up your work frequently and periodically print a hard copy, so that if you do experience problems, you have something that can be produced on the due date.

Assignments should conform to the Department of History Essay Guide. For further assistance, you may also consult the History Department's Website at: <http://hist.ucalgary.ca>.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is submitting or presenting one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that course, when, in fact, it is not.

As noted in the *Department of History Essay Guide*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- a) Failure to cite sources is plagiarism. This includes quotations, ideas, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- b) Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghost-written papers are plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- c) Unacknowledged direct quotations are plagiarism, even when notes are used.
- d) Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works. The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.
- e) Plagiarism is plagiarism regardless of whether the source plagiarized is in traditional print format, or electronic via the internet. In general, internet sources should be used with great care. Be sure to ask your individual instructor about his/her policies regarding internet sources.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. It is History Department policy to report all cases of plagiarism to the office of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, where they form part of the student's permanent record. Potential penalties, as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar, range from a minimum of failure for the assignment and/or the course, up to and including disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion from the university.

Students with Disabilities

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Emergency Evacuation

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the ICT Food Court, or failing that, at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>