

History 101: World History to 1500

Course Number: HISTORY 101

Semester: Fall 2015

Schedule & Location:

LECT 1: 11:00-11:50 MWF NFAC 285

LECT 2: 12:00-12:50 MWF CCC 227

LECT 4: 13:00-13:50 MWF CCC 233

Instructor: Taylor M. Easum

Office: CCC 459

Office Hours: Tue/Thu, 11am-12pm,
(and by appointment)

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Course Description:

World History is a ridiculously large topic. Chronologically, this course is designed to cover all of human history from the emergence of modern human through the end of the 15th century. While one goal of this course is to sort through this mass of information, another, more important goal will be to introduce students to the practice of history itself. In other words, the central goal of this course is not only to learn history, but to learn to think historically. How do we understand the human past, and our role in it? How do we know anything about ancient history? How is any of this history relevant to us, here and now?

We will survey the history of major world cultures, important states, and expansive empires of world history; we will also, however, think about larger themes in world history, such as the importance of trade, the formation—and fall—of empires, the development of technology, the spread of religion, and the historical relationship between society and the environment. In short, this course should give you more than information about the human past; it should also challenge you to think about our relationship with the past.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Function effectively in group discussions in history.
- Analyze global historical developments before c. 1500.
- Explain the difference between different types of historical sources, especially primary and secondary sources.
- Extract and critique arguments from historical essays, articles, and book chapters.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history, philosophy, arts, and/or literature of different cultures from different global regions and traditions.

UWSP Policies:

Please take a moment to review University policy on Academic Integrity:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/Academic%20Integrity%20Brochure.pdf>.

Please also note that UWSP is determined to provide equal access and accommodation to all students with disabilities. For more information, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center

(<http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>).

Evaluation:

The goal of this course is to help students develop their skills in writing and critical—especially historical—thinking. To meet these goals, student grades will be based on a variety of assignments:

1. Attendance: **10%**
2. Quizzes (5): **25% (5% each)**
3. Short Essays: **20% (10% each)**
4. Midterm Examination: **20%**
5. Final Examination: **25%**

For each of these assignments, there are different requirements for both the amount and form of work to be done. All assignments will be discussed in detail in class, but here is a brief description of the assignments and expectations:

1. *Attendance:* Your presence in class is mandatory. Otherwise, I will be talking to an empty room, and I'll feel strange.
2. *Quizzes:* Over the course of the semester, I will give you five quizzes, based primarily on the textbook and the 100 objects. The quizzes will be administered online, via D2L. Once you start the

quiz, your time will be limited, but you will have several days to complete the online quiz. For this reason, there will be no make-up quizzes.

3. *Short Essays*: During the semester, students will submit two *very* short essays (2 pages max) on a two topics of their choice from the options listed in the syllabus below. The essay will be due on the date indicated in the essay options listed below in the course outline. Please note that there are four essay options to choose from, but students will only need to choose two topics to write on.
4. *Midterm Examination*: In Week 8 there will be an in-class 50-minute midterm exam with various types of questions, including short IDs and short answer.
5. *Final Examination*: On the scheduled final exam date and time, students will take a final exam consisting of multiple choice, short answer, and identification questions.

Written assignments will be graded based on a simple rubric consisting of the following elements:

- a) **Argument and Logic**: Essays that earn an A will have a clear thesis, and supporting arguments that draw on evidence and well-reasoned analysis.
- b) **Organization**: Essays that earn an A will follow a logical plan, beginning with a brief but clear introduction stating the problem and the thesis, followed by supporting arguments, before ending with a conclusion that highlights the central argument of the essay.
- c) **Grammar**: Essays that earn an A will avoid common grammatical mistakes such as subject-verb agreement, comma splices, and sentence fragments. In fact, any essay with two or more comma splices will be rejected. (You might want to look up what a comma-splice is!)
- d) **Formatting**: Essays that earn an A will be properly formatted, with 1" margins on all sides, 11 or 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and correctly formatted citations.

Readings:

There is one required text for this course, which may be rented from the UWSP Bookstore:

1. Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter, *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History Volume 1*, 3 edition (McGraw-Hill, 2013)

There is also one other books that you can acquire from the bookstore,

2. George, A. R. *The epic of Gilgamesh: the Babylonian epic poem and other texts in Akkadian and Sumerian*. London; New York: Penguin Books, 2003.

In addition, I will post a variety of additional required readings and documents online, either as external links or as PDF files on the D2L site for the course. You can read these materials online or print them out, but they will be required, unless *specifically* marked as optional.

Digital Materials:

In addition to the readings, there will also be digital requirements for the course, including YouTube videos, websites, and podcasts.

1. The History of the World in 100 Objects (hereafter '100 Objects'): Use this link to view the objects: http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/a_history_of_the_world/objects.aspx#1, and use this link to listen to the audio program: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow/all>.
2. UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>. We will look at several sites on this list as we learn about early global history.

Course Website:

Through the D2L website for the course, students can access a variety of materials, including the course syllabus, outlines, and links to relevant outside resources. The website will also include links to weekly videos and other interactive websites related to the week's content. Finally, all written assignments will be submitted via the website, and grades and comments will be posted online.

Laptops, Tablets, and Phones:

Unless otherwise cleared with me in advance, noted in lecture, or for a specific in-class assignment, I ask all students to leave their laptops and tablets in their bags, and leave their phones face-down on the table.

COURSE OUTLINE

(Sep 2-4) Week 1: Introduction

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 1

100 Objects, #1-5 (Making us Human)

| | |
|-------|---|
| Sep 2 | <u>Introduction to the class, or 'What is History, anyway?'</u> |
| Sep 4 | <u>Early Human Societies and Migrations</u> |

(Sep 7-11) Week 2: Early Societies and States

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 2

Epic of Gilgamesh, (pp. 1-100)

100 Objects, #8, 12, 15, 16, & 20

Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1405>

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| Sep 7 | <i>LABOR DAY – NO CLASS</i> |
| Sep 9 | <u>Egypt and Africa</u> |
| Sep 11 | <u>Mesopotamia – Sumer and Babylon</u> |

[QUIZ]

(Sep 14-18) Week 3: Worlds Apart – Urbanization, Writing, and Agriculture in the Americas

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 4

100 Objects, #9, 29

Film: *Cracking the Maya Code* (available via e-reserve on d2l, and here: <https://youtu.be/H5ppfC6y-5s>)

| | |
|--------|---|
| Sep 14 | <u>The Wild and the Urban: Gilgamesh and Enkidu</u> |
| Sep 16 | <u>Olmeccs and their Heirs</u> |
| Sep 18 | <u>Andean Society</u> |

[Essay Option #1: We have considered the importance of literature in our discussion of Gilgamesh and Egyptian hieroglyphics. Using the Maya as a case study, explain how having access to written records can alter our understanding of the past. Due Sep 18.]

(Sep 21-25) Week 4: India before India

Traditions & Encounters, first half of Chapter 3 (pp. 46-53), Chapter 7

100 Objects, #13, 32, 41, 42

Moenjodaro: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138>

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|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Sep 21 | <u>Harappa, Aryans and the Vedas</u> |
| Sep 23 | <u>Empire in India</u> |
| Sep 25 | <u>Ashoka and Siddhartha</u> |

(Sep 28-Oct 2) Week 5: China before China

Traditions & Encounters, second half of Chapter 3 (pp. 53-60), Chapter 6

100 Objects, #23, 30, 34

Yin Xu (ancient Shang capital city): <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1114/>

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| Sep 28 | <u>Early societies in East Asia: Xia, Shang and Zhou</u> |
|--------|--|

Sep 30 Confucianism and Chinese History
 Oct 2 Qin and Han Dynasties

[QUIZ]

(Oct 5-9) Week 6: Persians and the Greeks

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 5, start Chapter 8

Selected excerpts from Herodotus and Sima Qian (available on D2L)

100 Objects, #18, 26-27, 31, 35, 36

Persepolis: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/114>

Oct 5 A Succession of Persian Empires: From Achaemenid to Sasanid
 Oct 7 Ancient Greece – City States, ‘democracy’, and the ‘west’
 Oct 9 Greece and Persia – Deconstructing 300

[Essay option #2: Write a short essay explaining why Herodotus and Sima Qian are sometimes called the ‘First historians’. What makes them historians, as we understand the term? Due Oct 9]

(Oct 12-16) Week 7: Silk Roads and Global Connections

Traditions & Encounters, finish Chapter 8, Chapter 9

100 Objects, #40, 50

Oct 12 The Archetypical Empire: Rome
 Oct 14 Early Globalization – Trade and its consequences
 Oct 16 The Decline of Empires: Han and Roman

(Oct 19-23) Week 8: Latin Christendom in Europe

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 10

100 Objects, #66, 67

Oct 19 MIDTERM EXAM – In Class
 Oct 21 From Rome to Byzantium
 Oct 23 Byzantine State and Society

(Oct 26-30) Week 9: Religious Connections

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 11

100 Objects, #45, 52

Oct 26 The beginning of Islam
 Oct 28 Islamic Empires – Umayyad and Abbasid
 Oct 30 Diversifying Islam

[QUIZ]

(Nov 2-6) Week 10: China beyond China

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 12

100 Objects: #39, 49, 50, 55, 58

Nov 2 Sui, Tang, and Song Dynasties
 Nov 4 Neo-Confucianism and East Asia

Nov 6 Case Study: China and Vietnam

[QUIZ]

(Nov 9-13) Week 11: India beyond India

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 13

A Record of Cambodia, (pages TBD)

100 Objects, #54, 59, 68

Nov 9 Buddhism, Trade, and Statecraft in South Asia

Nov 11 Mainland SE Asia: From Angkor to Ayutthaya

Nov 13 Island SE Asia: From Srivijaya to Melaka

[Essay option #3: Angkor was a great empire in mainland Southeast Asia that attracted the attention of many traders, missionaries, and diplomats. Using Zhou Daguan's observations, explain the importance of Angkor in the region, and particularly for China. Due Nov 13.]

(Nov 16-20) Week 12: Mongols and Eurasian Integration

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 14

Film: *Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan (2007)* (Available on e-reserve via d2l)

100 Objects, #64

Nov 16 Mongol Conquests

Nov 18 Mongols in World History

Nov 20 Eurasian Parallels

[Essay option #4: The film Mongol portrays the rise of Chinggis Khan from desperation to 'Great Khan'. Write an essay critically examining the film as a way to understand history. Use examples from the film and your textbook readings to support your criticism. Due Nov 20.]

(Nov 23-27) Week 13: African Empires and States

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 15

100 Objects, #60, 63

Ruins of Kilwa: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144>

Nov 23 Empires and States in Sub-Saharan Africa

Nov 25 East Africa and the Indian Ocean World

Nov 27 THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES

(Nov 30-Dec 4) Week 14: European Reactions and Interactions

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 16

100 Objects, #53, 56, 61, 62

Nov 30 Medieval Europe: Backwater or the Center of the World?

Dec 2 European Christianity in the Middle Ages

Dec 4 Crusades and Reconquista in Global Perspective

[QUIZ]

(Dec 7-11) Week 15: Turning Points?

Traditions & Encounters, Chapter 18

100 Objects, #71-75 (The Threshold of the Modern World)

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| Dec 7 | <u>Isolation and Interaction – the wide view</u> |
| Dec 9 | <u>Why 1500?</u> |
| Dec 11 | <u>From the World to the Globe to ...?</u> |

(Dec 15) Final Week: Review

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| Dec 15 | <u>Final Class: Review & Catch-up</u> |
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(Dec 16-22): FINAL EXAM WEEK

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| Dec 16 (Wed.) | Section 2 Final Exam (10:15am CCC 227) |
| Dec 17 (Thu) | Section 4 Final Exam (12:30pm CCC 233) |
| Dec 21 (Mon) | Section 1 Final Exam (2:45pm NFAC 285) |

Good Luck!