Syllabus

History 100 World History

Spring Semester, 2017. LSS-248. Tuesday, 4:00 PM – 6:40PM

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Office hours: Tuesday, 6:40 PM – 7:40 PM, or by appointment.

General Orientation:
This course surveys the history of representative human communities from the earliest evidence of their existence (c. 200,000 BCE) to the beginning of what historians term the modern era (c. 1500 CE). Our aim is to understand how human social organizations originated, evolved, and interacted with each other over many millennia. On this journey we will travel from Africa to Europe, Asia, and the Americas. We will use a series of key concepts and themes to guide us on our way. We look at the influences upon the shaping of human societies by examining the role of the environment, science and technology, ethical values and religion, and political organization. We will also examine the ways different societies interacted with each other, by studying exchanges in trade, learning, and belief, as well as the role of conquest in this process. While we will be focused on history, we will also learn about the origins of issues and questions related to present-day societies and cultures.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
This course has a number of important learning goals. The weekly lectures, readings, discussions, audio-visual materials, as well as writing assignments and exams are all intended to help you focus on the following:

i) To gain a basic understanding of the factors at work in the development of key human societies from prehistory to the beginning of the early modern period.
ii) To gain a knowledge of the fundamental identities of these human societies through learning about their religious, philosophical, and cultural traditions.
iii) To understand the elements at work in the process of historical change.
iv) To gain insight into the nature of history as a discipline through examining select historical debates.

Course Format:
This course meets once per week. To aid us in delving into the past, we will use a variety of resources and learning tools. The first class hour each week usually consist of a lecture and a presentation of material relevant to that week’s topic and readings. This will be followed by a video and/or audio presentation about the topic. During the second class we will conclude and summarize the theme for the week. This will be followed by student presentations and class discussion. The midterm and final examinations will be based upon what you have learnt in these lectures, presentations, and readings. Once during the semester you will also be asked to prepare and present a group project on a
specific historical person, place, or document. In conjunction with your group project – which includes a class presentation – you will write up the results of your research and submit it at the time of the presentation. I will circulate a sign-up sheet for these groups. These presentations and class discussion will be very useful in preparing you for the midterm and final examinations.

Contact Details:
My office hours are immediately after class on Tuesday evening, 6:40 PM – 7:40 PM. During this time I am available to meet with you and discuss your work, as well as answer any questions you might have about aspects of the course. I can also be contacted via email. This will be the most effective way of getting in touch with me outside of class and office hours.

Course Requirements and Grading:
During the semester we will be covering a broad range of topics and issues. In order to participate and learn it is essential that you attend each class, do the required reading, and submit the written assignments. Failure to do this will mean a less than enriching learning experience for you. Here are the essentials of what I expect from you:

i) **Respect and honesty:** Your pre-class preparation through reading and writing, your note taking, and your active participation in discussion, are all signs of your respect for our classroom as a privileged learning environment. You will be asked to cooperate with others in the preparation of group assignments. You will also be asked to write papers and answer questions to show the depth of your knowledge. Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, in conformity with San Diego State University policies. All written work and oral presentation assignments must be original work. All ideas/material that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Any quoted material should give credit to the source and be punctuated with quotation marks. Students are responsible for honest completion of their work including examinations. There will be no tolerance for infractions. If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the instructor’s attention. The instructor reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty, in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university. Disciplinary action may include the lowering of grades and/or the assignment of a failing grade for an exam, assignment, or the class as a whole. Incidents of Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. Sanctions at the University level may include suspension or expulsion from the University. If you have any questions about this policy, please see me.

ii) **Laptops and hand-held devices:** The in-class use of laptops, I-pads and hand-held electronic devices will not be necessary. This is to ensure that all students remain focused on the course materials being taught during class.
iii) **Participation (10%)** Active participation is a key part of this course. This means more than simply showing up for class. You are expected to attend every class, and come prepared. Attendance will be taken. Being prepared means the following:

- that you do not come late to class. If you happen to miss class for a very serious reason, it is up to you to consult other class members to obtain the relevant notes, handouts, and to be informed of course content for that day. You should also make sure to explain your absence to me
- that you are alert and paying attention throughout the entire period
- that you take notes during lectures, videos, and discussion
- that you have done the required readings
- that you are prepared to participate in class discussion
- that you add meaningful and knowledgeable comments to class discussion
- that you refrain from texting and surfing the Internet during class time
- that you refrain from extended personal conversations during class time

Please be aware that failure to participate as outlined above will mean a significant reduction in your grade for the semester.

iv) **Group Presentation and Discussion (15%)**: We will have group presentations, with each group assigned to a particular week. The general topic for these discussions is designated as the “presentation” for each week in the syllabus. You will sign up to be part of a group in the first week of class. Your group will be responsible for preparing a 10-minute presentation on a particular study theme (identified in the sign-up sheet)

In order to do a good job on your presentation, you will need to:
- elect a group leader or leaders
- coordinate with group members and designate responsibilities ahead of time
- conduct outside research (go to the library and find reading materials outside the course readings) on your historical place or figure.
- use visual aids in your presentation on the historical place or figure
- present background material and the historical context of the place or figure, and describe why it/he/she is significant in world history
- have each group member participate in your presentation – though how you organize it is up to you

**Written Research Summary: (15%)**: In conjunction with your group work and presentation, you will write up a two-page summary of what you personally learned in the course of preparing for your presentation. I will
provide a guideline to help you write this summary. Your summary will be handed in on the day of your class presentation.

Presenting means more than simply reading your notes aloud in front of the class. You should aim to teach you fellow students what you have learned. This means attempting to communicate your research effectively and with enthusiasm, through both word and image. I reserve the right in the first two weeks to move people into different groups if there are not enough signed up for a particular week, or if a number of students drop and the list has to be “re-balanced.”

v) **Midterm Exam (30%), Tuesday, March 14, 4:00 – 6:00 PM:** You will take a midterm examination and will need to bring a large examination Blue Book to class on that day. I will go over test-taking strategies with you beforehand, and I will discuss what the exam will look like and how I will grade it. The exam will have essay questions, the answers to which must incorporate specific course readings, as well as vocabulary terms to identify. The examination will cover material from course readings, discussions, videos and images presented in class up through the week prior to the examination. The best way to prepare for the exam is to keep up with readings, take careful notes in class, review Power Point presentations, and actively engage in class discussions.

vi) **Final Exam (30%) Tuesday, May 9, 4:00PM – 6:00PM:** You will also take a two-hour final examination worth 30% of your grade. Please bring a large Blue Book to class for the exam. The exam will be cumulative, covering all materials throughout the semester, but the emphasis will be on material covered following the midterm exam. The format will be similar to that of the midterm, with essay questions and vocabulary and image identifications. You can stay prepared for the final exam in the same way you did for the midterm.

**Essential Reading:**

The following book is required for the course and can be purchased at campus bookstores:


We will also use primary sources – both written and visual – as a basis for our class discussion. These may be consulted on Blackboard.
Course Schedule

Week 1, Tues. Jan. 24: Course Introduction

Week 2, Tues. Jan. 31
The Origins of Human Communities
Presentations: i) Lucy; ii) Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens
Reading: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 1: Before History
ii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Part I: The Foundations of Civilization

Week 3, Tues. Feb. 7: Early Societies in Mesopotamia and Egypt
Presentation: i) The Birth of Writing; ii) The Tomb of Tutankhamen.
Readings: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 2: Early Societies in Southwest Asia;
ii) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 3: Early African Societies and the Bantu Migrations
iii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 4, Tues. Feb. 14: India and its spiritual bequest: Hinduism and Buddhism
Presentation: i) The Caste System; ii) Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha.
Reading: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 4: Early Societies in South Asia
ii) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 9: State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in India
iii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 5, Tues. Feb. 21: Classical to Imperial China
Presentation: i) Confucius; ii) the Emperor Qin
Reading: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 5: Early Societies in Mainland East Asia
ii) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 8: The Unification of China
iii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Part II: The Formation of Cultural and Political Empires

Week 6, Tues. Feb. 28: The Hellenistic World
Presentation: i) Alexander the Great; ii) Greek Philosophy
Reading: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 10 Mediterranean Society: The Greek Phase
   ii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 7, Tues. Mar. 7: Romans: from Republic to Empire
Presentation: i) Gladiators; ii) Pompeii
Reading: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 11: Mediterranean Society: The Roman Phase
   iii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 8, Tues. Mar. 14: Mid-term Exam

Part III: Expansion and Encounter

Week 9, Tues. Mar. 21: The Rise of Islam
Presentation: i) the Prophet Muhammad; ii) Early Islamic Science
Reading: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 14: The Expansive Realm of Islam
   ii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 10, Tues. Apr. 4: Medieval European Civilization
Presentation: i) the Crusades; ii) Medieval Universities
Readings: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 16: The Two Worlds of Christendom
   ii) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 19: The Increasing Influence of Europe
   iii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 11, Tues. Apr. 11: The World of the Mongols
Presentation: i) Marco Polo; ii) Chinggis Khan
Readings: i) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 17: Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration
   ii) Traditions & Encounters, chapter 12: Cross-Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Roads
   ii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

Week 12, Tues, Apr. 18: Sub-Saharan Africa
Presentation: i) The Kingdom of Mali; ii) Great Zimbabwe
Reading:  
   i) *Traditions & Encounters*, chapter 18: States and Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa
   ii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

**Week 13, Tues. Apr. 25: Pre-Columbian America**
Presentation:  
   i) Tenochtitlan; ii) The Inca Roads

Readings:  
   i) *Traditions & Encounters*, chapter 6: Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania
   ii) *Traditions & Encounters*, chapter 20: Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania
   iii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

**Week 14, Tues. May 2: Voyages and Expanding Horizons**
Presentation:  
   i) Henry the Navigator; ii) Christopher Columbus

Reading:  
   i) *Traditions and Encounters*, chapter 21: Expanding Horizons
   ii) Primary source readings on Blackboard

**Final exam: Tues. May 9: Final Exam, 4:00PM – 6:00PM**