HIST 2321-500 World Civilizations I  
Fall 2020  
Dr. Suparna Chakraborty

Contact Details:  
Office: Department of History, Liberal Arts North 343  
E-mail: chakrabos@sfasu.edu

Online Office hours:  
Monday, Wednesday: 11.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m, 2.30 p.m.- 3.30 p.m.  
Friday: 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.  
Tuesday: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Course Description:  
This course surveys major developments in world history up until around 1500. It will center on themes and topics until 1500 in order to familiarize students with world civilizations, and concepts such as cross-cultural interactions, migratory movements, ideologies/religions, foreign relations/conflict, and social/political/economic change and development.

This course will trace the development of world civilizations from the rise of the river valley civilizations to the age of global expansion in the 16th century. In tracing our past, beginning with the formation of the earliest city-states, this course will emphasize the distinctive histories and cultural values that shaped major regions while also highlighting the cross-cultural contacts that played equally important roles in shaping these early civilizations. How ancient and pre-modern societies adapted to their environments, organized their political economies, expressed themselves in art and philosophy and interacted with other peoples different from themselves will help us appreciate the dynamism of these ancient and pre-modern societies.

Readings


*Course Reserve: Additional readings for the course will be placed on the course website Desire2Learn (D2L).

Course Requirements

Assignments

Exams: There will be 2 exams for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the module contents and textbook. The exams are not going to be cumulative.
Since the exams are online, there will be no study guide or review sheet for the exams.

Exam 1 will count for 20% of the final grade. Exam 2 will count for 25% each.

Students will get one week to take the exam at their convenient time. Hence there will be no extension of the exam deadline. There will be no make-up for missed exams.

**Source Analysis Paper:** There will be one short paper (4-5 pages) assignment for this course. The essay will count for 20% of the final grade. The papers will be based on the primary sources that will be provided to you for the assignment. In this assignment, you will analyze an historical event and how people were affected by it. The instructor will provide guidelines on this assignment via D2L. There will be no extension of the essay deadline.

**Discussions:** In a discussion you have think historically and use your own words to respond to a specific question. Responses must be substantive and reflect critical engagement with the course material. Please remember that the discussion board is an academic environment and should be treated as such; proper grammar, spelling, and syntax are expected. While your postings should be of sufficient length to address each question, your grade will be based not on the length of your postings and the content of your messages. If you miss a discussion, you will not be allowed to make it up. Discussions will count for 15% of the final grade.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions based on the assigned readings for the weekly modules. If you read, take notes, and engage with the material, you should have no trouble with these quizzes. Please note that the quizzes have time limits, and no quizzes will be accepted after the time has expired. If you miss a quiz, you will not be allowed to make it up. Quizzes will count for 20% of the final grade.

**Grading Policy:**
Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 25%
Source Analysis Paper: 20%
Discussions: 15%
Quizzes: 20%
Grading Scale:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89  = B
- 70-79  = C
- 60-69  = D
- 0-59   = F

Course Schedule

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Standard Time. **There will no make-up for missed assignments.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics to Be Covered</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>Introductions and Overview of the Course</td>
<td>• Read Week 1 content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24-28</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Complete discussion “Introduce Yourself” by August 28 by 10.00p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>Module 1 Becoming Human</td>
<td>• Finish reading Chapter 1 and module content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31—September 4</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Assignments deadline:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Submit discussion response “Agricultural Revolution” by September 4 by 10.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Module 2 River Valley Civilizations</td>
<td>• Finish reading Chapter 2 and module content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7—September 18</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Assignments deadline:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Complete discussion “How to assess civilization” by September 11 by 10.00p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You have to finish the discussions before you can move on to the quiz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Complete Quiz “First Civilizations” by September 18 by 10.00p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| WEEK 5 & 6 | Module 3 Early Empires | • Finish reading Chapter 3 and Module content  
• **Assignments deadline:**  
• Finish Discussion response “Who does the past really belong to?” by September 25 by 10.00 p.m.  
You have to finish the discussion responses before you can take the quiz  
• Complete quiz “First Empires” by October 2 by 10.00 p.m. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 21– October 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| WEEK 7 | Exam 1 | • Study for exam and take exam  
**Assignments deadline:**  
• Complete Exam 1 by October 9 by 10.00 p.m. |
| October 5 – October 9 | | |
| WEEK 8 & 9 | Module 4 Culture and Structures of Power | • Read Chapters 4, 5 and module content.  
**Assignments deadline:**  
• Complete quiz by October 23 by 10.00 p.m. |
| October 12- October 23 | | |
| WEEK 10 & 11 | Module 5 Trade and Commerce | • Read chapter 7 and module content  
• Read primary sources for essay and essay instructions  
**Assignments deadline:**  
• Submit essay in D2L Dropbox by November 6 by 10.00 p.m. |
| October 26- November 6 | | |
| WEEK 12 & 13 | Module 6 Islam | • Finish reading Chapter 9 and module content  
**Assignments deadline:**  
• Finish discussion “Islam” by November 13 by 10.00 p.m.  
• Finish quiz “Islam” by November 20 by 10.00 p.m. |
| November 9 – November 20 | | |
| WEEK 14 | Thanksgiving Break | • Enjoy your break!! |
| November | | |
### Student Learning Outcomes:

HIST 2321 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives toward both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for the classes designed for inclusion in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Courses in this Foundational Component Area of the Core focus on the ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture that express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

In addition to learning the above, as well as achieving competence in the assignment-specific objectives detailed earlier, students in HIST 2321 will, through a variety of exercises and assignments, demonstrate the ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of past human engagements in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to the making of ethical decisions.

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from core curriculum courses. The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course and the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Source Analysis Paper</td>
<td>October 28-November 9 by 10.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source Analysis Assignment**
To measure the success of student acquisition of these mandated skills, one assignment during the semester will require critical analysis of an historical period or event in world history from the period since 1500. Each student will be provided a selection of primary
and/or secondary sources to interpret and evaluate, place in historical context, and utilize to construct an analytical essay. The essay will require that students think critically about the sources, examine how individual choices and decisions influenced the course of history, and consider the ways in which people engage with regional, national, or global communities.

Completion of this assignment is required by the university and is an important component in the successful completion of this course. Further instructions will be provided at the appropriate time.

**Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:**
HIST 2321 (World Civilizations I) meets for 150 minutes each week for 15 weeks and also meets for a 2 hours and 30 minutes final examination. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc). Typical sections of the course require students to take 2-3 exams per semester, in addition to the final exam. Many also require students to take quizzes. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for quizzes/exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom. Online sections of the course contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold “electronic office hours” to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 150 minutes per week. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

**Policies and Procedures**

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).