History 2321-640: World Civilizations I
Fall 2020

Dr. Suparna Chakraborty

Class Hours:
This is a hybrid class; hence it will be a balance between zoom meetings and online content delivery. Classes will meet via the zoom link on Brightspace on
Mondays and Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m. -10.50 a.m. Any changes in meeting times will be notified to the students via email.

Contact Details:
Office: Department of History, Liberal Arts North 343
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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

Robert W. Strayer, Ways of the World: A brief Global History with Sources VOL-1
*Course Reserve*: Additional readings for the course will be placed on the course website Brightspace.

**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

LECTURES AND READINGS

Next to each date is a title for the day’s lecture or activity. Under each lecture title are the readings that correspond to that lecture. The lectures are not a substitute for the reading or vice versa. You will require information from both lectures and readings to pass the course. The syllabus is subject to change dependent on the instructor’s assessment of the progress of the course. Students will be notified of such changes in class.

Week 1 (August 24-28)
Introduction
Beginnings of History
Chapter 1

Week 2 (August 31-Sept 4)
Beginnings of History
Chapter 1
Complete Discussion response “Agricultural Revolution” by September 4 by 10.00 p.m.

Week 3 (Sept 7-Sept 11)
River Valley Civilizations
Chapter 2
Week 4 (Sept 14- Sept 18)
River Valley Civilizations
Chapter 2
Complete Quiz “First Civilizations” by September 18 by 10.00 p.m.
Complete Discussion response “How to assess civilization” by September 18 by 10.00 p.m.

Week 5 (Sept 21- Sept 25)
Early Empires
Chapter 3

Week 6 (Sept 28- October 2)
Early Empires
Complete quiz “First Empires” by October 2 by 10.00 p.m.
Complete discussion response “Who does the past really belong to?” by October 2 by 10.00 p.m.

Week 7 (Oct 5- 9) Exam 1
Take Exam 1 by October 1 by 10.00 p.m.

Week 8 (Oct 12- 16)
Culture and Structures of Power
Chapter 4,5

Week 9 (Oct 19- 23)
Culture and Structures of Power
Chapter 4,5
Complete quiz by October 23 by 10.00 p.m.

Week 10 (Oct 26- 30)
Silk Road, Trade and Culture
Chapter 7
Essay Discussion

Week 11 (November 2- 6)
Silk Road, Trade and Culture
Chapter 7
Submit Essay by November 6 by November 6 by 10.00 p.m.

Week 12 (November 9- 13)
The World of Islam
Chapter 9
Complete quiz “Islam” by November 13 by 10.00 p.m.
Complete discussion “Islam” by November 13 by 10.00 p.m.

**Week 13 (November 16- 20)**
Mongols
Chapter 11
Complete quiz “Mongols” by November 20 by 10.00 p.m.

**Week 14 (November 23- 27) Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 15 (November 30- December 4)**
Prepare for Final Exam

**Week 16 (December 7- December 9)**
**Take Final Exam by December 9 by 5.00 p.m.**

**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.
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-hour 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.

General Education Core Curriculum
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

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/).