History 161-001: World History to 1500
Spring 2020

Dr. Suparna Chakraborty

Class Hours and Room Number:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00 a.m. -10.50 a.m.
Room Number: Ferguson 477

Contact Details:
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Office hours:
Monday, Wednesday: 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.
Friday: 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.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 Desire2Learn (D2L).
Course Requirements

Assignments

**Exams**: There will be 3 exams for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the lectures and the readings assigned for the period. The exams are not going to be cumulative. I will provide guidelines and study guides the week prior to the exam. Students will have to take the examinations in class without access to any notes, books, or electronic devices. There should be no talking among students once the distribution of examinations has begun. Please write your examination in blue or black ink (no pencil). **Exam 1 will count for 20% of the final grade. Exam 2 and Exam 3 will count for 25% each.** If because of a special university activity, serious illness, or some other personal emergency, you have to miss an examination, be sure to notify the instructor in advance by e-mail.

**Grading Scale:**

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

If you miss an exam, you absolutely must contact me to set up an appointment to make up the missed exam. Please remember it is **YOUR responsibility to set up the meeting to make up for missed exam(s).**

**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. Late submissions will be penalized.** 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 and discuss the format of the papers in greater detail in class.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**: Your **class attendance (5%) and class participation and conduct (5%)** will account for 10% of the final grade.

**Policy on Absences**: Students are expected to attend ALL classes. Attendance will be taken EVERYDAY. **You may have three absences, whether excused or unexcused without penalty. After that for every non-school-related absences will result in the loss of 2 points from the final total grade.** I strongly advise you to contact me prior to class for your absence to be excused. You may do this by email, or in person.
**Class Participation:** All students are expected to actively participate in class, which means coming to class having done the readings assigned for the day, as well as complete in-class assignments.

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The instructor will have full discretion over what behavior is deemed appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. **All cell phones must be turned off or put on silent. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones to text during class sessions.**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

HIS 161 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 HIS 161 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:
HIS 161 (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/).
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 (January 15, 17)
Introduction
Beginnings of History
Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 20, 22, 24)
January 20: MLK Holiday
Beginnings of History
Chapter 1

Week 3 (January 27, 29, 31)
River Valley Civilizations
Chapter 2

Week 4 (February 3, 5, 6)
River Valley Civilizations
Chapter 2

Week 5 (February 10, 12, 14)
River Valley Civilizations
Chapter 2

Week 6 (February 17, 19, 21) Exam 1
October 3: Exam Review
February 21: Exam 1

Week 7 (February 24, 26, 28)
First Empires and Unequal Societies
Chapter 3
Week 8 (March 2, 4, 6)  
First Empires and Unequal Societies  
Chapter 3

Week 9 (March 9, 11, 13) Spring Break

Week 10 (March 16, 18, 20)  
Culture, Religion and Society  
Chapter 4 and 5  
Silk Road, Trade and Culture  
Chapter 7

Week 11 (March 23, 25, 27)  
Silk Road, Trade and Culture  
Chapter 7  
March 27 - Essay Discussion

Week 12 (March 30, April 1, 3)  
**April 1: Exam 2**  
**April 3: The World of Islam**  
Chapter 9

Week 13 (April 6, 8, 10)  
**April 6- The World of Islam**  
Chapter 9  
**April 8- Essay Due**  
April 10- Easter Break

Week 14 (April 13, 15, 17)  
The World of Islam  
Chapter 9

Week 15 (April 20, 22, 24)  
World of Christendom. Chapter 10

Week 16 (April 27, 29, May 1)  
Mongols, Chapter 11  
Review  
**Final Exam: May 4, 10.45 a.m.- 1.15 p.m.**