Dr. Aryendra Chakravartty  
Department of History  
Liberal Arts North 355

Contact Information:  
E-mail: chakravaa@sfasu.edu

Office Hours:  
Online office hours:  
Tuesday: 10-12:30  
Thursday: 10-12:30  
Available by email and zoom

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 are **TWO EXAMS** for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the module contents and the textbook. The exams are not going to be cumulative.

**Since the exams are online, there will be no study guide or review sheet.**

Students will get a couple of days 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. 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 Brightspace. **There will be no extension of the essay deadline.**

Discussions: In a discussion you have to 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.

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.

** Grade Breakdown:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1: 100 points</td>
<td>441 - 490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2: 100 points</td>
<td>392 - 440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Analysis Paper: 100 points</td>
<td>343 - 391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions: 4 x 10 points = 40 points</td>
<td>294 - 342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes: 5 x 30 points = 150 points</td>
<td>293 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** TOTAL = 490 points **
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 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.

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.

By enrolling in HIST 2321, you are enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility requirements.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Learn to think historically through critical assessment of primary and secondary sources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Develop an awareness, understanding and appreciation for the varied cultures and communities.</td>
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<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>
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Policies and Procedures

Academic Integrity (4.1)
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/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf)

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, 5.5)**
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/).

**Mental Health Statement**
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
HIST 2321-500: World Civilizations I  
Fall 2021  
Tentative 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 1</strong></td>
<td>Introductions and Overview of the Course</td>
<td>• Read Week 1 content.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23 – August 28</td>
<td>Module 1 Becoming Human</td>
<td>• Complete discussion “Introduce Yourself” by August 25 by 5.00p.m.</td>
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<td>• Finish reading Chapter 1 and module content. Assignment deadline:</td>
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<td>• Submit discussion response “Agricultural Revolution” by August 28 by 10.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 2</strong></td>
<td>Module 2 River Valley Civilizations</td>
<td>• Finish reading Chapter 2 and module content. Assignment deadline:</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30 – September 4</td>
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<td>• Complete discussion “How to assess civilization” by September 4 by 10.00p.m.</td>
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<td>• Complete Quiz “First Civilizations” by September 4 by 10.00p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 3</strong></td>
<td>Module 3 Early Empires</td>
<td>• Finish reading Chapter 3 and Module content Assignment deadline:</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6 – September 11</td>
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<td>• Finish Discussion response “Who does the past really belong to?” by September 11 by 10.00 p.m.</td>
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<td>• Complete quiz “First Empires” by September 11 by 10.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong></td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>• Study for exam and take exam Assignment deadline:</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13 – September 18</td>
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<td>• Complete Exam 1 by September 14 10.00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Module 4 Culture and Structures of Power</td>
<td>• Read Chapters 4, 5 and module content. Assignment deadline:</td>
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<td>• Complete Quiz by September 18 by 10.00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| WEEK 5 | Module 5 Trade and Commerce | • Read Chapter 7 and module content  
• Read primary sources for essay and essay instructions  
**Assignment deadline:**  
• Submit essay in D2L Dropbox by September 25 by 10.00 p.m. |
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<tr>
<td>September 20 – September 25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **WEEK 6** | Module 6 Islam | • Finish reading Chapter 9 and module content  
**Assignment deadline:**  
• Finish discussion “Islam” by October 2 by 10.00 p.m.  
• Finish quiz “Islam” by October 2 by 10.00 p.m. |
| September 27 – October 2 | | |
| **WEEK 7** | Module 7 Mongols | • Read Chapter 11 and module content  
**Assignment deadline:**  
• Complete quiz “Mongols” October 6 by 10.00 p.m. |
| October 4 – October 8 | | |
| | Exam 2 | **Assignment deadline:**  
• Complete End-of-Semester Evaluation.  
• Take Exam 2 by October 8 by 5.00 p.m. |