World Civilizations I  
HIST 2321-001

Name: Dr. Lydia Towns  
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Phone: 936-468-2434  
Office: LAN 309  
Office Hours: Mondays- 4-6pm; Thursday 1-5pm  
    Teatime hours: MW 4-5pm; Thur. 3-5pm  
    Or By Appointment  
Department: History  
Class meeting time and place: MW 2:30-3:45 FERG 474

Course Description:
Surveys major developments in world history until 1500. Centers on themes and topics such as cross-cultural interactions, migratory movements, ideologies, and social/political/economic change and development.

Texts and Materials:


Whitfield, Susan Life Along the Silk Road, 2nd edition, ISBN: 9780520280595
Course Requirements:

**Historical Engagement**: As you move through the course materials (the history under study), you will have several ways to interact with the materials, instructor, and your fellow students through a variety of assignments. (The Instructor reserves the right to adjust the number of assignments as the semester progresses) There are three types of Historical Engagement exercises:

- **Quizzes**: Throughout the semester you will have online quizzes and in-class quizzes that measure your recall ability (memory) of key facts, themes, chronology, etc., of the course materials, readings and the *Life Along the Silk Road* book. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Worth 20% of the final grade.

- **Participation**: Active participation with the material and in class is key to success, class attendance and participation will be a factor of your semester grade. There will be a variety of “participation assignments” throughout the semester that will allow you to engage with the historical material and practice being an historian. These will include: primary source activities, reaction papers, and other group activities based on the material in the weekly folders. These assignments are designed to enhance the student’s teamwork skills, actively engage the students with the material, enhance analytical and critical thinking and encourage class participation and attendance. The lowest three grades for this section will be dropped. Worth 25% of the final grade.

- **Historical Essays**: The semester will be divided into three units, (Pre-Classic, Classic, Post-Classic) at the end of each unit you will be given two questions, you must choose one of the two to answer. These questions will require you to think comparatively about what we have learned and construct an evidence-based argument using macro and micro reasoning. Each essay should be 2.5-3 pages and will require the use of Primary and Secondary sources. Unit Essays are worth a total of 35% of your final grade.

  **Life Along the Silk Road Essay**: This will be a 2-3 page book analysis assessing the content of the book, its effectiveness in relaying the broad historical themes, and placing it within the broader themes of our course while assessing its worth in a World history survey. Worth 5% of the final grade.

  **Final Essay**: The final assignment for this course will be a cumulative essay. This essay will require the use of both primary and secondary sources and will be worth 5% of the final grade.

**Critical Thinking Skills**

- In addition to your historical engagement assignments there will be a series of Critical Thinking assignments at the beginning of the semester to help you prepare for our written assignments and to understand how historical research is conducted. Worth 10% of the final grade.
**Tea-time with Dr. Towns** - During afternoon office hours I will offer an optional “tea time” everyone is encouraged to come by whenever they want to visit. In addition, each individual will receive up to 1 extra credit historical engagement for attending a “tea time” during the semester.

**Course Calendar:**
*I reserve the right to modify this schedule at any time when in the best interest of the class—Dr. Towns*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1- Aug. 28, 30</th>
<th>Intro to History</th>
<th>Critical Thinking 1-5, and Week 1 Folder due Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2- Sept. 4, 6</td>
<td>Early Communities Ch. 1 pp. 24-56</td>
<td>Week 2 Folder Due Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3- Sept. 11, 13</td>
<td>Rivers, Cities, and First States Ch. 2</td>
<td>Week 3 Folder Due Friday Quiz 1 due Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4, Sept. 18, 20</td>
<td>Nomads, Territorial States, and Microsocieties Ch. 3</td>
<td>Week 4 Folder Due Friday Quiz 2 due Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY ONLINE</strong></td>
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<td>ONLINE WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5, Sept. 25, 27</td>
<td>Nomads part 2, First Empires and Common Cultures Ch. 4</td>
<td>Week 5 Folder Due Friday Quiz 3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALL ONLINE</strong></td>
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<td>UNIT 1 ESSAY DUE FRIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6, Oct. 2, 4</td>
<td>Common Cultures Ch. 5 pp.</td>
<td>Week 6 Folder Due</td>
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<td>Week 7, Oct. 9, 11</td>
<td>Shrinking the Afro-Eurasian World—The Silk Road Begin Ch. 6</td>
<td>Whitfield- Introduction Week 7 Folder</td>
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<td>Week 8, Oct. 16, 18</td>
<td>Empire Ch. 7</td>
<td>Week 8 Folder &amp; Quiz 4</td>
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<td>Week 9 Oct. 23, 25</td>
<td>Universalizing Religions Ch. 8</td>
<td>Week 10 Folder</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Oct. 30, Nov. 1</td>
<td>New Empires Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 8</td>
<td>“Becoming the World” Finish Ch. 9, Ch. 10 pp. 473-493</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 15</td>
<td>“Becoming the World” Ch. 10 pp. 494-530</td>
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<td><strong>THANKSGIVING BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Nov. 27, 29</td>
<td>Crisis and Recovery Part 1 Ch. 11 pp. 533-554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Dec. 4, 6</td>
<td>Crisis and Recovery Part 2 Ch. 11 pp. 554-568</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
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**Grading Policy:**
Letter grades are assigned as follows

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

Grades can be broken down into the different assignment categories as follows:
- Critical Thinking- 10%
- Quizzes- 20%
- Participation- 25%
- Unit Essays- 35%
- Book Analysis- 5%
- Final- 5%

**Attendance Policy:**
Class attendance is considered a part of the grade for this class and is mandatory for success. Students should make every effort to attend every class meeting. Sometimes a student misses class due to circumstances beyond his or her control. In such a situation the student MUST contact the instructor as soon as possible.
The student is responsible for notifying the instructor and providing documentation of excused absences. If at all possible, this documentation should be in the form of an email and should be delivered in advance of the absence. If advance documentation is not possible, the student should provide documentation on the first day that the student returns to class.

**Late Assignment Policy**

No late work will be accepted for in-class assignments for unexcused absences. If a student misses an in-class assignment due to illness, family emergency, or school obligation, he or she may submit that assignment at the next class meeting. All online assignments will allow submission one day past the due date and will be docked a letter grade.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

HIST 2322 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 classes designated 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, students in HIST 2321 will demonstrate the more general 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 2,250 minutes (37.5 hours), including examination times, during the course of a semester. 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 2,250 minutes per term. 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 2322, 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Through the Critical Thinking unit and participation assignments</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>
<td>Through written assignments and class discussions</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</td>
<td>Through in class discussions, debates, and participation</td>
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or goal. activities

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<tr>
<th>Personal Responsibility</th>
<th>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</th>
<th>By maintaining hard due dates and reading responsibilities</th>
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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>
<td>By learning to interact with viewpoints that are different from one’s own in class and developing ability to understand different perspectives and backgrounds through participation activities</td>
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**Academic Integrity**

*The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity* outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy. Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction

*If you are caught cheating, plagiarizing, or using an AI generation such as ChatGPT for your written work, it is an automatic 0, and referral to the Dean of Students. If caught a second time you may fail the course.*

**Withheld Grades**

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**
SFSU 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:**
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

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

**The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”**
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thewhub
936.468.4008
[thewhub@sfasu.edu](mailto:thewhub@sfasu.edu)

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