

Course Syllabus

World Civilizations I HIS K121

M,W,F 10:00 -10:50 AM

Room D210

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Richard Seckla

Email Address: rseckla@trcc.commnet.edu

Office: D205

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-10:00

Spring 2015

Course Description:

This course is a survey of world cultures that have contributed importantly to the development of Western and Eastern thought. Consideration is given to institutions and ideas from prehistoric times through the evolution of ancient civilizations to the formation of empires and modern nation states. Major economic, political, and social forces are examined for their influence upon modern society.

Prerequisite: Placement test score indicating ENG K101 or completion of ENG* K100 with a "C" grade or better.*

Course Objectives:

Learning Outcomes:

1. Explore the complexity of the human experience
2. Develop a body of historical knowledge explaining the dynamics of change over time
3. Interpret and contextualize the past on its own terms
4. Evaluate a variety of historical sources, primary and secondary, for their credibility and utility
5. Generate a historical argument that is reasoned and based on historical evidence
6. Combine argument and evidence into effective narrative that describes and analyzes the past

Learning Objectives:

Actively engage in the learning process through demonstrated success on writing assignments

- Identify topics
- Read, assess, summarize and synthesize material
- Articulate central themes
- Employ correct research skills
- Synthesize information to demonstrate knowledge of subject matter
- Select, design and present data which demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter

Goal: At the end of the course, students will understand, articulate and synthesize the development of early modern and modern world societies.

In other words, the overall purpose of this course is to help students gain a solid foundation in understanding the evolution of modern societies. A secondary, yet equally important, goal is the development of a methodology in order to examine evidence in order to convey information in a clear and concise manner (this is more commonly known as critical thinking). Finally, I want students to be active participants in the course and in class discussions. I encourage you to ask questions and take the initiative to delve deeper into topics. I look for students to be enthusiastically engaged with the subject matter.

“Few learn from history who do not bring much with them to its study” - John Stuart Mill

Required Text:

Bentley, Jerry and Herbert Ziegler. *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, Volume I: From Prehistory to 1500*. Sixth Edition, 2015.

In addition to the text, additional readings for class discussion will be assigned on a week-to-week basis.

“Time management is one of the keys to success in college” - Seckla

Tentative Class Schedule:

| Class | Class Content | Text Reading |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Week 1 January 23 | Introduction to the course | |
| Week 2 January 26 | <u>Prehistory</u> Paleolithic Era | Chapter 1 |
| January 28 | <u>Prehistory</u> Neolithic Era | Chapter 1 |
| January 30 | <u>Mesopotamia</u> Laws of Hammurabi | Chapter 2 |
| Week 3 February 2 | <u>Mesopotamia</u> Phoenicia, Palestine Indo-Europeans | Chapter 2 |
| February 4 | <u>Egypt</u> Early Dynasties Nubia | Chapter 3 |
| February 6 | <u>Egypt</u> Cult of Isis Bantu Migrations | Chapter 3 |
| Week 4 February 9 | <u>India</u> Harappa | Chapter 4 |
| February 11 | <u>India</u> Vedic Age | Chapter 4 |

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| February 13 | <u>China</u> Xia, Shang, Zhou | Chapter 5 |
| Week 5 February 18 | <u>China</u> Steppe and Nomads | Chapter 5 |
| February 20 | <u>Mesoamerica</u> Olmecs, Mayas | Chapter 6 |
| Week 6 February 23 | Exam #1 | |
| February 25 | <u>Persia</u> Achaemenid Empire | Chapter 7 |
| February 27 | <u>Persia</u> Parthians, Sassanids Zoroastrianism | Chapter 7 |
| Week 7 March 2 | <u>China</u> Confucianism | Chapter 8 |
| March 4 | <u>China</u> Qin, Han Dynasties | Chapter 8 |
| March 6 | <u>India</u> Gupta Dynasty Mauryan Dynasty | Chapter 9 |
| Week 8 March 9 | <u>India</u> Hinduism Buddhism Short Paper #1 Due | Chapter 9 |
| March 11 | <u>Greece</u> Classical Greece | Chapter 10 |

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| March 13 | <u>Greece</u> Hellenistic World | Chapter 10 |
| Spring Break | | |
| Week 9 March 23 | <u>Rome</u> Roman Republic | Chapter 11 |
| March 25 | <u>Rome</u> Roman Empire Christianity | Chapter 11 |
| March 27 | <u>Silk Roads</u> Fall of Rome, Han | Chapters 12 |
| Week 10 March 30 | <u>Silk Roads</u> Spread of Religions | Chapter 12 |
| April 1 | Exam #2 | |
| Week 11 April 6 | <u>China</u> Qin, Tang, Song Dynasties | Chapter 13 |
| April 8 | <u>China</u> Japan, Korea, Vietnam | Chapter 13 |
| April 10 | <u>Islam</u> Umayyad, Abbassid Dynasties | Chapter 14 |
| Week 12 April 13 | <u>Islam</u> Islamic Culture | Chapter 14 |
| April 15 | <u>India</u> Arrival of Islam | Chapter 15 |

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| April 17 | <u>India</u> India and Southeast Asia | Chapter 15 |
| Week 13 April 20 | <u>Europe</u> Franks Charlemagne Western Christianity | Chapter 16 |
| April 22 | <u>Europe</u> Byzantium Justinian Eastern Christianity | Chapter 16 |
| April 24 | Exam #3 | |
| Week 14 April 27 | <u>Nomads</u> The Mongols Short Paper #2 Due | Chapter 17 |
| April 29 | <u>Nomads</u> Tamerlane | Chapter 17 |
| May 1 | <u>Africa</u> The Arrival of Islam | Chapter 18 |
| Week 15 May 4 | <u>Europe</u> Medieval Europe | Chapter 19 |
| May 6 | <u>Europe</u> The Crusades | Chapter 19 |
| May 8 | <u>America</u> Aztecs, Incas Research Paper Due | Chapter 20 |
| Week 16 May 11 | <u>Cross-Cultural Contacts</u> Ming China Black Death | Chapter 21 |
| May 13 | <u>Cross-Cultural Contacts</u> Renaissance Voyages of Exploration | Chapter 21 |
| May 15 | Final Exam #4 | |

Method of Evaluation:

This course will focus heavily on reading, writing, and research, and the assignments will be reflective of that.

Exams-Four unit exams will be given in class over the course of the semester. I will issue a study guide prior to each exam so you can focus your studies on those items which will be on the test. The exams *may* consist of identification questions, multiple choice, matching, short-answer essays and formal essays. The average of your exam grades will constitute 45% of your grade.

Student Participation – This consists of how much you actively participate in the learning process. You will be expected to complete assigned readings *prior to class* in order to be prepared for and involved in class discussions. This category also includes any in-class writing assignments, homework assignments, and quizzes. Attendance is crucial, if you miss that day's in-class work or quiz, it's no credit. 15% of your final grade.

Short Papers (2) – Two short papers 2-4 pages will be required – one in each half of the semester. Topics TBD. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced. This component is worth 20% of your final grade.

Research Paper - This will be a 5-8 page paper (5 pages minimum) that will explore the dynamics of change over time. You will be working with both primary and secondary sources (provided). This is a formal paper with which you will be required to analyze evidence, develop and support a thesis, utilize research skills, document your sources, and employ correct grammar and mechanics. You will use MLA citation guidelines for your in-text citations and Works Cited page. The paper will constitute 20% of your final grade:

Topic TBD.

**Submit two copies of this assignment.

Grading System:

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| A = 93-100 | C = 73-76 |
| A- = 90-92 | C- = 70-72 |
| B+ = 87-89 | D+ = 67-69 |
| B = 83-86 | D = 63-66 |
| B- = 80-82 | D- = 60-62 |
| C+ = 77-79 | F = Below 60 |

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| Exams | 45% |
| Discussion Participation, In-Class Quizzes | 15% |
| Short Papers (2) | 20% |
| Research Paper | 20% |
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Late Assignments/Missed Quizzes/Make-Up Exams:

Staying on track and submitting assignments on time is crucial for success in this (and any) course. I will issue reminders on upcoming due dates but I will not chase you down if you miss a date. If assignments are not turned in on the due date, your grade will be lowered for each day in which it is not turned in.

Any in-class quizzes are given to ensure that you remain current with the readings on the days that we are discussing topics. In this context, ‘makeups’ are somewhat pointless. This holds true for any in-class writing assignments.

Missed exams must be submitted within one week of the original exam date (before I hand back corrected exams). Failure to complete the make-up within the one-week window will result in a grade of zero for the exam. I allow one make-up exam per semester without penalty. A second make-up exam will be penalized by one letter grade.

****In other words, don't make a habit of skipping exam days.****

****No make up will be offered on the final!****

Digication:

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential for success in the course and is expected. Experience has shown that students who attend class sporadically perform poorly in the course. Within the College's guidelines and with permission, occasional absences for compelling reasons will be granted. I take attendance at the beginning of each class, and it goes without saying that habitual absences or lateness will negatively affect your individual contribution grade. If you do have to miss a class, I strongly urge you check with your fellow students for any handouts prior to the next class.

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar's Office. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without being in good standing or obtaining prior permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Students who fail to properly withdraw and cease coming to class, will be assigned an "F" for the course. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal when received by the registrar. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities Statement:

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

| TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119 | |
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| Matt Liscum (860) 383-5240 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities |
| Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disabilities• ADD/ADHD• Autism Spectrum |

Cell Phones / Pagers:

Students are notified that smartphones, cellphones, pagers and other digital devices are allowed in class only if they turned off or in the silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered nor is texting to take place in class – exceedingly rude. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement. As with books and other class materials, digital devices are not to be accessed during quizzes and exams.

****Checking phones during exams will result in an F for the exam and possible expulsion from the course – put ‘em away!****

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism in any form is a major breach of academic standards. Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the college immediately and may result in an “F” for the assignment or an “F” for the entire course. Remember, you can cite other sources or use quotations from other writers in your papers as long as you use the proper citation – in other words, a parenthetical citation.

Civility and Deportment in the Classroom:

The classroom is a place of learning. In this setting, all ideas and opinions are to be heard and respected, even if you disagree with what is said. Anyone who upsets this environment, or who displays disrespect toward anyone in the class, will not be tolerated. Lively, insightful, and considerate interaction is encouraged. Please make every effort to arrive to class on time. It is expected that if you are late, that you will make every effort to minimize any disruption to the class. Likewise, I expect students to remain for the full class period (50 minutes is not a long time). If you think you may have a circumstance that requires you to leave during class, please advise me beforehand.

“History is the witness of time, the lamp of truth, the embodied soul of memory, the instructress of life, and the messenger of antiquity” – Marcus Tullius Cicero

Campus Communications

myCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, TRCC sends messages when the college is delayed or closed due to weather.

All students are encouraged to sign up for myCommNet Alert. A tutorial is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page of the web site:

http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/div_it/educationaltechnology/Tutorials/myCommNetAlert/MIR3.html