

Course Outline

World Civilizations I

(13371) HIS K121

Wednesdays: 6:00 – 8:45

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris

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Office Hours:

Monday: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 2 – 3:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

Spring 2018

### Course Description:

This course is a survey of the evolution of world societies from the beginnings of human history to the year 1500, with emphasis given to the following: technological developments; major institutions; the development of intellectual currents; the formation of empires; and the overall political, social, and economic framework that existed in these societies during this time period.

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

### Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge outcomes. Students will learn to:

1. Distinguish and characterize significant periods of historical experience in multiple societies from different parts of the globe.
2. Describe events and developments in the history of multiple societies in terms of continuity, change, and causation.
3. Understand interpretive debates about the past.
4. Appreciate the complexities involved in interpreting societies and social change: for example, the local and the global, particular and general, contingent and structural.
5. Identify different kinds of historical evidence and understand their role in the production of historical knowledge.

B. Skills outcomes. Students will be able to:

1. Recall factual claims about the past and synthesize them into coherent interpretive arguments.
2. Read documents closely and critically.
3. Formulate a well-organized, well-supported argument.
4. Demonstrate clear writing in the form of essays of varying lengths.
5. Make cogent oral arguments about reading assignments
6. Conduct original research with primary sources.
7. Locate good, relevant secondary scholarship, and distinguish good from poor scholarship.
8. Observe ethical practices of citation and intellectual self-presentation.

Required Texts:

TITLE: Voyages in World History, Volume 1  
AUTHOR: Hansen, Valerie and Curtis, Ken  
EDITION: Third  
COPYRIGHT YEAR: 2017  
PUBLISHER: Cengage  
ISBN-13: 9781305583405

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Content</u>	<u>Text Reading and Writing Assignments</u>
1/17	Intro to Course	None
1/24	The Peopling of the World, to 4000 B.C.E.	Chapter 1
1/31	The Peopling of the World, to 4000 B.C.E. (cont.) The First Complex Societies in the Eastern Mediterranean, ca. 4000–550 B.C.E.	Chapter 1 & 2
2/7	The First Complex Societies in the Eastern Mediterranean, ca. 4000–550 B.C.E. (cont.)	Chapter 2

2/14	Ancient India and the Rise of Buddhism, 2600 B.C.E.–100 C.E.	Chapters 3 and 8
2/21	Ancient India and the Rise of Buddhism, 2600 B.C.E.–100 C.E. (cont.)	Chapters 3 and 8
2/28	Blueprint for Empire: China, 1200 B.C.E.–220 C.E.	Chapter 4
3/7	Mid-term exam;  The Americas, Africa, and the Islands of the Pacific, to 1200 C.E.	chapters 5 & 11
3/14 Note: No class – Spring break	None	None
3/21	New Empires in Iran and Greece, 2000 B.C.E.–651 C.E.	Chapter 6
3/28 Note – Final project proposals due on 3/28	The Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity, 509 B.C.E.–476 C.E.	Chapter 7

4/4	The Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity, 509 B.C.E.–476 C.E. (cont)	Chapter 7
4/11	Islamic Empires of Western Asia and Africa, 600-1258	Chapter 9
4/18	China's Commercial Revolution, ca. 900–1276.	Chapter 12
4/26 - Note: Final Projects (written papers and creative projects) due.	Final Presentations	None
5/2	Final Exam	

Method of Evaluation:

Class Participation

Participation will count towards 200 points of your total grade and will be based on the following behaviors:

- asking questions
- answering questions
- making comments (extra points for comments that relate to material in the text, and for sharing relevant experiences)
- Completing in-class assignments

Here are the value-added behaviors—the ones that put your contributions over the top:

- responding to something another student says (including answering a question asked by a student)
- constructively disagreeing with something in the text or said in class by me or another student

And there are behaviors to avoid:

- not attending class
- not being late
- not listening
- pretending to be listening while texting or being online
- speaking without being recognized
- making fun or otherwise berating something said by another person.

Mid-term and Final Exams – Each exam will be worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

Written Assignments – During the course of the semester, you will be given 2 writing assignments that are designed to enhance your understanding of the material as well as your research and writing abilities. They will be taken from material learned in class, as well as other readings, writings, etc. Each assignment will be worth 100 points for a cumulative total of 200 points.

Final Project -

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> (or the day you give your oral presentation, if that is your choice) you will be required to complete a research project that covers an important topic during the timeframe of the course. I will allow students to have a certain amount of freedom to choose how to complete the assignment and what topic they choose (even if I do not cover it in class), but here is a list of *possible* ways to fulfill the assignment:

1. A 5-10 page research essay.
2. A 10-15 minute formal in-class presentation.
3. An art project.

If you have ideas about doing something different and/or unique (such as the art project), I encourage you to speak to me directly so that we can work something out that satisfies both of us.

I ask that you hand in a topic proposal on March 28<sup>th</sup> so that I am sure you are on the right track. Please see the attached sheets at the end of the syllabus for information on the written paper and oral presentation. The final project will be worth 400 points of your final grade.

Grading System:

A = 950-1000 points	C = 740-770 points
A- = 900-940 points	C- = 700-730 points
B+ = 880-890 points	D+ = 680-700 points
B = 840-870 points	D = 640-670 points
B- = 800-830 points	D- = 600-620 points
C+ = 780-790 points	F = Below 600 points

Paper Information

All written materials that are handed in must be typed and double-spaced. If you have any trouble with writing, I strongly advise you visit the writing/tutoring center. Furthermore, the following web site will help answer many, if not all of your questions on writing:

[http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div\\_academics/TASC/WritingCenter/WritingCenter.shtml](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_academics/TASC/WritingCenter/WritingCenter.shtml)

Attendance:

Please look at the student handbook regarding the college's attendance policies.

Having said this, I would like to give you my philosophy on attendance: You are all adults and have paid to take this class. What you choose to do with that is up to you. I will never penalize any grade directly because of attendance. Furthermore, you do not need to supply me an excuse for any classes missed. If you have a problem, personal or academic, which will require you to miss class for any length of time, please come talk to me so that we can come to an agreeable solution.

### Late Tests and Assignments

(Please note that none of following applies if we have made arrangements beforehand)

The midterm exam must be made up the same week it is due with a 10 point penalty. No

Writing assignments are penalized 10 points each day that they are late.

I will not accept any final project after the due date, and there is no makeup for the final exam.

### Disabilities Statement:

If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require classroom or assignment modifications, you are obligated to come see me as soon as possible.

### Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the college immediately, and may result in the failure of an assignment or the course itself.