

Course Outline

World Civilizations I (HIS K121)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:20
Three Rivers Community College
Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris
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Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday – 10-11; 12:30-1:30
Or by appointment

Spring 2007

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the evolution of world societies from the beginning 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 nation states; and the overall political, social, and economic framework that existed in these societies during this time period.

Course Objectives:

The overall purpose of this course is to help students gain a solid foundation in understanding the evolution of early societies. A secondary, yet equally important, goal is the development of a methodology in order to examine and question evidence in order to convey information in a clear and concise manner (this is more commonly known as critical thinking). Finally, I expect students to be active participants in the course and in class discussions. Interrupting me in order to ask questions and taking the initiative to delve deeper into topics is very much encouraged. I can learn as much from you as you can from me, and I look for students to be enthusiastically engaged with the subject matter.

Required Text:

Bentley, Jerry and Ziegler, Herbert, Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, Volume I: From The Beginning To 1500. Third Edition, 2006

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Content</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
January 23 rd	Intro to Course; Before History	Chapter 1
January 30 th	Early Societies in Southwest Asia and the Indo-European Migrations	Chapter 2
February 6 th	Early African Societies and the Bantu Migrations	Chapter 3
February 13 th	Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania	Chapter 6
February 20 th	The Unification of China	Chapter 8
February 27 th	Societies in South Asia	Chapters 4 and 9
March 6 th	The Greeks	Chapter 10
March 13 th – Note: Topic Proposals for final project due by March 15th	The Romans	Chapter 11
March 20 th – No classes: Spring Break	None	None
March 27 th	The Byzantine Empire	Chapter 13
April 3 rd	Islam	Chapter 14
April 10 th	The Foundations of Christian Society in Western Europe	Chapter 17

April 17 th	Nomadic Empires	Chapter 18
April 24 th – Note: Final Projects due on April 26 th	Western Europe During The High Middle Ages	Chapter 20
May 2 – Note: In-class presentations will be conducted this week	None	None

Method of Evaluation:

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

Written Assignments – During the course of the semester, you will be given a minimum of five research and writing exercises that are designed to enhance your understanding of the material. They will be taken from material learned in class, as well as other readings, writings, etc. The combined writing assignments will be worth 50% of your overall grade.

Individual Contribution – This consists of how much your presence in the class enriches the learning environment. Are you involved in discussions about readings and material? Do you ask questions in order to get a deeper understanding of the subject matter? This component is worth 10% of your total grade.

Final Research Project – Near the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a research project that covers an important topic during the course. I will allow students to have a certain amount of freedom to choose how to complete the assignment, but here is a list of *possible* ways to fulfill the assignment:

1. A 5-10 page paper.
2. A 10-15 minute formal in-class presentation.
3. A paper that compares/contrasts books, films, etc.
4. An art project.

The more creative and challenging the assignment is, the higher it will be graded. There will be a date at roughly the mid-point of the semester where I will ask that you hand in a topic proposal so that I am sure you are on the right track. This component will be worth 30% of your grade.

Grading System:

A = 94-100	C = 74-77
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-73
B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-70
B = 80-83	D = 64-67
B- = 80-83	D- = 60-62
C+ = 78-79	F = Below 60

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 center in room 106 at Mohegan and TASC in the library at both campuses. They are resources that you should use. Furthermore, the following web site will help answer many, if not all of your questions on writing: http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/writing_center/

Late Assignments

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

My policy on late assignments is as follows: I will accept your first late writing assignment by the beginning of the next class, and give you partial credit. The second and subsequent late assignments will be given minimal credit. In both cases, any paper handed in later will result in a failing grade.

I will not accept any late final project unless we have made arrangements beforehand.

Attendance:

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

College Withdrawal Policy:

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10th week of classes. From the 11th until the end of the 13th week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

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.

Civility 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 disrespects anyone in the class, will not be tolerated.