

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:
Mondays and Wednesdays: 2-4 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Or by appointment

Spring 2006

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 24	Intro to Course; Before History	Chapter 1
January 31	Early Societies in Southwest Asia and the Indo-European Migrations	Chapter 2
February 7	Early African Societies and the Bantu Migrations	Chapter 3
February 14	Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania	Chapter 6
February 21	The Unification of China	Chapter 8
February 28	Societies in South Asia	Chapters 4 and 9
March 7	The Greeks	Chapter 10
March 14 – Note: Topic Proposals for final project due by March 16th	The Romans	Chapter 11
March 21 – No classes: Spring Break	None	None
March 28	The Byzantine Empire	Chapter 13
April 4	Islam	Chapter 14
April 11	The Foundations of Christian Society in Western Europe	Chapter 17

April 18	Nomadic Empires	Chapter 18
April 25 – 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	The Americas and Oceania	Chapter 21

Method of Evaluation:

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

Exams – At the end of each of the 3 units of material, a take home essay exam will be given out that will test your critical thinking skills. They can be based on lectures, readings, discussions, and videos. Each exam will be worth 10% of your grade, for an overall total of 30%.

Written Assignments – You will be given research and writing exercises on a regular basis 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 30% 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 more points I will award. 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/

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 grade.

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.