

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, Connecticut 06360

Summer Semester 2008

History 121- World Civilization I to 1700

Mr. Marcus Lawson

COURSE PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

In general, we study history for many reasons. Most importantly, studying history satisfies our natural human desire to establish a link with our past. On a more pragmatic level, a sound understanding of how our institutions, beliefs, and society originated and grew gives us an accurate perspective on the present and helps our decision making for the future.

The subject will be taught on two levels: (1) lectures and readings in History 121, World Civilization I to 1700 shall cover the fundamental beginnings of human civilizations, and we shall explore how cultures originated, noted contributions and trends of various world civilizations have brought about the enveloping story of humanity; (2) hands-on exercises coupled with the readings as well as periodic assessments will allow us to further explore our understanding of history and events, including structured writing assignments on discussion boards; which shall reinforce proper grammar rules and encourage critical thinking.

PREREQUISITES

The syllabus serves as a course outline, where the use of practical exercises and lectures encourage a working student and teacher presence at the site. Practical work is very important, because the best way to learn about history is through readings, writings, discussion and interaction.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The outline and structure of this course creates a set of common expectations for your work. At the same time, each individual instructor has a personal style and way of working with learners that is unique. Your instructor may have expressed that style and manner of working in a document that is linked to the Faculty Expectations section. Here, however, are some general considerations the College wishes to emphasize:

- Read carefully this syllabus, as well as other class material and college policies that will be available online throughout the course. This syllabus and other class room material for assignments are your guidelines to what is going on in the course, and they will clearly define my expectations. Also, please pay attention to the links on this website for adobe acrobat reader and other software programs, which are essential to you participating fully in this course. Please ensure that your computer has the necessary memory and speed to

take the course. The software links for participating are free and available for you to download onto your computer.

- **Make friends:** A friendship with a classmate or classmate(s) is valuable. Through those

relationships you could form study groups within or outside the online classroom, discuss course-related topics, and, more importantly, compare notes. Everything that is needed for testing will be assigned for your convenience, and it will come directly from the text, unless I state otherwise!

Extra help is available if you feel the course material has become overwhelming at any point, you may want to consider seeking help from one of our on-campus tutors. If this is the case, then I strongly suggest that you acquaint yourself with these services in the tutoring center. There is a link on the History 122 homepage to the Learning Center. **Do not wait too long.**

- **Please keep current in class.** Learners who fall behind are less likely to get feedback from others in online discussions. If something happens that is going to cause you to fall behind, contact your instructor immediately.

OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, and ASSESSMENT

The following objectives and outcomes represent the department’s core requirements for student achievement:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT METHODS
To demonstrate an understanding of:	Students will:	As measured by:
The basic narrative of History of World Civilization: political, economic, social and cultural, including unity and diversity in world cultures.	Identity and relate significant historical events, people, and phenomenon.	Regular class attendance and participation in discussion sessions. Satisfactory completion of reading and written assignments. Satisfactory

		performance on projects, quizzes, and/or examinations.
Common institutions in societies and how they have affected different groups.	Understand and identify institutional evolution, impact, and significance across cultures.	Regular class attendance and participation in discussion sessions. Satisfactory completion of reading and written assignments. Satisfactory performance on projects, quizzes, and/or examinations.
The Development of society in the context of global events.	Develop a global perspective that recognizes world civilization's development in a greater context.	Regular class attendance and participation in discussion sessions. Satisfactory completion of reading and written assignments. Satisfactory performance on projects, quizzes, and/or examinations.
Historical interpretation: the nature of history, the purpose of history, the place of history within world cultures.	Develop critical thinking skills that will enhance the ability to increase information literacy and communicate effectively in writing.	Regular class attendance and participation in discussion sessions. Satisfactory completion of reading and written assignments. Satisfactory performance on projects, quizzes, and/or

		examinations.
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F. TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS: The Heritage of World Civilizations I, Teaching and Learning Classroom Edition, brief Third Edition (Chapters 1-16): Craig, Graham, Kagan, Ozment, Turner. To be purchased in Bookstore at Three Rivers Community College.

COURSE GRADING & EVALUATION

Grading will consist of homework writing assignments on discussion board, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. Detailed descriptions and instructions of each writing assignment for discussion boards are outlined in the appropriate area of the WebCT course titled “Discussion Posting Grading Rubric”. All writing assignments are due as stated in the syllabus, **and any late assignments will not be accepted or at my discretion a deduction of ten points per day will be applied.** The final grade will be comprised of the following:

Exam 1 and Exam 2: 20 points each

Quiz 1 and Quiz 2: 10 points each

Two Discussion Questions per week @ 1.25 points each = 10 points per month.

Total = 100 points

Discussion Board and Chat Sessions: Discussion is a very important component of this course. Just like in a traditional class, you will be expected to participate in discussion with your instructor and fellow students about task topics.

Discussion board topics are tied to specific writing assignments during the duration of the course. Discussion board participation is required and evaluated qualitatively by the instructor.

Discussion Posting Grading Rubric: To maximize your learning, you are expected to participate actively in the discussion to the extent of contributing a response. The discussion board assignments will be graded based on the following:

- At least **25** words to **EACH** question submitted;

- I encourage **ONE** reaction to other student responses on **EACH** question. However, it is not required. Please remember that if you decide to respond to other student postings, then you should add to the substance of posting, provide a different perspective, or challenge the assertions made by providing real or hypothetical scenarios that the original posting does not adequately address. This is designed to stimulate academic debate, and it is not a discussion board to promote vulgarity and disrespect of another's views. Postings are to be posted in a **timely fashion** as indicated by the instructor on the syllabus. Late posting will not add to the debate;

- Proper grammar, punctuation.
 - If there are one (1) or more errors on a written assignment in any of the above areas, then deductions on your written assignment occur at .25 (.25) points each.

 - If you submit a written assignment after the due date will not be accepted or at my discretion constitute a deduction of ten percent of the discussion question grade per day will be applied.

Discussion Etiquette: We are committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue in all courses. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought, opinion, and values. We encourage all students to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, faculty will intervene as they monitor the dialogue in the courses. Faculty will request that inappropriate content be removed from the course and will **recommend college disciplinary action**. Students and faculty should be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. The following are good guidelines to follow:

- Never post, transmit, promote, or distribute content that is known to be illegal.
- Never post harassing, threatening, or embarrassing comments.
- If you disagree with someone, respond to the subject, not the person.
- Never post content that is harmful, abusive, racially, ethnically, religious or gender-based offensive.
- Never post content that is vulgar, sexually explicit, or otherwise potentially offensive.

Course Participation:

Examinations: Tests will be all "*timed*" closed book, closed note exams as controlled by the websites software program. There is no cumulative final and no makeup exams and work. Makeup exams will be given in accordance with the stated attendance policy of the college: required documentation for an excused absence.

Online students are required to participate in their online course in an academically related environment comparable to the minimum of one contact hour of instruction in a seven day calendar week (*Sunday to Saturday*) for each week of the semester. This participation is captured so that the Academic Advisers can track student participation weekly and contact students who have fallen behind in course assignments.

GRADING SCHEME:

A= 90 - 100, B+= 87 - 89, B= 80 - 86; C+= 77 - 79; C= 70 - 76; D+= 67 - 69; D= 60 - 66; F= below 60.

FACULTY OFFICE HOURS AND CHAT SESSIONS

The instructor delivers two clock hours of real-time chat scheduled at varied times in a seven-day calendar week to accommodate diverse schedules. These chat times are Mondays from 5:30pm - 6:30pm EST weekly and Wednesdays from 7:00pm - 8:00pm EST **and by appointment**. You can contact me at the site through the email to schedule an **appointment**.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT: Students with physical or learning disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Counseling Office. After disclosing the nature of the disability, students are urged to discuss their needs with individual instructors. This should be done at the beginning of the semester. Instructors, in conjunction with appropriate college officials, will provide assistance and/or accommodations only to those students who have completed this process.

Academic Ethics and Classroom Behavior: At Capital Community College, we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustee's Proscribed Conduct Policy in section 5.2.1 of the Board's Policy manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration on assignment, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism, and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally. (Board of Trustee's Policy 5.2.1)

Course Outline

World Civilization I Chapter Readings for the Week of May 19th - June 2nd

*The Birth of Civilization- Students to read Chapter 1

First writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on May 19th

*The Four Great Revolutions in Thought and Religion - Students to read Chapter 2

Second writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on May 22nd

Third writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on May 26th

*Greek and Hellenistic Civilization - Students to read Chapter 3

Fourth writing assignment questions posted on Discussion thread on May 29th

*Iran, India and Inner Asia to 200 CE - Students to read chapter 4

Quiz 1 - to be available online from 6/2/08 -6/9/08

World Civilization I Chapter Readings for the Week of May 26th - June 9th

*Africa: Early History to 1000 CE - Students to read Chapter 5

First writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on May 26th.

*Republican and Imperial Rome - Students to read Chapter 6

Second writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on May 29th

*China's First Empire - Students to read Chapter 7

Third writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 2nd.

Fourth writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 5th.

*Imperial China: 589 BC – 1368 CE - Students to read Chapter 8

Midterm - to be available online from 6/9/08 –6/16/08

World Civilization I Chapter Readings for the Week of June 2nd –June 16th

*Japan: Early History to 1467 - Students to read Chapter 9

First writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 2nd.

*Iran and India Before Islam - Students to read Chapter 10

Second writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 5th.

*The Formation of Islamic Civilization: 622 - 945 - Students to read Chapter 11

Third writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 9th

*The Byzantine Empire and Western Europe to 1000 – Students to read Chapter 12

Fourth writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 12th

Quiz 2 - to be available online from 6/13/08 – 6/19/08

World Civilization I Chapter Readings for the Week of June 9th –June 30th

*Islam and the Heartlands and Beyond: 1000 – 1600 - Students to read Chapter 13

First writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 9th.

*Ancient Civilizations of the Americas - Students to read Chapter 14

Second writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 12th

*Europe to the Early 1500s: Revivals, Decline and Renaissance - Students to read Chapter 15

Third writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 16th

*Europe 1500 - 1650 – Students to read Chapter 16

Fourth writing assignment question(s) posted on Discussion thread on June 19th

Final Exam – 6/23/08 – 6/30/08