

AMS 4305
World History for Teachers
Spring 2013

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****Note:** All electronic communication between students and instructor must be done through UTD accounts.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with a broad-based introduction to world history. The course is holistic in scope and global in focus, covering everything from the early river-valley civilizations to the contemporary world. Most major regions and themes will be explored, with particular attention being paid to constructing a comparative framework within which students can analyze change and continuity. While this course is ostensibly designed for prospective teachers, teaching methods, curriculum development, and other pedagogical concerns will not be the main focus. Rather, the class will be concerned with the content of world history, not methods of teaching it.

Objectives:

- 1) Students will acquire strong foundational knowledge of most major civilizations and societies in world history.
- 2) Students will compare civilizations, especially regarding the major themes of world history, e.g. economic development, political organization, belief systems, use of technology.
- 3) Students will assess the impact of historical events and processes on the contemporary world.
- 4) Students who take the state certification exam will be better prepared for the world history portions and related subjects.

Evaluation:

Participation: 10% (attendance and meaningful participation in class discussion)
Test #1: 25%
Test #2: 30%
Final Exam: 35%

Both tests and the final exam will be essay-based. The tests will be handwritten in class; the exam will be prepared outside of class and a hard copy will be turned in on May 11.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this course. Failure to attend class, arrive punctually, participate constructively, and/or stay the entire class session will detract from your participation grade. If you are going to be absent for any reason, you should contact the instructor ahead of time and make arrangements to get handouts and information from another student.

Textbooks:

The following are required for this course:

- 1) Stearns, Peter N. (2006) *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*, 5th edition
- 2) Hart, Michael (1992) *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*.
- 3) Orwell, George *1984* (any edition)

In addition to these texts, students will receive articles, primary documents, maps, charts, etc. in class.

The following books are recommended as supplementary materials:

- 1) *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, by Jared Diamond
A fascinating look at world history from many surprising angles, including botany, zoology, and ecology. This book answers the question: Why did Western nations conquer the world, rather than vice-versa? Highly recommended!
- 2) *The Way of the World*, by David Fromkin
A pretty good overview of world history and highly readable. Although biased toward Western civilization, it is a handy book to have.
- 3) *Plagues and Peoples*, by William H. McNeil
Highly original view of history – looks at the effects of diseases on world history. Somewhat tedious, but original and interesting.
- 4) *Experiencing World History*, by Peter N. Stearns, et al.
A good resource for world history teachers – good comparative analysis, especially on social issues.

Syllabus

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
Jan. 19	Intro & Early Civilizations	No reading
Jan. 26	Early Belief Systems	Stearns: p. 76-80, p. 118-127 100: Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Lao-Tzu

Feb. 2	Greece and Rome	Stearns: Ch. 5, 7 and p. 218-222 100: Christ, St. Paul, Aristotle, Caesars, Plato, Constantine, Homer, Alexander
Feb. 9	The World of Islam	Stearns: Ch. 11, 12 100: Muhammad, Umar ibn al-Khattab
Feb. 16	Test 1	
Feb. 23	China and Japan	Stearns: Ch. 17, 18, 19 100: Sui Wen Di, Genghis Khan
March 2	Medieval Europe	Stearns: 15 100: Charlemagne, Pope II, St. Augustine, Wm. the Conqueror, Justinian
March 9	The Rise of the West	Stearns: Ch. 21, 22, p.438-45 100: Newton, Gutenberg, Columbus, Galileo, Copernicus, Smith, Cromwell, Locke, Descartes, Michelangelo, Calvin, Pizarro, Cortes, Voltaire, Kepler, Rousseau, Machiavelli, da Gama, Luther, Elizabeth, Isabella
March 23	Atlantic Slavery & Early Modern Period in the East	Stearns: Ch. 23, 25, 27 100: Peter the Great

March 30	Test 2	
April 6	Industrialization & Imperialism	Stearns: 28, 29 100: Watt, Maxwell, Dalton, Otto, Ford, Marx, Mendel, Freud, Bell
April 13	West meets East	Stearns: 31, 32
April 20	20 th Century Bloodshed	Stearns: 33, 34, 35 100: Hitler, Lenin, Stalin
April 27	Understanding Sept. 11	Stearns: 38 <i>1984</i>
May 4	Orwell and the Post-9/11 World	<i>1984</i>
May 11	Turn in Final Exam/Wrap-up Discussion	

Policies and Procedures for Students

The University of Texas at Dallas provides a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Brief summaries of the policies and procedures are provided for you at

<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/index.php/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>

and include information about technical support, field trip policies, off-campus activities, student conduct and discipline, academic integrity, copyright infringement, email use, withdrawal from class, student grievance procedures, incomplete grades, access to Disability Services, and religious holy days. You may also seek further information at these websites:

- http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm
- <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>
- <http://www.utsystem.edu/oqc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>
- <http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/documentation/index.html>

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.