

COLLEGE LEVEL SYLLABUS PREHISTORY TO 1500

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HST 1121 World History, to 1500 Section 2 Sequence 10

Instructor: Deborah Johnston
Office: 275 Holmes
Office Hours: Tues. 1-3:00; Friday 10:30 –12:00
Or by appt.
Phone: 617 373-4474
Email: dsjohnst@lynx.neu.edu

Fall 2001
T, W, F
11:45 – 12:50 pm
Room: 202 KA

Course Description

This course is an introduction to World History prior to 1500. By looking at history through the themes of Community, Justice and Ethics, Empire and Expansion, Representations of Power, and Interaction and Exchange, we will explore the past while finding its relevance to the present. The emphasis will always be on a global perspective, looking at the ways in which people and societies have been connected through time.

What is World History

World history is the study of human patterns of interaction with a particular focus on change over time, global exchange, and those phenomena that connect people, places and ideas across regional boundaries. By focusing on human interaction on all levels we can see the big picture as well as the details of individual lives. World history also gives us a perspective of the past that goes beyond a national or regional viewpoint – a perspective that embraces large comparisons both spatially and temporally.

Required Readings

Stearns, World Civilizations v. 1 3e

Reilly, Worlds of History A Comparative Reader v. 1

Kherdian, David Monkey A Journey to the West

Niane, D. T. , Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali

There is a copy of the required readings on reserve at Snell.

Grades:

A total of 1000 points is possible. Everyone has the potential to do very well as long as you turn in assignments, participate in class and do the readings. Grades will be given as follows. To improve grades, there may be some occasion for extra assignments IF ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN TURNED IN.

A+ = 970 - 1000	B+ = 870 - 899	C+ = 770 - 799	D+ = 670 - 699
A = 930 - 969	B = 830 - 869	C = 730 - 769	D = 630 - 669
A- = 900 - 929	B- = 800 - 829	C- = 700 - 729	D- = 600 - 629

F = Below 600 points

Course Requirements

Attendance/ participation	75 points
Civilization and an American Tragedy Letter	50 points
Mini Oral Presentation On-going throughout quarter	50 points
Weekly 1 question quizzes on readings (10)	100 points
Bi-weekly Thematic Maps (5)	125 points
Mid-term exam (take home) due October 30 th	125 points
Comparative essay on Sundiata and Monkey due Nov. 13 th	125 points
Museum visit report due Nov. 20 th (no class Nov. 16 th)	50 points
Media project due Dec. 4 th	150 points

Final Exam (in class)

150 points

VI. Class Policies:

Attendance and participation: Attendance in this class is mandatory. If you must be absent due to an emergency or medical reason, please let me know by e-mail.

Each student will be responsible one mini oral presentation. Weekly quizzes and daily participation in class discussions cannot be made up, except under extenuating circumstances. Students who attend regularly and contribute to class discussions will receive up to 75 points for class participation.

Late work: Late work will be penalized 5% for each day beyond the due date, unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. You may turn work in to the History dept office drop box by 249 Meserve hall and the secretary will stamp it with the date on which it was received. It is always best to turn in the assignment, even if it is so late, it is worth close to nothing. Having all work turned in does allow you to be eligible for additional (extra credit) assignments. Keeping up with the assignments, including reading for discussion is key to success in this class.

Major Assignments

Please email me if additional clarification is necessary. Additional instructions will be given out as noted in some cases below.

Readings

The readings include both primary and secondary documents. As you read, think about how the readings selected connect to the topics being discussed in class, prior readings, and the present. Take notes on key ideas. Occasionally guiding questions will be given for the readings. In addition, ask (and answer) your own, higher- level questions. (See hand-out on Bloom's Taxonomy and the Three Little Pigs.)

Weekly Quizzes

There will be a weekly quiz on the readings. This will usually be one open ended question which can be answered in less than five minutes, if the reading has been done. Occasionally they may involve interpretation of a map or visual from the text. Sometimes, you may be asked to write your own good question and answer it. (See Bloom's Taxonomy hand-out).

Mini Oral Presentation "Making History Relevant"

Students are responsible for a 2-3 minute presentation at the beginning of one class during the quarter. After reading the required materials for that day, students are to prepare a brief but well prepared introduction. This should suggest ways in which the content of the day is relevant to student lives today. Visuals are welcomed, as are political cartoons (original or otherwise), artwork and graphic organizers. Please pick up an overhead transparency prior to your presentation day to facilitate your remarks.

Bi-weekly Thematic Maps

There will be five maps required which focus on the aspects of the themes we will be exploring in the course. See the attached Map Assignment for further clarification.

Mid-term exam (take home) due October 30th

A "portfolio" take home test will be passed out on September 28th. Students have four weeks to complete the test using readings, class discussions, and lecture notes.

Comparative essay on Sundiata and Monkey due Nov. 13th

In addition to in- class quizzes on both novels, there will be a 4-5 page comparative essay on the two books. A detailed rubric outlining the requirements will be passed out no later than October 2nd.

Museum visit report due Nov. 20th (no class Nov. 16th)

Students are expected to visit the Museum of Fine Arts (or another approved museum) before November 20th. There will be no class on November 16th to facilitate this but students may choose to go at anytime between now and then. Please see attached hand-out for further clarification.

Media Literacy project due Nov. 28

During the second half of the course, students are expected to complete a Media Literacy project involving web sites and / or videos. The Stearns textbook will be helpful in identifying some of the relevant web sites for the content. Students will select and get approved a topic from 1000 –1500 and then find at least five media sources on that topic. They will critique the media in question using a set of criteria. Further clarification will be given after the mid-term but students should take note of web sites, videos or TV programs that might be possible choices.

Final Exam (in class)

The final exam will be essay based using primary, secondary and visual sources. In addition, there will be a map component on the final.

Schedule

Readings should be done prior to class meeting. Please use this schedule to make sure work is completed and readings are done in a timely fashion.

Friday, Sept. 21, 2001 Worldviews

Week #1 Community- Human origins to Early Civilizations
How did “civilized” societies emerge?

Tuesday, Sept. 25 ***Early civilizations*** Reilly, Chapter 1 (esp. pp. 1- 6) Stearns, all of Preface and Prologue, Chapter 1- 3 (read selectively)
Quiz. Turn in Letter.

Wednesday, Sept. 26 ***Geography in world history and the Urban revolution*** Reilly, Chapter 3

- Friday, Sept. 28 ***Gender in world history*** Reilly, Chapter 2
Map # 1 due. Receive take home mid-term today.
- Week #2 Justice and Ethics in the Classical World
Why do belief systems develop and spread?
- Tuesday Oct. 2 ***Belief Systems*** Stearns, pp. 45–46, 102-106, 162,
166- 168, Ch. 8, Ch. 11
Quiz.
- Wednesday, Oct. 3 ***Spread of Religions*** Reilly ch. 6 and 7.
- Friday, Oct 5 ***The Classical World*** Stearns, ch. 4
Map #2 “ Spread of Religions” due today
- Week #3 Justice and Ethics in the Classical World
What’s fair? Who decides?
- Tuesday, Oct. 9 Monkey Discussions (be sure to have finished the
entire book by today)
Quiz
- Wednesday, Oct. 10 ***Identity and Social Structure*** Reilly, ch. 4
- Friday, Oct. 12 ***Law in the ancient world*** Stearns pp. 36-37,
129, 159 – 160, 355
- Week #4 Empire and Expansion
*What makes an empire legitimate and then how does it
demonstrate its power?*
- Tuesday Oct. 16 ***Empire*** Stearns, ch .5, 7 (Han. Rome, review
Gupta pp. 187-191)
Quiz
- Wednesday, Oct. 17 ***Individual and Empire*** Reilly, ch. 5
- Friday, Oct. 19 ***Migration*** Stearns, ch. 10
Readings for next week will be given out.
- Week #5 Empire and Expansion
Was Islam the First Global Empire?

- Tuesday, Oct. 23 ***Islamic Empires*** Stearns ch. 12 –13
Quiz
- Wednesday, Oct. 24 ***Indian Ocean trade*** (reading to be distributed)
- Friday, Oct. 26 ***Al-Andalus*** (reading to be distributed)
Map #3 “Trade” due today
- Week #6 Africa and world history
How was Africa part of the world system?
- Tuesday, Oct. 30 Overview: Great Zimbabwe, West Africa , and
east African city states Stearns ch. 14
Midterm due in class today.
- Wednesday, Oct. 31 Sundiata (be sure entire book is read by today)
- Friday, Nov. 2 Sundiata
Quiz
- Week #7 Representations of Power: Technology, Art and Architecture
How is power represented in material culture?
- Tuesday, Nov. 6 ***Americas overview*** Stearns, ch. 9 and 17
Quiz. Receive Media Project.
- Wednesday, Nov. 7 ***Technology, Ecology & Science***, Reilly ch. 11
- Friday, Nov. 9 ***Love and Marriage***, Reilly, ch. 9, Stearns ch. 18
Map #4 “Technology” due today
- Week #8 Representations of Power: Title, Land and Arms
*How did medieval civilizations distribute and demonstrate
their power?*
- Tuesday, Nov. 13 .** *Overview, Feudalism in Japan and Europe*
Stearns, ch. 16, 19, Reilly, ch. 8
Comparison Essay due.
- Wednesday, Nov. 14 ***Crusades*** Reilly, ch. 10
Quiz
- Friday, Nov. 16 No class**

Visit the Museum of Fine arts today if you have not already completed your Museum report.

Week #9 Collisions of Cultures

Were the Mongols barbarians?

Tuesday, Nov. 20 **Mongols** Stearns, ch. 20
Museum report due today.

Wednesday, Nov. 21 **Mongols.** , Reilly, ch. 12
Quiz

Friday, Nov. 23 No class

Week #10

Global Interaction

How does the nature of global exchanges change?

Tuesday, Nov. 27 Explorations and Encounters Stearns, Chapter 19, 23 and pp.
501- 502
Quiz

Wednesday, Nov. 28 “What if” history , Reilly, ch. 14

Friday, Nov. 30 Cities, Reilly, ch. 13.
Map #5 “ Interaction” due today

Week #11

The World circa 1500

What global trends can you predict will continue or change?

Tuesday Dec. 4 Change and Continuity- Demographics and Future History
Stearns, p. 504
Media Project due

Wednesday Dec. 5 Review

Friday Dec. 7, 10- 13 Finals (Date to be announced)

