

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
History Department
History 114.02 - World History to 1500
Fall 2006

Prof. Julyana Peard
HSS 310 –Tu-Th 12:35 – 13:50
Office hours: Science 272, Tu-Th 11:00- 12:00, and by appointment
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The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to world history from pre-historic times to around 1500. Such a course can only be highly selective. Through secondary source readings and primary sources we will look at global patterns of historical change and continuity, focusing on ancient Mesopotamia, Classical Greece and Rome, India, China, and early Islam. A dominant theme of the course is that world history can be seen as a process of increasing contacts, peaceful and violent, among cultures and regions leading to an ever more complexly enmeshed world.

Two required texts:

- Howard Spodek, *The World's History: Volume I to 1500* Third Edition
- N.K. Sandars, ed., *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Penguin Classics edition.
- Reader** on electronic reserve. Password given in class.

Course requirements:

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| 1. Quizzes | | Worth 30% |
| 2. Midterm Thursday, September 28 | | Worth 20% |
| 3. Final exam: Tuesday, December 19, 8:00 | -10:30 a.m. | Worth 40% |
| 4. Participation, effort, familiarity with readings | | Worth 10% |

Quizzes: There will be a quiz for nearly every chapter, as listed in the course outline. I will drop the lowest quiz grade (or ignore an absence.) The quizzes will be held in the first fifteen minutes of class. If you arrive late, you will not be given extra time to finish the quiz. There will be **no make-ups** for the quizzes. I do not give work for extra credit.

There may be times when we fall behind the planned schedule; if you have to miss a class, make sure you find out what is coming up, what to read, and whether **a quiz has been re-scheduled.**

Examination Policies:

The **examinations** will be given **only** on the days and times stated above. Consideration for make-up examinations will be given **only** if the student presents a written excuse from a physician, counselor, or sports team coach.

Incompletes: This means you have completed **at least** 75% of the course. I **strongly** discourage taking an incomplete. If, for a very compelling reason, I approve an **Incomplete**, you will have to fill out an Incomplete grade petition available in the History Department Office. Once you are granted an Incomplete, if you do not make up all of the required assignments, your grade will result in an F.

COURSE OUTLINE

Settling Down

WEEK ONE Aug 29-31

Introduction to course

Chap 1: The Dry Bones Speak

Do you think that 'history' is about everything that ever happened in the past?

Primary and secondary sources in history

Human origins

WEEK TWO Sept 5-7

Chap 2: From Village Community to City State

Origins of agriculture; spread

Varieties of Agriculture

The first cities; how they began: the Sumerians

Priests and warriors in early societies

WEEK THREE Sept 12-14

Quiz Chapter 2

Chap 3: River Valley Civilizations

(Read also: Chap 4: A Polycentric World, pp. 89-97 on early China)

Ancient Egypt

Indus Valley

WEEK FOUR Sept 19-21

The Epic of Gilgamesh, pp. 61-97 (Introduction is optional)

Finish *Gilgamesh*, pp. 97-119

WEEK FIVE Sept 26-28

Tuesday: Where we are so far

THURSDAY: FIRST EXAMINATION

Exam will be on Gilgamesh and Chapters 2-3 in Spodek text.

Essay format. Please bring blue books

Empire and Imperialism

WEEK SIX Oct 3-5

Chap 5: Dawn of the Empires

(Read also: Chap 4: A Polycentric World, pp. 111-115)

The Persian Empires and Greek city-states

Empire of Alexander; the Hellenistic Age

WEEK SEVEN Oct 10-12

Quiz Chapter 5

Chap 6: Rome and the Barbarians

From hill town to empire; The fall of the Roman Empire

The legacy of Rome

WEEK EIGHT Oct 17-19

Chap 7: China (200 BCE-900CE)

Qin Dynasty, 221-206 CE; Han Dynasty 206 BCE – 220 CE

Competing ideologies: Legalism, Daoism, Confucianism

Disintegration

WEEK NINE Oct 24-26

Quiz Chapter 7

Chap 8: Indian Empires

Aryans, Indian empires: Maurya, 324 BCE – 185 BCE

Gupta, 320 CE – 497 CE; Invasions

The Rise of World Religions

WEEK TEN Oct 31-Nov 2

Quiz Chapter 8

Chap 9: Hinduism and Buddhism

Origins of Hinduism, Vedic religion

Emergence of Buddhism; Mahayana Buddhism; spread and decline in India

Comparing Hinduism and Buddhism

WEEK ELEVEN Nov 7-9

Quiz on Chap 9

Chap 10: Judaism and Christianity

Judaism; Christianity; Growth of Christian Church

Christianity after fall of Roman Empire

WEEK TWELVE Nov 14-16

Quiz Chapter 10

Chap 11: Islam

Origins, Muhammad's successors

The Umayyads and Abassids; flowering of Islam

Judaism, Christianity and Islam: What difference do they make?

Thanksgiving Break Nov 20- Nov 26

The Movement of Goods and Peoples

WEEK THIRTEEN Nov 28-30

Chap 12: Establishing World trade Routes

Trade networks; trade in Sub-Saharan Africa

Muslim and Jewish traders

The Indian Ocean; the Silk route

The Mongols and Pax Mongolica

WEEK FOURTEEN Dec 5-7

Quiz Chapter 12

Chap 13: European Visions

The decline of Mediterranean trade; the Atlantic

Trade and social change in Europe; The Renaissance

WEEK FIFTEEN Dec 12-14

Quiz Chapter 13

A wrap up of course

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 19 - 8:00 – 10:30 A.M.