

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
History Department
History 114.02 - World History to 1500
Fall 2007

Prof. Julyana Peard
HSS 310 –Th 16:10 – 18:55
Office hours: Science 272, Tu-Th 1:00- 2:00, 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 27 | Worth 30% |
| 3. Final exam | Worth 30% |
| 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 give one optional quiz at our final meeting. 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:

Your final exam is on December 13, but our final meeting is on December 20. I will return exam papers and you may choose to take an optional quiz.

The **examinations** will be given **only** on the days and times stated. 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 30

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 6

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 13

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 20

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

Finish *Gilgamesh*, pp. 97-119

WEEK FIVE Sept 27

Midterm exam

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

Essay format. Please bring blue books

Empire and Imperialism

WEEK SIX Oct 4

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 11

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 18

Quiz Chapter 6

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 25

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 Nov 1

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 8

Quiz on Chap 9

Chap 10: Judaism and Christianity

Judaism; Christianity; Growth of Christian Church
Christianity after fall of Roman Empire

WEEK TWELVE Nov 15

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 19-23

The Movement of Goods and Peoples

WEEK THIRTEEN Nov 29

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 6

Quiz Chapter 12

Chap 13: European Visions

The decline of Mediterranean trade; the Atlantic
Trade and social change in Europe; The Renaissance
African Visions, pp. 111-116, 365-367, 397-400

WEEK FIFTEEN Dec 13

Final Examination

WEEK SIXTEEN Dec 20

Return of papers; take optional quiz