

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

Prof. Julyana Peard
Spring 2006
HSS 31 –Th 4:10- 6:55
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.

There is one required text:

- Howard Spodek, *The World's History: Volume I to 1500* Third Edition
(It comes with a CD-Rom where you will find primary sources which we will use throughout the semester.)
- Reader** on electronic reserve (some primary sources are here) Password given in class.

Course requirements:

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| 1. Quizzes | Worth 30% |
| 2. Midterm Thursday, | Worth |
| 30% | |
| 3. Final exam: Thursday, May | 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 do not give work for extra credit.

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

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.**

Settling Down

WEEK ONE Feb 2

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 Feb 9

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

Sources: *Epic of Gilgamesh* (1.4); Code of Hammurabi (1.5)

WEEK THREE Feb 16

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

Sources: Egyptian Book of the Dead; Autobiography of Si-nuhe (Spodek text, 76)

Daily Life in Egypt (1.6)

Empire and Imperialism

WEEK FOUR Feb 23

Quiz Chapter 3

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

Sources: Homer, *The Iliad* (4.1); Thucydides (4.3); From Confederacy to Empire: Thucydides (4.4); The City State of Sparta (4.5)

WEEK FIVE Mar 2

Quiz Chapter 5

Chap 6: Rome and the Barbarians

From hill town to empire

The fall of the Roman Empire

The legacy of Rome

Sources: Gladiatorial Combat: Seneca (5.5); The Stoic Philosophy (5.6); Rome's Decay, and a Glimpse of a New Order (5.7)

WEEK SIX Mar 9

First Examination (Essay format and multiple choice. Please bring blue books)

WEEK SEVEN Mar 16

Chap 7: China (200 BCE-900CE)

Qin Dynasty, 221-206 CE

Han Dynasty 206 BCE – 220 CE

Competing ideologies: Legalism, Daoism, Confucianism

Disintegration

Sources: Confucius, *Analects* (2.4); Taosim, (2.6); Sima Quian (2.7)

WEEK EIGHT Mar 23

Quiz Chapter 7

Chap 8: Indian Empires

Aryans

Indian empires: Maurya, 324 BCE – 185 BCE

Gupta, 320 CE – 497 CE

Invasions

Sources: Fa-Hsien: A Chinese Perspective on Gupta India (3.8)

The Rise of World Religions

WEEK NINE Mar 30

Quiz Chapter 8

Chap 9: Hinduism and Buddhism

Origins of Hinduism, Vedic religion

Emergence of Buddhism; Mahayana Buddhism

Spread of Buddhism, decline in India

Comparing Hinduism and Buddhism

Sources: *Rig Veda* (3.1); *Bhagavad Gita* (3.2); *Dhammapada* (3.4)

Spring Break April 1-9

WEEK TEN Apr 13

Quiz on Chap 9

Chap 10: Judaism and Christianity

Judaism; Christianity

Growth of Christian Church

Christianity after fall of Roman Empire

Sources: Spodek Text, p. 343; e-reserve selections.

WEEK ELEVEN Apr 20

Quiz Chapter 10

Chap 11: Islam

Origins, Muhammad's successors

The Umayyads and Abassids
The flowering of Islam
Judaism, Christianity and Islam: What difference do they make?
Sources: p. 384 in text; e-reserve selections.

WEEK TWELVE Apr 27

Second Examination (Essay format and multiple choice. Please bring blue books)

The Movement of Goods and Peoples

WEEK THIRTEEN May 4

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

Sources: p. 423; Islamic Science and Mathematics (8.7)

WEEK FOURTEEN May 11

Quiz Chapter 12

Chap 13: European Visions

The decline of Mediterranean trade; the Atlantic

Trade and social change in Europe

The Renaissance

Film: Columbus' World

WEEK FIFTEEN May 18

Quiz Chapter 13

A wrap up of course

Final Examination: Thursday, May