



History 8A
(Early) World Civilizations
5:30-8 PM
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Course Description:

A survey of world history from the dawn of humans to the 14th century. The course will emphasize major forces, trends, and developments that have shaped human history.

Textbook:

World Civilizations, by Phillip Lee Ralph, et al, vol. 1. Norton, 9th ed.

Availability:

I will be available to talk to students before and after the class meets. If you have a question that you would like feedback on during the week, feel free to email me at the above email address.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand and explain the value of world civilizations from the origins of civilization to the Renaissance. Students will specifically be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the old Stone and the new Stone Age.
2. Discuss the various empires and conflicts to be found in Mesopotamian civilization.
3. Review why the Egyptians were able to establish a stable society.
4. Evaluate the important accomplishments of the Hebrews and early Greek civilizations.
5. Analyze the importance of the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars to Ancient Greece.
6. Examine the achievements of Greek culture and the impact of their developments on future history.
7. Consider the spread of Hellenistic civilization and its influence on other cultures.
8. Examine the rise and fall of the Roman Republic and the impact of the Punic Wars.
9. Explain the achievements and failures of Pax Romana.
10. Judge the Roman contributions in art, philosophy, religion, literature, law, and engineering.
11. Discuss the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire and what might have been done to save it.
12. Differentiate between Byzantium, Islam, and early Medieval Europe.

13. Debate the importance of the economic, social, and political institutions of the High Middle Ages.
14. Explain the connection between the religious and intellectual developments of the High Middle Ages.
15. Decide if Joan of Arc was a witch, a saint, or just plain crazy.
16. Understand the significance of women and diverse ethnic groups and their contributions to The course of history.
17. Compare and contrast ancient Indian and Chinese civilizations.
18. Discuss developments in the Americas, Asia, and Africa during the Middle Ages.

Grading:

Final grades will be allotted according to the following percentage scale:

A	90%
B	80%
C	70%
D	60%
F	below 60%

The different types of assignments are given below, with the percentage points assigned to each category. All assignments will be given a number grade, which will then be factored in according to the following ratios, to determine the final grade.

Tests	44% (22% for each test)
Essays	44% (22% for each essay)
Essay outline	5%
Primary source reflections	5%
In-class review assignment	2%

Tests

The tests will be short-answer and essay questions. We will have two such tests during the semester; together they are worth 44% percent of the total grade. The midterm will cover all material from the beginning of this class; the final will cover only the material since the midterm, i.e., the final will not be cumulative. These tests are designed to take up an entire 80-minute class period. The short-answer and essay questions will cover material from lectures, the text, and the primary sources readings. The breakdown for scoring will be the following: essay questions will be worth 70-80% of the test grade, and the short answer questions will be worth 30-20% of the test grade. **When answering essay questions, be sure to answer all parts of the question.**

No electronic media are allowed at all during tests—no cell phones, no mp3 players, no cds or headsets at all. If a student is caught looking at printed materials, or on another student's

exam, their test will be given an automatic 0, regardless of whether they choose to continue taking that test or not. When taking any test, you will need to put any papers, books, or other materials inside a closed binder, folder, or backpack. I will not give a test to any student who has loose papers lying on their desk, or anywhere else nearby them. Students who fail to comply with this will not be given extra time to complete that particular exam, nor will they be allowed to make up the exam at a later point in time.

You will need a few blank sheets of paper (Blue Books acceptable but not necessary) and **pens to write with.**

Essays

There will be two essays assigned during the semester. Both essays need to be 1200 words long (4 full pages will be close enough). A recommended division of the essay is a half-page introduction, a three-page body, and a half-page conclusion. Essays must be printed in 12-point type and double-spaced; decorative fonts and script fonts are not allowed. See the accompanying guide to writing a term paper.

Essays need to reference at least 3 books or articles, in MLA format. The essays have to deal with some topic within the content and time frame of this class: world history up to 1500 AD. If you are in any way unsure as to whether your topic fits these constraints, ask the instructor.

Essays written before this semester started, or submitted to other classes, are not acceptable.

Essay Outline

The Essay Writing Assignment form, will simply be your first essay in outline format. Be sure to fill out everything on the form. While you might want to use this for your second essay, **you don't need to turn in this Essay Writing Assignment form with your second essay.**

Reflections

These will consist of some short primary source readings, and a one-page reflection that would be either a written response to a question I will give, or a summary, *in your own words*, on what you felt was the most important thing mentioned in the reading. This is rather unstructured, and the idea here is simply to expose you to historical documents and get you to think about them.

Review Assignment

Because we will only meet for one week before the first two-week rotation break, we will have a review assignment to be done in class, the first Monday we return (February 1). This assignment will cover the first week's material, and will be open book/note. It will be given and turned in that same night.

Format

All assignments must be turned in, in hard copy (not digital) format, by the end of class, on the day the assignment is due. Assignments turned in via email or in any type of digital format (DVD, USB drive, etc.) to me, will for the purposes of grading, be treated as late.

Classroom Behavior

Cell phones: Keep in mind that if your pager or cell phone goes off, it disturbs the instructor, and many if not most of the students. If you have an emergency that requires your attention, you should probably attend to the emergency and not show up at class. If you have to have a cell phone go off, please set it to vibrate, and walk out of class before speaking. Regardless of the reason for taking a call, there is never any good reason for disturbing the rest of the class by talking on it in the classroom—all you need to do is quickly and quietly walk out the door, and then begin your conversation. Please be considerate of others in this regard. Also, please do not bring children or other guests into the classroom. If you have children and absolutely have to have them here, let them sit outside the classroom close to the door; you can sit right in the doorway and keep an eye on them. This way, distractions will be minimized.

Attendance and Instructor Drops

I take attendance at the start of the class. If you aren't there when I take roll, you will not be marked present. Because I will drop students who either never show up, or who stop attending after the first few classes, even if you come in late, you should let me know who you are, so I don't drop you for the first census.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are not permitted, and can result in receiving a 0 on the assignment, without the option to submit the assignment again, and additionally, any allowable penalty as explained in the student handbook.

Late Work and Makeup Work Policy

Work can be turned in up to two weeks late (i.e., 14 calendar Days after the due date), and will be given half credit. The **ONLY** way to avoid this penalty is to provide me with some documentation of an emergency (a towing receipt, a bill from your hospital for the x-rays, your death certificate, etc.). The only exceptions to a two-week extension are the final exam and the second essay--neither of those can be turned after the final itself.

The period for taking makeup tests (either the midterm, or the final if you can't take the final exam on the assigned day) is the week prior to finals week. **Under no circumstances will I accept work turned in after the final exam itself is administered.** Makeup exams will not be based on the study guides handed out, but will be based on the text, readings, and class lectures. Makeup exams are essay only.

Class Schedule

All assignments are indicated with **boldprint**

Jan. 11: Introduction to class: syllabus, term paper; civilization and agricultural revolution

Jan 12: Ch. 2: Mesopotamian Civilization

Jan 13: Ch. 3: Egyptian Civilization

Jan 14: Ch. 5: Ancient Indian Civilization

Feb. 1: Ch. 6: Ancient Chinese Civilization; **in-class review reports**

Feb 2: Ch. 4: Hebrew and early Greek Civilizations

Feb 3: Ch. 7: Greek Civilization

Feb 4: Ch. 7: Greek civilization, cont. **first essay and outline due**

Feb 8: Ch. 8: Hellenistic Civilization **Taoist/Legalist reflection**

Feb 9: Ch. 9: Roman civilization, test preparation

Feb 10: Ch. 9: Roman civilization, cont.,

Feb 11: **midterm**

Mar 1: Ch. 10: Christianity and the Transformation of the Roman World **Polybius/Mixed Constitution reflection**

Mar 2: Ch. 11: Asia and Africa in Transition, pp. 306-333; Ch. 16: Centuries of Turmoil and Grandeur in Asia, pp. 552-74

Mar 3: Ch. 12: Rome's Three Heirs: the Byzantine, Islamic, and early-medieval Western Worlds

Mar 4: Ch. 12: Rome's Three Heirs, cont. **second essay due**

Mar 8: Ch. 13: High Middle Ages (1050-1300): Economic, Social, and Political Institutions
Augustine City of God reflection

Mar 9: Ch. 18: Civilization of the Renaissance; test preparation

Mar 10: Ch. 17: pre-Columbian Americas

Mar 11: **final exam**