

HISTORY 101 – WORLD HISTORY TO 1500 – WINTER 2019
HIST 101-700/12255

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Owing to online format and delivery, I will not have traditional office hours, but do not let that deter you from contacting me if you have questions or need assistance in some way. I will check email and Blackboard daily, typically in the evening, and will reply to you as soon as I am able.

Welcome to the Winter Online Session for History 101! Over the next three weeks, you will essentially do an entire semester of class in an abbreviated format. Most students have very good reasons for enrolling in winter or summer courses, and with online delivery, but some common reasons are not so good. Remember, you are doing an entire semester in a compressed way, which means you will have less time to spread out your labors. It is *vital* that you put effort into the course on a daily basis!

So, what does this mean I will need to do? Optimally, you will read a chapter of your textbook and the documents reader each day, and then attempt the two quizzes that correspond to them, and then engage in discussion posts. However, in theory, you may work ahead as you feel comfortable doing. Pay careful attention to announcements, due dates, and check in on Blackboard on a daily basis.

How is the material broken up? There are eleven chapters in this course. The first six chapters should be worked on from the day you begin up through January 10, when the midterm exam over those six will be opened. Then, on January 11, begin working on the remaining five chapters. The final exam will be made available on Friday, January 18, and remain available until Sunday evening, January 20. More will be explained later in this syllabus.

A note of caution on Blackboard! If you are in any way familiar with Blackboard, then you know that she is a finicky beast. When you are doing any kind of work, please make sure that all other windows on your computer are closed (i.e. you are not listening to Spotify and looking at pictures of cats at the same time) and that you have a reliable internet connection. If you encounter an issue, there are some things which I can resolve on my end (such as the system crashing or locking up in the middle of a quiz – I can reopen that for you, but you will have to start over), but other major system issues above and beyond my skill set may need to wait until WKU resolves them. Again, keep an eye on announcements and email in case there is any scheduled Blackboard downtime.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to our global past while also developing your critical thinking skills. This World History course is designed to help you understand the diversity of and the connections between the world's cultures, ideals, and institutions. In addition, the course introduces you to History as an organized body of knowledge with its own methods, standards of proof, and way of viewing the world. Our goal is to strengthen your ability to evaluate sources and arguments. Because these classes emphasize the reading of primary texts, your instructor will focus on literacy skills to supplement content course work.

This course uses lectures, readings, and class discussions to introduce you to major phases in World History from Antiquity to the Intermediate Era. The course is designed to develop your ability to identify ideas and achievements characteristic of different historical periods. Exploring change over time will be a major theme of this course. Historians are most frequently involved in answering the question, "How did this develop from that?" Class assignments are designed to help you answer this question for a variety of ideas and institutions, thereby strengthening your grasp of historical perspective and causation. This course will also encourage you to think analytically about how people have created and adapted societies and institutions in response to the challenges and opportunities that have confronted them in the past.

Learning Objectives for Colonnade Program: This course fulfills the World History requirement in the Foundations category of WKU's Colonnade Program. As part of that program, HIST 101 has the following learning objectives:

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience.
- Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal or public importance.
- Communicate effectively using the language and terminology germane to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Read, comprehend, and analyze primary texts independently and proficiently.

Learning Objectives for HIST 101: The course objectives for HIST 101 are designed to integrate fully with the Colonnade Program. Upon successfully completing HIST 101, you will be able to:

- Identify the general outlines of Ancient and Intermediate Era World History including an understanding of major themes, historical events, cultural developments, and individuals of pre-modern global civilizations.
- Compare and contrast general aspects of political, religious, economic, and social systems from Ancient and Intermediate Era World civilizations.
- Describe and analyze the emergence of civilization and analyze the emergence and impact of cultural contact from 3000 B.C.E. to 1500 C.E. (e.g. emergence of stable states, basic philosophical and religious systems, geographic expansion and interaction, economic and technological advance)
- Explain cause and effect relationships in history and understand historical method.
- Interpret why a specific primary document was produced and to be able to contrast this document with similar documents produced by other civilizations.
- Read and analyze primary source historical documents.
- Write short analytical essays about primary sources.
- Demonstrate ability to synthesize and write about primary and secondary source material on essay exams.
- Display a developing historical objectivity, an increasing awareness of the problem of personal bias and opinion in historical analysis, and an ability to use a clear thesis and comparison of ideas in written work.

Required Materials:

WTWA: E. Pollard, C. Rosenberg and R. Tignor: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart. (Concise Edition) Vol. 1: Beginnings through the 15th Century* (W.W. Norton 2015).

Reader: K.L. Pomeranz, J.B. Given and L.J. Mitchell, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A Companion Reader. Vol. 1. 2nd edition* (W.W. Norton 2016). *You must have the second edition!*

Blackboard: *Make sure you have good internet access, and up to date browser, and access to Microsoft Word!*

You can acquire copies of these books at the WKU Bookstore as individual books or in loose leaf formats, book rental, or electronic copies. According to a recent *New York Times* [article](http://www.campusbooks.com/), the most comprehensive price comparison site for book purchases or rentals is: <http://www.campusbooks.com/>.

ALL WORK IS COMPLETED ONLINE! YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO COME TO CAMPUS!

Course Requirements and Grading:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Chapter Objective Quizzes | 200 points (the lowest quiz grade is dropped) |
| Chapter Written Quizzes | 100 points (the lowest quiz grade is dropped) |
| Discussion Posts | 100 points (ten points per chapter; you may skip one) |
| Primary Source Essay | 100 points |
| Midterm Exam | 100 points |
| Final Exam | <u>100 points</u> |
| Total Possible | 700 points |

700-630 = A (100-90)

629-560 = B (89-80)

559-490 = C (79-70)

489-420 = D (69-60)

419-0 = F (59-0)

Quizzes:

There will be two quizzes per chapter. The first will cover your textbook reading, and will be objective questions (in other words, multiple choice, etc.). The second will be subjective – written response, in a short answer (one to three paragraph) format. The written quizzes will be more comprehensive in nature.

Discussion Posts:

To maximize your learning, you are expected to participate actively in the discussion of primary text based posts, contributing a response of at least one hundred words per question, and fifty words in at least one follow up reply to another student's response. Further discussion board instructions and etiquette can be found later in this syllabus.

Exams:

Your midterm and final exams will be in essay format. Each wraps up a distinct learning unit and will be drawn from material in the textbook and primary readings covered in those chapters. The format will be as follows:

Part One: Short IDs—Who? What? Where? When? Why significant?—on terms of my choosing from the review guide which will accompany each unit.

Part Two: Short essay analyzing, comparing, and placing two quotes from our primary sources into historical context.

Part Three: Long essay (comparative and comprehensive). Students must demonstrate a critical understanding of the material and an ability to develop a clear thesis and argument, supported by direct references to historical events and relevant primary sources. Note: Merely repeating material from the book or lecture will not earn any points.

As a word of caution, it is the responsibility of the student to complete ALL work, and by their assigned due dates. However in cases of emergency, which can be documented, make up work MAY be administered, but only on a date specified by the instructor. Failure to take the any make-up work by the assigned date results in an automatic (0) for the assignment.

ALL WORK CAN BE TAKEN WHEREVER YOU WOULD LIKE --EVEN IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME --WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT DURING QUIZZING AND TESTING YOU WILL NOT USE ANY OUTSIDE MATERIAL (TEXTBOOK; NOTES; PRE-WRITTEN ESSAYS; ETC, --UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED). YOU ARE TO TREAT THE WEB CLASS NO DIFFERENT FOR A REGULAR FACE TO FACE CLASS. THE EXPECTATIONS ARE THE SAME. PLAGIARISING DETECTING SOFTWARE WILL BE UTILIZED FOR YOUR PAPER AND THE EXAMS.

Writing Assignments / Papers: The discipline of History places a strong emphasis upon critical analysis and persuasive writing. During this term, you will write an analytical essay with footnotes based on the assigned primary sources (your *Reader* or other sources I will assign), in which you analyze the primary sources and place them in their appropriate historical context. Essays will be a minimum of 1,000 words in length (not including footnotes); they will be typed in 12 point Times Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins (additional instructions provided as scheduled). Your work will be evaluated on the following factors:

Thesis: Do you present a thesis that is easily identifiable, plausible, and clear?

Structure: Is your argument organized in an understandable way that provides appropriate support for your thesis? Do you provide clear and logical transitions from point to point in your argument? Do your paragraphs provide support clear and logical support for your topic sentences?

Use of Evidence: Do you support your argument with relevant evidence and examples drawn from primary sources? Do you properly integrate these examples into your overall argument? Do you provide accurate and relevant factual information? Do you cite your sources, whether quoted or paraphrased?

Logic and Argumentation: Does your overall argument flow logically? Is it reasonable and sound? Do you make original connections that support your thesis?

Mechanics: Is your diction (word usage), punctuation, and grammar correct? Do you correctly cite sources? Does your essay meet the length requirement? (Note: essays will be submitted electronically and in paper format)

Identification of Ethical Issues: Are you able to identify the various ethical perspectives related to your topic? Are you able to discuss the assumptions and implications of those differing ethical perspectives in an objective manner?

Plagiarism:

In all writing assignments, be careful to avoid any form of intentional or unintentional plagiarism such as copying part or all of another student's assignments, overusing the ideas in the introduction to texts without citation or copying published (including the Internet) or previously graded work. For a fuller discussion of the definition of plagiarism and the ramifications of academic dishonesty, see the following Academic Honesty policy. Therefore, make sure that you use your words and your ideas since that will earn you a better grade than if you use someone else's words and ideas. **I will check your paper and exams using plagiarism detection software.**

- a. Pay particular attention to the difference between quoting and paraphrasing another scholar's work. Changing a few words does not constitute paraphrasing and will be treated as plagiarism. In particular, you can expect that any assignment which merely paraphrases the secondary or introductory material to primary documents to receive a 0.
- b. The purpose of the writing assignments is to develop your ability to think critically. Therefore, your work should not be the result of group work even at the level of just discussing the documents since you run the risk of having your ideas plagiarized or plagiarizing someone else's ideas. In the case of clear group work, all individuals involved will be given a 0 for the essay(s) involved.
- c. If you submit an assignment previously handed in for this or for another course or written by another person here or at another institution, the instructor will take more serious action.
- d. Any work based on Internet web pages will receive an automatic 0, with the instructor reserving the right to take more serious action.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As a student at the Western Kentucky University, you are expected to demonstrate academic integrity, as outlined in the [University Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) (Judicial Affairs) in all aspects of this course. Violations of this code of conduct include cheating (by giving or receiving unauthorized information before or during an exam or assignment), dishonesty (including misrepresentation and lying) and plagiarism. A fuller definition of the university [Academic Dishonesty](#) policy and the definition of what constitutes plagiarism are found in the *WKU Student Handbook*, *Undergraduate Catalog*, *Hilltopics: A Handbook for University Life*, and *Judicial Affairs*. *“Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.”* Specialized definitions of plagiarism and of cheating are also given on this syllabus and on the “Essay Writing” handout and are binding to all students in this course. In accordance with Western Kentucky University policy, any student found to have committed academic dishonesty in any aspect of this course can receive sanctions including, but not limited to, a failing grade on the assignment to a failing grade in this course regardless of the credit percentage of the assignment in question. In addition, any student using any outside source of information, whether electronic, web-based, verbal, code, written or print, during an exam will be automatically given a failing grade for the course and prevented from withdrawing from the course.

CLASS PARTICIPATION VIA BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION:

In order to maximize your learning, you are expected to actively participate in discussion posts covering material in your primary text reader. Your responses should add substance, request clarification, or challenge assertions made by others. Your postings and responses must include at least one original contribution and one substantial response to the postings of fellow students. Remember, the purpose of this is to stimulate academic activity and debate, and not to attack others. Please make sure you are posting in a timely fashion!

Examples of postings that will receive no credit:

“I agree” or “I disagree” (fine if you do...but *why?*)

“Stupid conclusion”

“Wow, I never thought of that”

“I agree with the information found at [www.DavidSerafini.edu](#)” (no, this website does not exist)

Or, simply providing a quote from the text without substantive discussion.

Discussion Etiquette:

Western Kentucky University is committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue in all of its courses. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought and opinion. We encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, I will intervene as I monitor the dialogue in this course. The following are good guidelines to follow:

1. Never post, transmit, promote, or distribute content that is known to be illegal.
2. Never post harassing, threatening, or embarrassing comments.
3. If you disagree with someone, respond to the subject/issue, not the person.
4. Never post content that is harmful, abusive; racially, ethnically, or religiously offensive, vulgar; sexually explicit; or otherwise potentially offensive

Course Assistance:

Should you require academic assistance with this course, or any other General Education Course, there are several places that can provide you with help.

- Contact your professor for an appointment.
- Another option is [peer or online tutoring](#) offered through **The Learning Center (TLC)** (located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, DSU A330). TLC tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week. To make an appointment, or to request a tutor for a specific class, call 745-6254 or stop by DSU A330. Log on to TLC's website at www.wku.edu/tlc to find out more.
- **The Writing Center** has locations in Cherry Hall 123 and in the Commons at Cravens Library on the Bowling Green campus. The Glasgow Writing Center is located in room 163 on the Glasgow campus. The Writing Center also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can *help you* brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper *for you*. See instructions on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment.
- **The WKU Center for Literacy** is located in Gary Ransdell Hall 2066. At the Center for Literacy, students can receive assistance in developing strategies to help with **reading and studying to learn** and **writing for evidence and argument**. The Center for Literacy offers both individual and small group sessions throughout the semester. Please email literacy.center@wku.edu to schedule an appointment or ask questions, visit the website at <http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter>, or stop by GRH 2006 for more information.
- Carleton College's "History Study Guides" offer several excellent tutorials on effective reading, studying, note-taking, and research—paper writing: <http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/resources/study/>.
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Students with Disabilities

In compliance with university policy, I am pleased to work with students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course. However, you must first contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) office located in the Student Success Center in DSU 1074 in Downing Student Union, telephone (270)745-5004 and TDD, (270)745-3030. Per University policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center.

University Policies

For information on university policies regarding ADA, Title IX/ Discrimination & Harassment, Student Code of Conduct, Academic Integrity, Student Complaint/Student Grievance, Safe Space, Active Shooter, and other helpful information, please go to this link: <https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>. The policies outlined there are the policies of this course.

Finally....

So, those are the mechanics of the course. At this point, go ahead and start to read your material. Again, aim for a chapter per day in each textbook. More information will be posted online as we go along.

See you on Blackboard!

-David A. Serafini, MA