

History 101 – World History to 1500 On Demand

Instructor: Prof. David A. Serafini
Office: Cherry Hall 224-D

Phone: 270-745-3841
Email: david.serafini@wku.edu

Welcome to the On Demand Version of History 101!

By your enrollment in this course, you will complete a semester of class in a unique, self-paced format. Most students have very good reasons for enrolling in course delivery such as this, but some common reasons are not so good. Remember, you are doing an entire semester at your own pace, which means you will have to be diligent in balancing your time. It is *vital* that you put effort into the course on a weekly basis!

So, what does this mean I will need to do?

Optimally, you should read a chapter of your textbook and the documents reader each week, complete the corresponding reading guide, and then complete the graded assignments for that chapter. 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, divided into three units:

- **Unit One - Chapters One through Four**
- **Unit Two - Chapters Five through Eight**
- **Unit Three - Chapters Nine through Eleven**

Each chapter will have four graded assignments (two quizzes and two short writing assignments). Once you have completed those, you can then take the exam that corresponds to that particular unit. Each unit is self-contained (in other words, your exams are over those specific chapters only; the final is *not* comprehensive or cumulative). More information on your graded work can be found 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

require additional help. If you need technical assistance, please refer to the WKU Informational Technology Services website at <https://www.wku.edu/its/>

Wait...so does this mean I could complete this course within a semester?

Yes! While you must pay careful attention to the time allotted based on your registration for class, you could complete this course in the equivalent of a sixteen week semester:

Week	Assignment/Exam
1	Chapter One
2	Chapter Two
3	Chapter Three
4	Chapter Four
5	EXAM ONE
6	Chapter Five
7	Chapter Six
8	Chapter Seven
9	Chapter Eight
10	EXAM TWO
11	Chapter Nine
12	Chapter Ten
13	Chapter Eleven
14	Study for Final
15	FINAL EXAM

Again, the above is only a suggested schedule.

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:

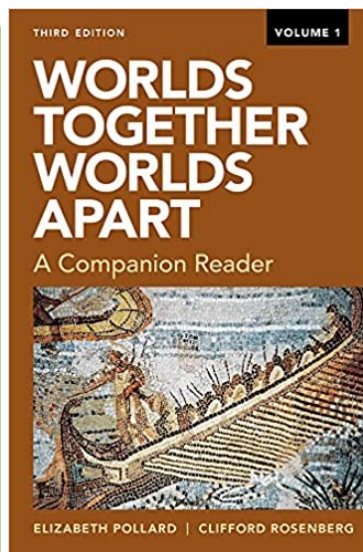
- Identify the general outlines of Ancient and Intermediate Era World History including an understanding of major themes, historical events, cultural developments, and individuals of pre-modern global civilizations.
- Compare and contrast general aspects of political, religious, economic, and social 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 Texts:

E. Pollard, C. Rosenberg and R. Tignor: ***Worlds Together, Worlds Apart. (Concise Second Edition) Vol. 1: Beginnings through the 15th Century*** ISBN 978-0-393-66854-4

E. Pollard, C. Rosenberg: ***Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A Companion Reader. Vol. 1. 3rd edition*** ISBN 978-0-393-66876-6



You can acquire copies of these books at the WKU Bookstore as individual books or in loose leaf formats, book rental, or electronic copies. You may also obtain them from a variety of online sources, such as Amazon or the publisher at [wwwnorton.com](http://www.norton.com). According to a recent *New York Times* [article](#), the most comprehensive price comparison site for book purchases or rentals is: <http://www.campusbooks.com/>.

You will need *both* books, and the editions indicated above! Please do not purchase earlier or current editions (the in-person History 101 courses are using updated versions). If you are going to purchase your books online via Amazon or another provider, please make sure you get the expedited shipping so that they arrive in a timely manner.

Please note also that your textbook comes with access to a program called “InQuizitive.” We are **not** utilizing this program, and you may ignore that material.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Each chapter will have four graded components –

- **Multiple Choice Quiz (20 points)**
- **Short Answer Quiz (20 points)**
- **Comparing Societies Question (30 points)**
- **Primary Source Analysis Question (30 points)**

Because History is, at its basic, a literary art and skill, written work is an essential component to our course. While rote memorization has its place in academic work, you will be graded on your critical and analytical skills, rather than simply memorizing and repeating factual material from the textbook (although, you are certainly allowed to quote from the book as needed in support of your written answers; try to keep this at a minimum, however). I know what the textbook says – I am more interested in knowing what *you* have learned and what *your* interpretation is.

You will then take three Unit Exams –

- **Unit One - Chapters One through Four**

- **Unit Two - Chapters Five through Eight**
- **Unit Three - Chapters Nine through Eleven**

Each exam will be in written format and will wrap up a distinct learning unit. There are three components to each exam:

Part One: A short answer question, similar to the short answer quizzes.

Part Two: A short answer analyzing, comparing, and placing two quotes from our primary sources into historical context. On the exam, I will provide the quotes, the title of each source and author (if known).

Part Three: Essay question (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. Again, merely repeating material from the book will not work here!

I will provide a review and study guide with detailed instructions for each exam.

You will be completing ALL work via Blackboard, and will not have to schedule a proctored exam on campus!

Assignment	Points Possible
Multiple Choice Quizzes	220 (20 points x Eleven Chapters)
Short Answer Quizzes	220 (20 points x Eleven Chapters)
Comparing Societies Response	330 (30 points x Eleven Chapters)
Primary Source Analysis	330 (30 points x eleven Chapters)
Exams	300 (100 points x Three Exams)

Letter Grade	Points/Percentage
A	1400-1260 (100-90)
B	1259-1120 (89-80)
C	1119-980 (79-70)
D	979-840 (69-60)
F	839 and below (59-0)

All work must be completed in order to pass the course!

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](#) 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.**

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 Academic Honesty policy linked in the section above. 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 all student work 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.

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 Healthy on the Hill, 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 [the WKU Syllabus Information page](#). The policies outlined there are the policies of this course.

Regular and Substantive Interaction:

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage (<https://www.wku.edu/citl/rsi.php>).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Welcome message with instructor introduction, description of course content and student expectations.
- Suggested course schedule with recommendations to successfully complete a self-paced, On Demand course within a specific timeframe.

- Communication and interaction via email along with expected response of 24 hours (or less) listed in syllabus and posted within the course.
- Office Hours listed in syllabus and posted within the course.
- Each chapter (11 chapters) will have four graded assignments (two quizzes and two short writing assignments) requiring grades / feedback.
- All graded assignments will be graded within a 2-week period, with feedback.

Contacting Me:

While I obviously will not have “office hours” for our course, I am available to answer your questions and assist you so that you succeed! Email is the best way to get in touch, and I will answer within twenty-four hours or less. You may also call the History Department office and leave a message if you need more immediate assistance. This information is found at the top of this syllabus. We can also, if you would like, schedule a one-on-one “meeting” via Zoom.