

History 1500
Spring 2008
Wednesdays 5:30 to 8:20pm
SCC W331

Dr. Beurtheret
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SCC office N112
T-Th 11 to 1, W-Th 5 to 5:30 pm
by appointment

World History to 1500

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to offer to graduate students an appreciation of the World we know today, through a better understanding of the forces that shaped its civilizations until 1600. The interest of this course lies in the privilege we have of seeing the evolutions, ruptures, and imbrications of many civilizations interacting for centuries, which help us to understand better our present world.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

I have found that a format associating lectures, presentations and discussions allows all, in an orderly manner, to receive knowledge from the speaker, as well as an opportunity for all to be actively involved. In the classroom, through student-teacher dialogue in the tradition of both Socrates and the Medieval *disputatio*, the puzzle of history becomes a clear and present reality, a fascinating world to explore. In fact, the success of this class is defined by your willingness to reflect on the knowledge you acquire from the lectures, presentations and your readings. A class is a ferment of intellectual activity, both for the students and the teacher, in which History is experienced, lived and built. It takes work and dynamism, rigor and passion.

Informed participation at all class meetings is required. This means your attendance, and your commitment to complete your assignments on time. Assimilating the content of the required readings is merely a prerequisite. It is expected that everyone has reflected on the topic of the lesson before entering the classroom, not just myself or the student making the presentation, in order to actively engage in the class reflection. The purpose of this class is not just learning about history. It is making history.

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK

Upsher & al.: *World History – Before 1600: The Development of Early Civilization*, vol. 1, Wadsworth, Belmont, CA, 4th edition, 2002. ISBN: 0-534-58726-7

COURSEWORK AND GRADES

The formal reading for this course is light to moderate. First, the one and only textbook provides a general context to the course; I also propose primary sources, whose reading is essential before the class in order to participate effectively in class discussion. The regular use of an historical atlas and chronologies is not optional. As an incentive, a quiz may be randomly given at the beginning of the class to test the quality of your preparation.

Besides, five distinct exercises will allow students to earn points toward their grade:

1. Each student is required to make a 15-minute oral presentation (a speech, not the reading of a written paper) on an assigned topic. Students are responsible for signing up for an available topic and be ready to present it to the class at the time requested by the instructor.
2. A 12-page research paper on an assigned topic given on week 4 is due on week 10 of the semester.
3. A mid-term may consist of a 90-minute essay, a 10 question quiz, the filling of a map and of a chronological line.
4. A final exam usually consists of a 2-hour essay.
5. Active participation in class.

These various exercises shall test the ability of students to follow a methodology, address a specific topic, use their analytic and logic skills, and memorize basic knowledge. These tests are to be taken at a specific time in class. Please, bring a “blue book” for your mid-term and final.

Your final grade for this class will be the average of three written assignments (mid-term exam (20%), final exam (20%), a research paper (20%)), an oral presentation (20%), and class participation (20%).

LECTURES AND DISCUSSION THEMES

WEEK 1

Class introduction, methodology.

Reading: Upshur: 1-12

Ancient Civilizations in the Near East

Reading: Upshur: 13-27

First Part : The Ancient World

WEEK 2

Early Hebrew Culture

Reading: Upshur: 79-84

Presentation: Moses

Early Indian Civilization

Reading: Upshur: 46-58

Presentation: the Rig-Veda and Upanishads: change and evolution

WEEK 3

Early Chinese Civilization

Reading: Upshur: 58-78

Presentation: The rise of large states in the Warring State period (Eastern Chou 401-256)

Greek Society to the Persian Wars

Reading: Upshur: 27-38 & 84-88

Presentation: The battle of Salamis

WEEK 4

Classical Greece to the Peloponnesian wars

Presentation: The Delian league

Greek Religious life

Reading: Upshur: 89-98

Presentation: The sanctuary of Delphi

Research paper topic assigned.

WEEK 5

Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World

Reading: Upshur: 119-120, 121-130

WEEK 6

China's Early Empires (Qin, Han Dynasties)

Reading: Upshur: 112-116, 155-168, 170-172

The Roman Republic

Reading: Upshur: 130-136

WEEK 7

The Roman Empire

Reading: Upshur: 136-144

WEEK 8

MIDTERM

Please, bring blue book

Second Part : The Middle Ages

WEEK 9

The Byzantine Empire

Reading: Upshur: 206-212

The Rise of Islam

Reading: Upshur: 212-221 & 307-318

WEEK 10

From the great invasion to the rise of the Franks

Reading: Upshur: 173-187

The Carolingian Empire

Reading: Upshur: 187-195

Research Paper due.

WEEK 11

Spring Break – No class

WEEK 12

Japan: Early History

Reading: Upshur: 260-274

Imperial China (Sui, T'ang and Sung Dynasties)

Reading: Upshur: 238-257

WEEK 13

Mongol Horde Attacks Asia (Yuan Empire)

Reading: Upshur: 325-349

The transformations of the High Middle Ages

Reading: Upshur: 195-206, 318-325

WEEK 14

The transformations of the High Middle Ages

Reading: Upshur: 195-206, 318-325

WEEK 15

A century of calamities strikes the West (1348-1457)

WEEK 16

A century of calamities strikes the West (1348-1457)

FINAL EXAM: check Spring class schedule for hours.

Please, bring blue books

LAST BUT NOT LEAST ...

Do not hesitate to stop by my office if you have questions about readings, lectures in class, or assignments.

Students who receive a midterm grade lower than C should stop by my office or schedule an appointment within the following week in class.

Cheating, plagiarism, etc. are not acceptable and shall be sanctioned with a failing grade for the course.

Students are responsible to do the work necessary to keep their financial aid and to graduate.

"Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disability desiring accommodations or services under A.D.A. must contact the Disability Resource Center, (801)-957-4659. The DRC determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these accommodations and services."

This course fulfills the History requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning. General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

SLCC is committed to fostering and assessing the following student learning outcomes in its programs and courses:

- *Acquiring substantive knowledge in the field of their choice
- *Developing quantitative literacies
- *Developing the knowledge and skills to be civically engaged
- *Thinking critically
- *Communicating effectively

This syllabus is subject to change according to the needs of the class.