

WORLD CIVILIZATION TO 1500 CE

WOH 2012 (15081) MW 9:00-9:50 SO 250

GRADUATE INSTRUCTORS:

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

Students taking this course will be introduced not only to the history of a variety of world civilizations dating from the earliest known societies up until the rise of Europe in the sixteenth century, but to the nature of our *understanding* of said civilizations. The main themes running throughout the lectures will be *Cultural Syncretism*, roughly meaning the borrowing over time and space between various civilizations and cultures, and *Humanity's Relationship with "the Divine,"* the ways in which humans often have expressed their understanding of the universe around them and their roles in it. Lectures will be given on Mondays and Wednesdays; the topics for each are found in the attached schedule of classes. Friday class meetings will be led by the Graduate Student Instructors who will facilitate discussions of the readings, organize activities related to the topics covered, and work with students on various writing assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

As this course is a Writing Across the Curriculum (W.A.C.) course that meets the Gordon Rule requirement, each student will be required to produce works totaling 6000 words. The goal of these assignments is to give students the opportunity to hone their writing skills and improve their critical thinking and critical writing abilities. To achieve this goal, students will produce a research paper throughout the term. See the end of the syllabus for a complete breakdown of the project. There will be three non-cumulative exams at set points throughout the term—these will be administered during the M/W class sessions. Finally, students will be graded on their attendance, activities, and participation in their Discussion sections. To receive W.A.C./Gordon Rule credit for this course, students must achieve a grade of "C" or better. Assignments, due dates, and percentages of final grade are as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DUE</u>	<u>PERCENT OF GRADE</u>
Document Analysis Paper 1	September 8, 2006	5%
Document Analysis Paper 2	September 22, 2006	5%
Exam 1	September 25, 2006	10%
Secondary Analysis Paper	October 6, 2006	5%
Paper Prospectus	October 13, 2006	5%
Exam 2	October 23, 2006	10%
First Draft	October 27, 2006	20%
Final Draft	November 17, 2006	20%
Exam 3 (Final)	December 1, 2006	10%
Discussion Section		<u>10%</u>
	Total	100%

Grading Scale:

100-93 = A	73-77 = C
92-90 = A-	72-70 = C-
88-89 = B+	68-68 = D+
83-87 = B	63-67 = D
82-80 = B-	62-60 = D-
79-78 = C+	59-0 = F

COURSE GUIDELINES AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: Attendance at lectures is *mandatory* and will be taken. Although we do not have assigned seating at the M/W lectures please note that a) the vast majority of the exam questions will originate from the lectures, which *do not* come straight from the text, and b) the instructor will not provide lecture notes or power point presentations to students who miss lecture for whatever reason. Attendance in Discussion sections is also *mandatory*—and attendance for sections *will also* be taken. Absences due to medical/family emergencies require documentation on a case-by-case basis.

Conduct in Lecture: Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for lectures. Latecomers are instructed to enter *from the rear* of the lecture hall in an unobtrusive manner. Make sure **Pagers, Cellular Phones**, etc. are turned off during lecture, as they will distract others. This last rule is in accordance with FAU policy concerning electronic devices in class. Those who create a disturbance in class, for whatever reason, will be asked to leave.

Taping Lectures: Taping lectures is allowed as long as the student obtains permission from the instructor first. Attendance is required as well, regardless of whether or not one is taping the lecture.

Special Needs Students: All students with special needs, ranging from Athletic status to OSD students, should approach the instructor as soon as possible in the beginning of term. We can then work out a system and schedule amenable to all.

Make-Up Exams: The dates for each of the exams are located in the syllabus. For unforeseen emergencies, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to re-schedule the exam. Documentation of said emergency is required. Students failing to do so will forfeit their right to make up an exam.

Late Papers: The dates for each of the paper assignments are located in the syllabus. Late papers will not be accepted. In the case of medical/family emergencies, proper documentation is required in order for the paper to be accepted for grading.

How to Succeed in Lecture: [Some Tips on Taking Notes](http://www.historyguide.org/guide/notes1.html)
<http://www.historyguide.org/guide/notes1.html>

COURSE MATERIALS: (REQUIRED)

Spodek, Howard. *The World's History Volume I: to 1500* Third Edition, 2006 (Available in FAU Bookstore and Booksmart)
Companion Website: www.prenhall.com/spodek

Benjamin, Jules R. *A Student's Guide to History*, Ninth Edition, 2004. (Available in FAU Bookstore and Booksmart)

Online Materials: URLs are supplied in Syllabus

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

- Monday, August 21:** **Topic:** Introduction of Course, Procedures, Discussion Sections
Readings: None
- Wednesday, August 23:** **Topic:** Footprints: From Pre-History to History
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 1
- Friday, August 25:** **Discussion Section:** Writing Workshop
- Monday, August 28:** **Topic:** Reason vs. Revelation: Who “wins”?
Readings: [“The Scopes Monkey Trial”](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/scopes.htm)
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/scopes.htm>
- Wednesday, August 30:** **Topic:** From Islands to Civilizations
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 2
- Friday, September 1:** **Discussion Section:** The Great Debate & Writing History
- Monday September 4:** **LABOR DAY---NO CLASSES**
- Wednesday, September 6:** **Topic:** Epic History I
Readings: The Epic of Gilgamesh
<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/MESO/GILG.HTM>
- Friday, September 8:** **Discussion:** Primary Sources and Historical Evidence
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS PAPER 1 DUE TODAY IN SECTION
- Monday, September 11:** **Topic:** “Way down upon the _____ River . . .”
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 3
- Wednesday, September 13:** **Topic:** Water = Life
Readings: None
- Friday, September 15:** **Discussion:** Early Civilizations
- Monday, September 18:** **Topic:** Beyond the Pale
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 4

- Wednesday, September 20:** **Topic:** Creation Myths: The *Big* Debate
Readings: ["Flood Story Side By Side"](http://faculty.gvsu.edu/websterm/cflood.htm)
<http://faculty.gvsu.edu/websterm/cflood.htm>
- Friday, September 22:** **Discussion:** "Creationism around the World"
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS PAPER 2 DUE IN SECTION
- Monday, September 25:** **EXAM I (In Class)**
- Wednesday, September 27:** **Topic:** "If I ruled the world . . ."
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 5
- Friday, September 29:** **Discussion:** The Cosmos defined
- Monday, October 2:** **Topic:** All Roads Lead to Rome
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 6
- Wednesday, October 4:** **Topic:** "What goes up must invariable come down"
Readings: None
- Friday, October 6:** **Discussion:** Empires
SECONDARY ANALYSIS PAPER DUE IN SECTION
- Monday, October 9:** **Topic:** China - A World unto itself
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 7
- Wednesday, October 11:** **Topic:** A soldier and a philosopher walk into a bar...
Readings: ["The Art of War" \(extracts\) by Sun Tzu](http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/core9/phalsall/texts/suntzu.html)
<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/core9/phalsall/texts/suntzu.html>
- Friday, October 13:** **Discussion:** Philosophical Schools
PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE IN SECTION
- Monday, October 16:** **Topic:** India: Division and Diversity
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 8
- Wednesday, October 18:** **Topic:** Epic History II
Readings: None
- Friday, October 20:** **Discussion:** Cultural Spread: Rome, China, India
- Monday, October 23:** **EXAM II (In Class)**
- Wednesday, October 25:** **Topic:** Define the Universe and Give Two Examples
Reading: Spodek, Chapter 9

Friday, October 27: **Discussion:** Asia In All Its Glory
FIRST DRAFT DUE IN SECTION

Monday, October 30: **Topic:** “We believe in one . . .”--Monotheism
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 10

Wednesday, November 1: **Topic:** Humanity and the Divine
Readings: None

Friday, November 3: **Discussion:** Comparative Religions I

Monday, November 6: **Topic:** The Completion of the Message: Islam
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 11

Wednesday, November 8: **Topic:** Enjoining the Good and Forbidding the Evil
Readings: None
FIRST DRAFT RETURNED AFTER CLASS

Friday, November 10: **VETERAN’S DAY OBSERVED—NO CLASSES**

Monday, November 13: **Topic:** The Rise of Europe
Readings: Spodek, Chapter 13 (*NOTE CHAPTER NUMBER*)

Wednesday, November 15: **Topic:** To the Manor Born
Readings: None

Friday, November 17: **Discussion:** Feudalism
FINAL DRAFT DUE IN SECTION

Monday, November 20: **Topic:** The Crusades à la Python.
Readings: None

Wednesday, November 22: **Topic:** “So many heretics, so little time . . .”
Readings: None

Friday, November 24: **THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASSES**

Monday, November 27: **Topic:** “Ashes, ashes, we all fall down!” The Black Death
Readings: [Boccaccio: *The Decameron*: Introduction](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/boccaccio2.html)
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/boccaccio2.html>

Wednesday, November 29: **Topic:** The Phoenix from the Ashes: The Renaissance
Readings: None

Friday, December 1: **FINAL 7:45 a.m. (!!!)—10:15 a.m.**

PAPER WRITING PROCESS/ASSIGNMENTS

PAPER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are applicable for all of the writing assignments. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in grade penalties above and beyond the normal grading procedures.

1. PLACE NAME ON THE FIRST PAGE. INCLUDE FINAL WORD COUNT FOR MAIN BODY OF TEXT.
2. Papers must be typed, double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11" paper.
3. A 1" border (*no more no less*) for the top, bottom, right, and left margins.
4. Typeface shall be no larger than 12 point. Fonts should be either Times New Roman or New Century Schoolbook.
5. Paper length is measured by the number of words in the main body of the text—not footnotes as well.
6. Paper Style *must use* the Chicago Manual of Style method for Citations, Footnotes, Bibliographies, as well as other matters. *NO PARENTHETICAL QUOTATIONS* (i.e. MLA)
7. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely following the FAU guidelines for dealing with Academic Irregularities. (Consult your UG Catalogue for the procedures). Use these as your guidelines and let it be known now that we have unfortunately had to deal with this in the past—an unpleasant but necessary duty that we take *quite* seriously.
8. Each of the Teaching Assistants will have a different theme on which his/her students will do their research. Students will be free to pick a topic/thesis for their paper that deals with some aspect of this theme.
9. Primary documents and some secondary documents will be provided to the students; these sources **MUST** be used to research and write the papers.
10. Other primary and secondary sources may be used, but only after they have been approved by the Teaching Assistants.

RESEARCH PAPER—“Putting it together . . .”

A Few Words Before We Begin . . .

Many believe that we study history by interpreting the past in order to understand the present in preparation for confronting the future. Is it a simple task of remembering names and dates only to pass them on to the next generation? In a word, no. In two words, heck no. Students in this course will be introduced to the nature of historical inquiry in order to aid them in attempting a bit of it on their own. As one of the more important aspects of “history” is the writing of it, students will be assisted by the instructor and the teaching assistants each step of the way. Near the end of the term, you will turn in the final draft of your research paper; *this* version, however, will be the culmination of a series of writing assignments geared to train the student in critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing. Do not focus solely on the end result of the project (i.e. the final version)—think, rather, of the journey toward this goal. In other words...think about the answer to the age-old question “How does one eat an elephant?”

Answer: One forkful at a time.

As the old scholarly adage goes “There are three kinds of history: What actually happened; what we are told happened; and what we come to believe happened.” Unless we each have a time machine and the ability to read minds, we will never know *exactly* what happened at any given time in the past. We historians depend on primary and secondary sources to help decipher what happened in the past, when it occurred, who was involved, where it took place, how an event “played itself out,” and—of course—the most interesting and elusive of questions—why something happened. The primary and secondary sources go a long way in helping us in these endeavors, but like any good detective will tell you, we need to know what to look for, and how to interpret it correctly.

Now to the process. . .

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/WORD COUNTS/DUE DATES/PERCENTAGE OF GRADE

1) Document Analysis Paper 1 Length: 250 words Due: Friday, September 8 in Section 5%

Task: Analyze one of the primary sources you will be using for your paper. Using the MAPPER technique as well as guidelines provided by your instructors and the Benjamin guidebook, discuss how and why your chosen primary source is important to your topic of study. Be sure to address the larger historiographical issues associated with your chosen source.

This first DAP will be returned to you on Friday September 15

2) Document Analysis Paper 2 Length: 250 words Due: Friday, September 22 in Section 5%

Task: Analyze one of the primary sources you will be using for your paper. Using the MAPPER technique as well as guidelines provided by your instructors and the Benjamin guidebook, discuss how and why your chosen primary source is important to your topic of study. Be sure to address the larger historiographical issues associated with your chosen source.

This second DAP will be returned to you on Friday, September 29

3) Secondary Analysis Paper Length: 250 words Due: Friday, October 6 in Section 5%

Task: Analyze one of the secondary sources you will be using for your paper. Assess the strength of the author's thesis and whether or not the author proved this thesis. Also address the sources used by the author. Make sure to clarify how this source will fit into your larger study.

This SAP will be returned to you on Friday, October 13

4) Paper Prospectus Length: 250 words Due: Friday, October 13 in Section 5%

By now, you should have a clearer idea about the nature of your topic and the argument you are going to make in your paper. In this assignment, provide a clear introduction to your paper, addressing your topic and clearly stating your thesis. In addition, you should delineate how you intend to prove this thesis, discussing the various sources you will be using.

This Paper Prospectus will be returned to you, Friday, October 20

5) First Draft Length: 2500 words Due: Friday, October 27 in Section 20%

Produce a first draft of your paper. Use your initial writing assignments with additional sources as needed to prove your thesis. This paper must be a well-formed essay including proper citations and a bibliography.

This First Draft will be returned to you on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AFTER LECTURE

6) Final Draft Length: 2500 words Due: Friday, November 17 in Section 20%

This is your revised final version of the paper, addressing the comments, corrections received on the first draft in addition to your own continued work on the project. The First Draft **MUST BE** turned in with the Final Draft.