

WORLD CIVILIZATION: Ancient

Roger Soiset, M.A.
Spring 2008
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE: History 1111/002, CRN# 2390

ROOM: J-109, Tuesdays/Thursdays 10-11:15 am.

OFFICE/hours: J321 (Tel 678/915-3990) between 11:30am-12:30pm TR;
and 10-12:00am Wednesdays(or by appt). E-mail address:
RSoiset@SPSU.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: *Traditions & Encounters* by Bentley and Ziegler
(volume 1)

HOLIDAY: Spring Break, no classes on March 4 and 6

COURSE OUTCOME: Students will be able to identify the main materials and sources historians use to construct the histories of past civilizations; recognize the central beliefs of the world's major religions; explain internal and external factors that influence the development of civilization; explain how technological change influenced such development; and how the great civilizations of the past continue to influence our world.

LECTURES/MAIN TOPICS:

1. Understanding early man
2. Early Mesopotamia and Western Asia
3. Ancient Africa
4. Kingdoms and Empires of the Near East
5. Ancient India
6. Ancient China
7. The Legacy of Greece
8. Alexander and Hellenistic Society
9. The Rise of Rome
10. The Roman Empire and its Contributions
11. The Growth of the Christian Church
12. The Germans: Their Culture, Migrations and Kingdoms
13. The Heirs of the Roman Empire
14. The Rise of Islam
15. Traditional China
16. Early to Medieval Japan
17. The Carolingians and their Neighbors
18. Feudalism in Europe
19. Southeast Asia: The Golden Region
20. Pre-Columbian America and its Discovery

- COURSE SCHEDULE:1.The first six topics should be covered in the first 6 classes, **test on February 5.**
2. Topics 7 through 11 will be covered in the next 7 classes, **test on March 11.**
3. Topics 12 through 15 should be covered in the next 7 classes, **test on April 8.**
4. The last 6 classes will deal with the Middle Ages, Japan, and pre-Columbian America, with the final on _____ (TBD).

Students are encouraged to use the document and map workbooks along with the study guide to better understand the assignments.

GRADING POLICY:

There will be three mid-term exams and a final in this course, as well as **one take-home research paper.** One of the mid-term exams can be dropped; neither the final nor the take-home paper can be dropped. If any of the mid-term exams are missed, that will automatically be your "drop." The take-home paper is to be typewritten, on a subject either assigned or approved by me, and must be at least fifteen hundred words (footnotes or endnotes required; bibliography). **The paper will be due on April 15 and its grade will be reduced 10 points for each class day after that. No paper will be accepted after April 25.** There will be at least three unannounced quizzes during the quarter, one of which can be dropped as per above. Grade weights are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| Mid-term examinations..... | 40% | (best two of three at 20% @) |
| Short quizzes..... | 15% | (average, not including drop) |
| Take-home paper..... | 25% | |
| Final exam | 20% | |

Specific expectations on the take-home research paper will be outlined at the end of the syllabus. Make-up exams or quizzes must be arranged ahead of the scheduled test, and will in all cases be essay tests given in Building J on the last day of class. No more than one make-up will be permitted per student, and make-ups are only offered for excused absences (i.e., jury duty, court subpoena, hospitalization, National Guard drill)

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance is expected, and students will be held responsible for all material presented in class. This will include viewing and discussion of films and transparencies presented in class, as well as other media sources. It will be

the student's responsibility to make up any missed notes or other material, and in some cases this may be difficult if not impossible. Students who fail to attend any class will receive an F. **A student may withdraw prior to or on March 11 and still receive a "W" on the final roll;** but after that date, if a student has left the class he/she will receive an "F".

CHEATING:

Don't do it. I have a sense of humor about a lot of things, but that is not one of them. First offense will be a zero on whatever is being graded; second offense will be an automatic "F" and expulsion from the class. Plagiarism on the essay will be severely dealt with. See *College Student Handbook* for the official policy on academic dishonesty as well as attendance requirements.

Now that we've gotten the procedural stuff out of the way, I want to let you know I am very much looking forward to working with all of you. I hope to impart a sense of the continuity of history, an appreciation of the past and how it affects all our lives. Parallels between contemporary events or actions which have occurred in the last two hundred years and events in the distant past will be drawn, and any observation along this line by students is strongly encouraged.

CELL PHONES:

Kindly turn off all audible ringers. Repeat offenders will be subject to expulsion. If you must leave class to take a call, please take your belongings with you and explain at the next class.

Research Paper

An acceptable format for your research paper will be either Turabian or MLA. Note that your text should not be cited as a source unless you are making a direct quote. **Due to problems with Internet sources, I do not want any used other than one Galileo source.** If you do use Galileo, attach a complete copy of the article you cite. Do use at least one primary source if any exist (written by someone who had firsthand knowledge of the events, i.e., Herodotus on the Persian Wars). Check with your reference librarians for help in finding secondary sources, or check at the end of the relevant chapters in your text (see "Suggested

Readings") or ask your instructor if you cannot find

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sufficient material. Minimum length is to be five pages typed, double-spaced, using no larger type than cpi 10. A minimum of three sources must be used, not including your text. Sources must be cited in the paper by footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical references. Grading of the papers will be as follows:

40 points content

40 points critical thinking

20 points grammar, spelling, punctuation

ORAL OPTION: In lieu of a paper, I encourage oral presentations if they can be presented in appropriate course chronology (i.e., it would do us no good to hear about pyramid construction when studying India or the Byzantine Empire; but the life of Empress Wu Zhao would logically enhance our study of China, and specifics on Roman architecture or road-building would buttress our understanding of the Roman Empire). An oral should be at least ten minutes in duration, ideally have some kind of visual aid (no videos), and a brief outline along with a bibliography must be turned in before the presentation. Such presentations must be scheduled ahead of time, and if not presented on the assigned date due to unforeseen circumstances that presentation may not be allowed. In such a case, the student would suffer a 25% grade penalty. Therefore, if Powerpoint or some other technology is to be used, the equipment must be available on the date and the student should have conducted a "dry run" to be sure there are no problems.