**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will trace the development of world civilizations from the rise of the river valley civilizations to the age of global expansion in the 16th century. The emphasis will be on the distinctive histories and cultural values that shaped major regions and cross-cultural contacts that helped to spread world religions between the world’s distinctive cultural areas. Studying how ancient and pre-modern societies adapted their environments, organized their political economies, expressed themselves in art & philosophy and interacted with other peoples different from themselves can help us attain a deeper appreciation of our own modern world and recognize significant patterns in the past.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Given that this course covers over five thousand years of history in 16 weeks, not all periods, personages and themes can be included. Instead, the course attempts to expose students to a sampling of world history from the ancient, medieval, early modern and modern periods. Students will be able to identify significant historical places, write short effective summaries of key historical events, themes, and personages, and be introduced to key historical primary sources and literature.

**EXAMS & QUIZZES**

There are three exams in this course each covering one-third of the course. The exams are non-cumulative (and thus there is no “final”). Exams will be composed of two parts: 1) a matching section of terms (people, places and things), 2) Photo IDs are all derived from the podcasts/textbook. The exams are all in-class.

There will be three map quizzes. A map with the place names along with a blank map for studying will be posted one week before each map quiz.

There will be a single book quiz on the *The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai.*

At the end of each lecture there will be a brief quiz on the material just covered during that lecture. If you have attended the lecture, listened to the material, and paid attention the quiz you should not find it difficult.

Alternate exams will only given for university approved reasons. You must contact me prior to any excusable absence (medical, sport-related, etc.).

Study guides for each of the above map and mid-term quizzes will be provided.

**POINTS/GRADING**
Adjustments to grades on exams are made only on the basis of demonstrable, objective or mathematical errors. In accordance with university policies, grades may not be raised by means of "extra-credit" work. Anyone found cheating on an exam will receive a grade of "F" for that exam.

The breakdown of the points for this course are as follows:

- **300 pts** - Mid-term Exams (3 exams x 100 pts per exam)
- **250 pts** - Daily Quizzes (25 quizzes x 10 pts)
- **150 pts** - Map quizzes (3 quizzes x 50 pts per quiz)
- **150 pts** - Book Quiz (1 quiz x 150 pts)
- **150 pts** - Participation (3 x 50 pts)

**1000 TOTAL POINTS**

Final grades will be based according to the following breakdown:

- A = 1000 - 930 pts
- A- = 929 - 900 pts
- B+ = 899 - 870 pts
- B = 869 - 830 pts
- B- = 829 - 800 pts
- C+ = 799 - 770 pts
- C = 769 - 700 pts
- D = 699 - 600 pts
- F = 599 - 0 pts

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

The teaching assistants for HIST10: World Civilizations to 1500 (Spring 2020) are Matt Dothitt and Yilan Luo. Both are graduate students in the department of history specializing in Asian history. They will assist me in facilitating classroom activities and grading.

**Matt Douthitt:**
- EMAIL: mjd6551@psu.edu
- Office Hours: TBA (and by appointment)
- Office: 205 Weaver Building

**Yilan Luo:**
- EMAIL: yul788@psu.edu
- Office Hours: TBA (and by appointment)
- Office: 205 Weaver Building

**MAKE-UPS, INCOMPLETES & MISSED ASSIGNMENTS**

Incompletes are only given in instances of extraordinary circumstances (health, disability, or bereavement) which prevent the completion of the course — not for low grades or missed exams. In addition, a student must have successfully completed 75% of the course.

Adjustments to grades on exams are made only on the basis of demonstrable objective or mathematical errors. In accordance with university policies, grades may not be raised by means of "extra-credit" work. Anyone found cheating on an exam will receive a grade of "F" for that exam.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

There is one book **required** for this course: *Ramayana: A Tale of Gods and Demons*. The "textbook" is Neil MacGregor's *A History of the World in 100 Objects* which has short chapters on specific objects. You should only buy the book if you prefer having the actual
book. The same content is available via the links accompanying each lecture, or if you prefer, listen to the podcast (links also provided on the lecture page). The content in the book, online links, and podcast are virtually identical the choice is your:

**TITLE:** History of the World in 100 Objects  
**AUTHOR:** Neil MacGregor  
**ISBN:** 0670022705  
**PUBLISHER:** Viking

**LINKS:** Podcast|Summaries|Objects

**TITLE:** The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai  
**AUTHOR:** Ha Jin  
**ISBN:** 978-1524747411  
**PUBLISHER:** Vintage

**WARNING:** Every year several students are "suprised" to learn that by the end of February the bookstore has returned the books for spring semester. This is not a valid excuse for not having the book.

**OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT:**

I check my e-mail regularly (compulsively?) and thus is the best way to get in touch with me. I am also available for consultation with students during regular office hours in 205 Weaver. If necessary, appointments to meet at another time can be arranged at our mutual convenience.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

"Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University’s Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.” (SOURCE: Penn State’s University Faculty Senate Policy 49-20)

**DISABILITY ACCESS**

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University’s educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. The Student Disability Resources Web site provides contact information for every Penn State campus. For further information, please visit the Student Disability Resources Web site.

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. If the
documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's
disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this
letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your
courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request
accommodations.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological
needs that may interfere with interfere with their academic progress, social
development, or emotional well-being. The university offers a variety of
confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual
and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health
screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a
philosophy respectful of clients’ cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to
differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park  (CAPS): 814-863-0395
Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400
Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741
WEEK 1

- Jan 14 (TU): Introduction to Course
- Jan 16 (TH): The First Revolutions: Food and Sex
- Jan 17 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

READINGS: (refers to MacGregor’s A History of the World in 100 Objects): 9-14 [alt] (Thurs); 33-36 [alt] (Thurs); 37-42 [alt] (Thurs)

iWORK: 3D Ain Sakhri Lovers

PODCAST & IMAGES: Olduvai Stone Chopping Tool (Thurs); Bird Shaped Pestle (Thurs), Ain Sakhri Lovers Figurine (Thurs)

WEEK 2

- Jan 21 (TU): Why Cities?
- Jan 23 (TH): The Foundation of Civilization
- Jan 24 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

READINGS: 43-46 [alt] (Tues); 69-79 [alt] (Tues); 96-101 [alt] (Thurs); 90-94 [alt] (Thurs)

iWORK: Epic of Gilgamesh (FRI) (Graphic Novel Version)

PODCAST & IMAGES: Egyptian Clay Model of Cattle (Tues); Standard of Ur (Tues); Flood Tablet (Thurs); Early Writing Tablet (Thurs)

WEEK 3

- Jan 28 (TU): Environmental Apocalypse?
- Jan 30 (TH): Sorting Fact from Fiction: The Ancient World
- Jan 31 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

READINGS: 78-83 [alt] (Tues); 111-116 (Thurs) [alt]; 146-152 (Thurs) [alt]; 191-195 (Thurs) [alt];

iWORK: No Assignment

PODCAST & IMAGES: Indus Seal (Tues); Minoan Bull Leaper (Thurs); Indus Seal (Thurs); Map Study Guide #1 (Blank version)

WEEK 4

- Feb 4 (TU): [No Class]
- Feb 6 (TH): China & the Mandate of Heaven
- Feb 7 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION (Map Quiz #1)

READINGS: 146-152 (Thurs) [alt]; 191-195 (Thurs) [alt];

MAP QUIZ GUIDE: Map Study Guide #1 (Blank version)

PODCAST: Chinese Zhou Ritual Vessel (Tues); Chinese Bronze Bell (Thurs);
WEEK 5

- Feb 11 (TU): Oracles: Seeing the Future to Understand the Past
- Feb 13 (TH): Wine in Greece and Rome
- Feb 14 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

READINGS: 171-176 (Thurs) [alt]; 228-234 (Thurs) [alt]
iWORK: Oracle at Delphi Not Just Hot Air; Oracle of Delphi
PODCAST: Parthenon Sculpture; Warren Cup;

WEEK 6

- Feb 18 (TU): Mid-term Quiz #1 [STUDY GUIDE]
- Feb 20 (TH): Race & Ethnicity in the Ancient World
- Feb 21 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

READINGS: None
PODCAST: None
QUIZ #1 STUDY GUIDE: STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 7

- Feb 25 (TU): Roman Heroes: Marvel or DC?
- Feb 27 (TH): Byzantium & Saving the Roman Empire
- Feb 28 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION [AENEID]

READINGS: 221-227 (Tues)[alt]; 431-436 (Thurs) [alt]
iWORK: Hagia Sophia 360 degree tour; Istanbul tour
PODCAST & IMAGES: Head of Augustus (Thurs); Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy (Thurs);

WEEK 8

- March 3 (TU): Poetry, State and Understanding Li Bai's China
- March 5 (TH): BOOK QUIZ (ENTIRE book)
- March 6 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

READINGS: 351-359 [alt] (Tues);
The Banished Immortal (ENTIRE book)
STUDY GUIDE: Banished Immortal
PODCAST & IMAGES: Chinese Tang Tomb Figures (Tues)

WEEK 9

- March 9-13: Spring Break

WEEK 10

- March 17 (TU): Rise of Islam: Baghdad's Thousand and One Nights
- March 19 (TH): Timbuktu
- March 20 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION (Map Quiz #2)
WEEK 11

- March 24 (TU): South Asian Primers on How to Rule
- March 26 (TH): Understanding Love & Sex in Heian Japan
- March 27 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

**READINGS:**
- 294-300 (Tues) [alt]; 333-338 (Tues) [alt]; 477-481 (Thurs) [alt]; 497-502 (Thurs) [alt]

**MAP QUIZ GUIDE:** Map Quiz #2 Study Guide [Blank Study Version]

**iWORK:** The Al-hambra

**PODCAST & IMAGES:** Gold Coins of Abd al-Malik; Harem Wall-painting fragments; Ife Head

WEEK 12

- March 31 (TU): Mid-term Quiz #2
- April 2 (TH): Foods & Spices
- April 3 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION

**READINGS:**
- 203-208 (Tues) [alt]; 269-275 (Tues) [alt]; 372-377 (Tues) [alt] (Thurs)

**iWORK:** Tale of Genji (optional)

**PODCAST & IMAGES:** Pillar of Ashoka (Tues); Gold Coins of Kumaragupta I (Tues)
Japanese Bronze Mirror (Thurs)

**QUIZ #2 STUDY GUIDE:** STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 13

- April 7 (TU): Life in the Year c. 1,000
- April 9 (TH): Mongolians From the Steppes
- April 10 (FRI): DISCUSSION

**READINGS:**
- 361-365 (Tues) [alt]; 393-397 (Tues) [alt]; 410-415 (Thurs) [alt]; 477-481 (Thurs) [alt] (Thurs)

**iWORK:** In the Footsteps of Marco Polo

**PODCAST & IMAGES:** Vale of York Hoard (Tues); Lewis Chessmen (Tues); Jade Dragon Cup (Thurs); The David Vases (Thurs);

WEEK 14

- April 14 (TU): Death & Disease
- April 16 (TH): Süleyman the Magnificent
- April 17 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION (Map Quiz #3)

**READINGS:**
- 458-463 (Thurs) [alt] (Thurs)

**MAP QUIZ GUIDE:** Map Quiz #3 - STUDY GUIDE; BLANK VERSION

**PODCAST:** Tughra of Suleiman the Magnificient (Thurs)

WEEK 15

- April 21 (TU): Duher's Rhinoceros
- April 23 (TH): 1492: A New World?
- April 24 (FRI): DISCUSSION SECTION
WEEK 16

- April 28 (TU): A Colonizer’s Model of the World
- April 30 (TH): Mid-term Quiz #3
- May 1 (FRI):

READINGS: 449-455 [alt] (Tues); 566-571 [alt] (Thurs)

QUIZ #3 STUDY GUIDE: STUDY GUIDE

PODCAST: Hoa Hakananai’a Easter Island (Tues); Hawaiian Feather Helmet Feather (Tues);