

Medieval World Cultures

Fall 2019

HUMN 2023/4023, Sec. 102

TR 9:30-10:50, PY 201

Professor Kirsten Lodge

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Office: 217 Bea Wood Hall, 940-397-4363

Office Hours: MWF 10-11,
TR 11-12:00, and by appointment

This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to the medieval cultures of the Islamic world, India, Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Europe. During the medieval period (c. 400-1400 CE), these cultures were highly religious; we will therefore emphasize religious beliefs and practices, and we will also go back in time to study the origins of the major world religions. We will also look at other aspects of culture, including history, art, literature, philosophy, and music. Students will thus acquire an understanding of major world cultures during this time period, encounter different ways of viewing the world, analyze, interpret, and think critically about diverse works of art, literature, and music, and learn to take an interdisciplinary approach to the humanities by contextualizing major works, both in class and in regular short writing assignments. Through class participation and in these writing assignments, students will improve their oral and written communication skills. As they come to understand the complexity of these parts of the world, students will develop increased respect for other cultures and peoples. Hopefully, they will be inspired to learn more about cultures other than our own.

Aug. 27 Introduction

Chapter 6: Islamic Civilization

29 Islamic Civilization; Religion; Islam, the Ottoman Empire, and Europe; The Quran

Reading: 216-20; 232-33

Writing: Response to the Quran

Sept. 3 Islamic Art and Architecture

Reading: 221-27; 233-35

Writing: Response to *The Thousand and One Nights*

5 Philosophy; Math, Science, and Scholarship; Scholarly Cross Fertilization; Poetry

Reading: 220-21; 235-38

Writing: Response to Rumi

4023 Presentation Proposal Due

10 Literature; Music

Reading: 227-30; 238-39

Writing: Response to Any of the Remaining Readings at the End of the Chapter

Chapter 7: Indian Civilization

12 Vedic Period; Hinduism; Literature: The Hindu Classics

Reading: 242-46; 258-61

Writing: Response to *The Bhagavad Gita*

17 Maurya Period; Buddhism; Maurya Art; Mauryan to Bactrian to Kushan; Gupta Era; Gupta Art

Reading: 246-51; 255; 261-63; 265-66

Writing: Response to Buddhist Sermons or Hindu Lyric Poetry

19 Hindu Dynasties; Hindu Temples; Sculpture; Music

Reading: 251-55; 263-65

Writing: Response to *The Ramayana* or *The Pancatantra*

24 Indian Drama; Music

Reading: 255-57; 266-71

Writing: Response to Kalidasa

26 Test on Chapters 6-7

Chapter 8: Early Chinese Civilization

Oct. 1 Shang and Zhou Dynasties; Empire: Qin and Han Dynasties; The Six Dynasties

Reading: 274-75; 278-80; 288-89

Writing: Response to *The Book of Songs*

3 Confucianism

Reading: 275-77; 289-90

Writing: Response to Confucius (including additional excerpts posted on D2L)

8 Taoism

Reading: 277-78; 290-92

Writing: Response to *The Tao Te Ching*, *The Book of Liezi*, or Zhuangzi

10 The Tang Dynasty; The Song Dynasty; Chinese Literature

Reading: 280-86; 292-95

Writing: Response to Any of the Remaining Readings at the End of the Chapter

Chapter 9: Early Japanese Civilization

15 Prehistoric Japan; Religion; Courtly Japan: Asuka and Nara Periods; Courtly Japan: Heian Period; Literature

Reading: 298-303; 310-11

Writing: Response to Japanese Poetry

17 Warrior Japan; Later Warrior Japan; Landscape Painting; Temple of the Golden Pavilion; Japanese Gardens; Literature

Reading: 303-9; 311-17

Writing: Response to Any of the Remaining Readings at the End of the Chapter

22 Test on Chapters 8-9

Chapter 10: Early Civilizations of the Americas and Africa

24 Mesoamerica; Olmecs; Teotihuacán; Mayan Culture; Toltecs and Aztecs

Reading: 320-28; 344-45

Writing: Response to Mesoamerican Poems

28 *Last day for "W"*

29 Cultures of Peru; The Moche; The Inca; North America

Reading: 328-36; 346-50

Writing: Response to Popol Vuh or Neruda

31 North America; Africa; Literature

Reading: 333-42; 350-53

Writing: Response to African Epics

Nov. 5 *Test on Chapter 10*

Chapter 11: Early Middle Ages and the Romanesque

7 Early Medieval Culture; Merging of Christian and Celto-Germanic Traditions; Charlemagne and the Carolingian Era; Monasticism

Reading: 356-62

12 Literature

Reading: 374-76

Writing: Response to *Beowulf*

14 Literature; Romanesque Culture; The Feudal Monarchs; Romanesque Architecture

Reading: 362-66; 376-78

Writing: Response to *The Song of Roland*

19 Sculpture; Painting; Decorative Arts; The Chivalric Tradition; Music

Reading: 366-72; 378-81

Writing: Response to Any of the Poetry at the End of the Chapter

Chapter 12: Gothic and Late Middle Ages

21 Paris in the Later Middle Ages; Gothic Architecture; Gothic Architecture Outside France; Sculpture

Reading: 384-96

26 Literature: Dante's *Inferno*; Painting and Decorative Arts; Toward the Renaissance; Naturalism in Art

Reading: 396-404; 406-8; 415-21

Writing: Response to *Inferno*

4023 *Paper Proposal Due*

28 *Thanksgiving Break*

Dec. 3 Literature: Boccaccio

Reading: 409-10; 421-23

Writing: Response to Boccaccio

5 Literature; Music; Medieval Calamities; Secular Song; The Medieval Bestiary

Reading: 404-6; 410-12; 423-29

Writing: Response to Chaucer or Christine de Pizan

10, 8-10 a.m. Final Exam and 4023 Paper Due

Course Requirements:

1. Participation (2033, 10%; 4033, 5%). It is essential that you participate in class discussion and activities to help you understand and master all of the material we cover. Please note that participation is different from attendance. Participation means **talking in class**.

2. In-Class Quizzes (10%). I will periodically give you in-class quizzes on important terms. I will distribute a list of terms in class at least one week before the quiz.

3. Critical Writing Assignments (2013, 30%; 4033, 25%). You will write short critical responses of about one double-spaced page (c. 250 words) to the primary readings in the textbook as indicated in the syllabus. Your response should briefly demonstrate your understanding of the text, offer an interpretation or commentary, and situate it within the context we are studying and/or compare and contrast it with other primary texts. The last part of the assignment will teach you how to take an interdisciplinary, contextualizing approach. I will distribute a rubric for the assignment and post it on D2L.

4. Tests (2033, 30%; 4033, 20%). You will have three in-class tests, each of which will test your factual knowledge, usually through ID's, and your critical thinking skills as demonstrated in an essay. I will distribute a rubric for the essay and post it on D2L.

5. Final Exam (2033, 20%; 4033, 15%). The final exam will include a section on the final chapter and a critical thinking essay that will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the course material as a whole.

6. Presentation (4033, 10%). Upper-level students must choose a topic for a presentation of approximately ten minutes. The topic should complement the textbook, not repeat what it says. You will be expected to consult at least three scholarly sources, and give me an outline of the presentation and a bibliography in MLA or APA style on the day of your presentation. You should submit a topic proposal to me by **Sept. 5**, and we will set a date for your presentation. If you are absent on the day of your presentation and do not have a note, you will get a 0 for the assignment.

7. Research Paper (4033, 15%). Upper-level students will write a 10-page research paper on a topic of their choice, but not on the same topic as their presentation. ***The paper must be in MLA or APA format, including in-text citations.*** Please submit a brief paper proposal by **Nov. 26**. The paper is due by the day of the final exam. If it is late, your grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (e.g., A > A-) per day, including weekends.

8. Attendance. You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. Moreover, I will present material in class that is not available in the textbook. You are

permitted two unexcused absences. Absences will be excused only on the basis of a note from a doctor, dean, military official, or coach. ***Your final grade will be lowered by one point for each unexcused absence in excess of the two permitted unexcused absences.*** If you are absent, you are responsible for all material covered during that class section. Repeated lateness will also add up to absences: five “lates” will be counted as one unexcused absence.

Please check your grades online regularly and let me know if you have any questions.

Course Policies:

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated, including on the daily assignments. If you deliberately plagiarize on any assignments or papers, or engage in any other form of academic dishonesty as defined by the MSU Student Handbook and the course Academic Dishonesty Policy (distributed in class and available on D2L), ***you will get an F in the course and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated. There will be no second chances.*** Other forms of academic dishonesty include, for instance, forging doctor’s notes and lying to the professor.

Midterm Progress Report: I will submit a Midterm Progress Report to your WebWorld account if you are at risk of earning a D or an F in the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on your transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. Students earning below a C at the midway point will receive an email from Tutoring and Academic Support.

Cell Phones: No cell phones should be visible in class at any time! ***If I see you use your cell phone during class, you may be marked late or absent without any warning.*** You may not leave class to use your cell phone except under exceptional circumstances, of which you have informed me beforehand. The same policy applies to iPods and other electronic devices.

Food and Beverages: In accordance with the building policy, you may bring only bottled water to class.

Computers: You may bring your computer to class to take notes ***only with my explicit permission.*** If you do take notes on your computer, you must show them to me. If you use your computer for any other purpose during class, you may be marked late or absent without warning.

Full Attention: Please be alert and do not lay your head down on your desk during class, or I will mark you late or absent without warning.

Textbooks: Please bring your textbook to class when we discuss primary readings.

Class Dismissal: Please do not start to pack up your things or leave until I have dismissed the class. If you believe I have gone over the allotted time, please raise your hand and let me know.

Email Communication: I will communicate with you through email. You are responsible for checking your email daily for any reminders, clarifications, or other communications from me.

Safe Zone Statement: This classroom is a “safe zone” in which all students will be treated and will treat one another equally, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is encouraged.

REPEATED AND/OR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF ANY OF THESE POLICIES WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED GRADE WITHOUT WARNING, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR GRADE IS BORDERLINE.

Additional Information:

PowerPoint Presentations and Online Videos: I will provide a link on D2L to all PowerPoint presentations and online videos shown in class so that you may review them. Additional recommended materials will occasionally be posted on D2L.

Office Hours: My office hours are given above, and I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have, or you may just come by to talk. If you can't make my office hours, see me to set up an appointment.

Academic Accommodations: If you require special accommodations, please contact Disability Support Service, 168 Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Writing Center: Take advantage of the MSU Writing Center, located off the 2nd floor atrium of Prothro-Yeager! Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

Required Book (at the book store and on reserve at the library): Benton, Janetta and Robert DiYanni. *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*. Vol. 1. 4th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2012.

Research and Creative Activity Opportunities at MSU

Enhancing Undergraduate Research Endeavors and Creative Activities (EURECA) is a program that provides opportunities for undergraduates to engage in high-quality research and creative activities with faculty. EURECA provides incentives and funding through a system that supports faculty and students in a cooperative research process. For more information contact the Office of Undergraduate Research, (940) 397-6275 or see the website, www.mwsu.edu/eureca.