



Course Syllabus: World History to 1600

College of Liberal Arts

HIST 1353-101

Fall 2023

Contact Information

Instructor: Brandon Blakeslee

Office: OD 217

Office hours: Mon, Wed 11:00am-1:00pm; Thursday 10:00am-11:00am

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Instructor Response Policy

Email is the best way to reach me outside of office hours and I will try to respond within 24 hours of your email. However, I do not check my email as regularly on Saturday.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Sivers, Peter, Charles A. Desnoyers and George B. Stow. *Patterns of World History, Brief, Volume One to 1600, 4th edition*, Oxford University Press: 2020.

Course Description

This course is an introductory overview of the major events and trends in world civilization from the emergence of homo sapiens to c. 1500 CE. It differs from Western surveys by also covering the history of peoples on the continents of Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. This course assumes no prior knowledge.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

During this course, students will learn how to:

1. identify key events, peoples, individuals, terms, periods, and chronology of World History; distinguish between historical fact and historical interpretation; and connect historical events in chronological chain(s) of cause and effect
 - a. You will learn what happened and how different historians interpret those events.
2. develop critical thinking skills by discussing the living nature of history, using historical evidence to critique competing interpretations of the same historical events, explaining the nature of historical controversies

- a. We will go into detail about why historic controversies exist and how to evaluate their merits against each other
3. synthesize diverse historical information and evidence related to broad themes of World History and present this information in coherent, well-articulated, and well-substantiated analytical discussions and other written assignments
 - a. I will ask you to think critically about people, events, and ideas both in class as well as through assignments
4. develop the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making by examining the motivations and actions of key figures in World History
 - a. By the end of the class you should be able to start doing history yourself
5. learn how to sift through a large amount of information and categorize in order to determine its importance and aid in its retention
 - a. You will learn a way to take notes.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2021-22](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading/Assessment

Assessment: Your final grade is out of 1000 potential points that can be earned from three potential sources

- Primary Source Analysis (100 each; 300 in total)
- Creating your own Civilization
 - Proposal (100)
 - Creation Story (100)
 - Economics (150)
 - Political Structure (150)
- A Midterm Exam (100 points)
- A Final Exam (100 points)

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Primary Source Analysis	300
Proposal	100

Assignments	Points
Creation Story	100
Economics	150
Political Structure	150
Exams	200
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Homework for this class is mostly limited to readings from the assigned textbook and should be completed on the day listed.

Extra Credit

I do not grant individual extra credit, but may offer extra credit for attending a guest lecture or something of that nature (but do not have anything planned at this time)

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted unless student arranges an extension before the due date, or extenuating circumstances keep the student from asking for an extension.

Important Dates

Deadline to file for graduation: September 25 (December graduation); October 2 (May Graduation)

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30 at 4pm.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Final Exam: Thursday, December 14

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. The primary reason for this is because much of the material the student will be tested on will be covered in class sessions. I do not plan on taking attendance as I understand that circumstances may arise where the student is not able to attend class. However, you are still responsible for the material covered in the class you missed and I encourage you to look over the notes from one of your classmates.

Online Computer Requirements

All the writing assignments will need to be turned into D2L prior to the due date listed in the syllabus. As such you will need access to a computer that is connected to the internet. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Below is the complete course schedule along with readings for each class period and due dates for the assignment. Please note that the schedule may change due to unforeseen circumstances, but I will notify you of the changes and update the dates in the syllabus.

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1 (8/28-8/31)	Chapter 1 "The African Origins of Humanity"	
Week 2 (9/5-9/7)	Chapter 2 "Agrarian Urban Centers of the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean"; Chapter 3 "Shifting Agrarian Centers in India"	
Week 3 (9/12-9/14)	Chapter 4 "Agrarian Centers and the Mandate of Heaven in Ancient China"; Chapter 5 "The Americas and Oceania"	
Week 4 (9/19-9/21)	Chapter 6 "Chiefdoms and Early States in Africa and the Americas"	PSA 1 9/21
Week 5 (9/26-9/28)	Chapter 7 "Interaction and Adaptation in Western Eurasia"	
Week 6 (10/3-10/5)	Chapter 8 "Empires and Visionaries in India"	Project Proposal 10/5
Week 7 (10/10-10/12)	Chapter 9 "China"	PSA 2 10/12
Week 8 (10/17-10/19)	T: Chapter 10 "Islamic Civilization and Byzantium"	Midterm Exam 10/19 online
Week 9 (10/24-10/26)	Chapter 11 "Innovation and Adaptation in the Western Christian World"	
Week 10 (10/31-11/2)	Chapter 12 "Contrasting Patterns in Eurasia 600-1600CE"; Chapter 13 "Religious Civilizations Interacting"	Creation Myth 11/2
Week 11 (11/7-11/9)	Chapter 14 "Patterns of State Formation in Africa"; Chapter 15 "Rise of Empires in the Americas"	PSA 3 11/9
Week 12 (11/14-11/16)	Chapter 16 "Western Christian Overseas Expansion and the Ottoman-Habsburg Struggle"	Economic Structure 11/16
Week 13 (11/21)	No reading, enjoy your Thanksgiving Break	

Week or Module	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 14 (11/28-11/30)	Chapter 17 "The Renaissance, New Sciences, and Religious Wars in Europe"	Political Structure 11/30
Week 15 (12/5-12-7)	Chapter 18 "New Patterns in New Worlds"	Final Exam 12/14 online