



Course Syllabus: World History to 1600
College of Liberal Arts
HIST 1353-101
Spring 2024
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm to 3:20pm
PY 103

Contact Information

Instructor: Mike Rattanasengchanh

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Office hours: [Click here to enter text.](#)

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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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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:

- 2 Conspiracy Analysis Writing assignments (40%)
 - Find instruction document in D2L for further details
- First exam (25%) – half from syllabus readings and half from lectures
- Second exam (25%) – half from syllabus readings and half from lectures
- Attendance and Participation (10%)
- *** All assignments must be submitted as a Microsoft Word (or GoogleDoc) document, not a PDF! Must submit in correct Dropbox in D2L or it will not be accepted.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Readings

All found in D2L. They are primary sources written from people at the time we are studying.

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. Illness must be proven with a doctor's note. Death in family must be from immediate family and need to provide proof.

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 as I will be taking attendance. 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

I exercise the right to change the syllabus at any time but will inform you when doing so.

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) exist 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](#)

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignment Due
Week 1 (1/17)	Early humans – hunter-gatherers – early sedentary societies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kesh Temple Hymn 2. Narmer Palette 	
Week 2 (1/22 and 1/24)	Early eastern religions and civilizations in Mesopotamia, Indus Valley, and Yellow River; Hinduism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Hymn of Creation 2. Oracle Bone Inscriptions 3. Dead Sea Scrolls: “Exhortation based on the Flood”, p. 224 	
Week 3 (1/29 and 1/31)	Early Chinese empires: Xia, Shang, and Zhou dynasties; Sukhothai, and Buddhism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Sino-Tibetan Relations and Tributary Ideology” 2. 24 Exemplars of Filial Piety 	
Week 4 (2/5 and 2/7)	Egypt and Kush; Carthage and Rome	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Lost Nubia</i>, p. 2-13 2. Excerpts of Athenian Constitution 	
Week 5 (2/12 and 2/14)	Maya, Aztec, and Inca; Polynesia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aztec Accounts of the Conquest 2. Cortes in Tenochtitlan 	
Week 6 (2/19 and 2/21)	Islam and Buddhism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prophet Muhammad’s Last Sermon 2. Excerpts from the Sunnah 3. Prince Siddharth’s Encounters 	1 st Conspiracy Analysis Due 3/1 before 11:59pm
Week 7 (2/26 and 2/28)	Christianity and Judaism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Decree of the Return of the Jews 2. The Ecumenical Council 3. On the Keeping of Easter 	
Week 8 (3/4 and 3/6)	Exam 1: 3/6 at 6am to 3/7 before 11:59pm; online	Exam 1: 3/6 at 6am to 3/7 before 11:59pm; online	Exam 1: 3/6 at 6am to 3/7 before 11:59pm; online

Week or Module	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignment Due
Week 9 (3/10 to 3/16)	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 10 (3/18 and 3/20)	Confucianism, Daoism; Qin, Han, Warring States, Yuan dynasties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selections of Confucian <i>Analects</i> 2. <i>The Wisdom of Confucius</i>, p. 12-15 	
Week 11 (3/25 and 3/27)	Ayutthaya, Siam, Khmer, Dai Viet, Maurya, Mughal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Insurrection of the Two Trung Sisters 2. Regionalism in Southern Narratives of Vietnamese History 3. Dai Viet and Champa 4. Selections from Le Quy Don's Description of the South in the 1770s 5. Ramkhamhaeng Inscription (4 Slides) 6. King Naresuan the Great Day 7. King Taksin Day 	
Week 12 (4/1 and 4/3)	Songhai	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timbuktu – Home to a Humanist and Tolerate Islam 	
Week 13 (4/8 and 4/10)	European contact; Columbian Exchange		2 nd Conspiracy Analysis Due 4/12 before 11:59pm
Week 14 (4/15 and 4/17)	Protestant Reformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martin Luther's Teaching on Baptism 2. Martin Luther's definition of Faith 	

Week or Module	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignment Due
Week 15 (4/22 and 4/24)	Ming and Qing dynasties; trade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The Consolidation of Qing Rule" 2. Zhang Xingya_Christianity and Confucianism 3. Qing Sacred Edits 4. Tokugawa Edits Swords 5. Tokugawa Expulsion of Christianity 6. Japanese Closed Country Edict 	
Week 16 (4/29 and 5/1)	Second Exam online from 5/1 at 6am to 5/2 before 11:59pm	Second Exam online from 5/1 at 6am to 5/2 before 11:59pm	Second Exam online from 5/1 at 6am to 5/2 before 11:59pm