



Course Syllabus: World Civilizations to 1500
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1353 Section 201
Spring Semester January 21 to May 16, 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Kelsey Davis

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday- 3:30-5; Friday 3-5; or by appointment

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Course Description

The evolution of humankind and civilizations cannot be limited to particular areas of the world. Rather, humans evolved different civilizations due to different factors. This course will explore and examine the evolution of the homo sapiens and travel throughout the ages until 1500 CE. We will examine civilizations in the East, Middle East, Africa, Europe, and both North and South America.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

World History to 1500 Volume 1

- This book is available online for free. You also have the choice to download it. Below is the link
- <https://openstax.org/details/books/world-history-volume-1>
- I will also post primary sources for you to read. They will be located in D2L modules.
- All readings will be due by the next class period.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

TASP is available to students who need tutoring or assistance. You can contact TASP at (940) 397-4684 or visit the [TASP homepage](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without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 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](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade - List all graded assignments with their point value and or percentage of total grade. Letter Grade Scale indicates the overall points or % to letter grade scale.

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	10%
Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	15%
Paper 3	15%
Paper 4	15%
Paper 5	15%
Research Project	15%
Total Percentage	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

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

Homework

Papers

You will have 5 papers due. They will be based on writing prompts that will be distributed in class as well as posted on D2L. For the papers, you will need to use both primary sources (that I will provide) and the textbook.

- They should be a minimum of 2 pages long.
- Double-spaced
- Times New Roman Font and 12 pt font size.

Paper Schedule

- Paper 1 Due- February 7
- Paper 2- February 28
- Paper 3- March 28
- Paper 4- April 18
- Paper 5- Finals Week

Quizzes

There are no quizzes.

Exams

There are no exams.

Projects Required

Research Project- 10%

A big part of studying history requires researching events, people, or places. Researching in general is a great skill to acquire, and helps you discern what is factual or could be fake. Your research project will be simple: you must pick something that interests you from the class material and construct a research question (or questions). Additionally, you must provide 2 primary sources and 1 secondary sources that you believe will help with your research project. Don't panic though: you are not going to dive into rabbit hole. Your project only needs to be 1 page at the max.

Please see "Research Project" under assignments.

The project is due May 2th by 11:59 p.m.

Mid-Term Exam

There is no mid-term.

Final Exam

There is no final exam.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit.

Late Work

I understand that life will happen; however, you are still taking a college class. If you are behind on an assignment, you must send me an email 24 hours in advance for an extension.

Make-up Work/Tests

If you miss an assignment or exam, please email me for make up work.

Academic Misconduct and AI

The assignments require you to form your own thoughts and opinions about events. You can not copy and paste information from the internet or paraphrase without citations. Therefore, any type of misconduct, such as cheating, plagiarism, etc., will result in an F. Additionally, the use of AI as your source of information is not allowed as well. Citing it as such will result in an F.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 25th. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: February 17th for May graduation. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 30th. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

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

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

Since this is an in-person class, you will be required to attend class to ensure that you pass. Class time is when I will provide additional information that may help you complete your assignments. There will also be opportunities for us to hold writing workshops or work on your papers during class time. I also know that life happens. That being said, you have 3 unexcused absences.

Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and**

tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. 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) 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 an 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 WATC. 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 prohibit 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 as 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 the 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:

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

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 1/20 to 1/24	No Class Monday, January 20 th . Reading: Chapter 1 Understanding the Past 1.1 and 1.2 PowerPoints: Introduction Lecture One	Read
Week 2 1/27 to 1/31	Reading: Chapter 2 Early Humans PowerPoints: Early Humans, Agriculture, and Crops Early Towns	Read
Week 3 2/3 to 2/7	Reading: Chapter 3 Early Civilizations PowerPoints: Early River Valley Civilizations	Paper 1 Due Due 2/7
Week 4 2/10 to 2/14	Reading: Chapter 5 Asia in Ancient Times PowerPoints: Civilizations in China and India	Read
Week 5 2/17 to 2/21	Reading: Chapter 4 the Near East PowerPoints: Iran, Persia, and GREECE, 1000-30 Classical Period Civilizations India	Read
Week 6 2/24 to 2/28	Reading: Ch 6 Mediterranean Peoples PowerPoints: Civilizations in Nubia and the Med	Paper 2 Due 2/28
Week 7 3/2 to 3/7	Reading: Chapter 7 Experiencing the Roman Empire PowerPoints: Classical Rome	Read
3/9 to 3/14	SPRING BREAK	Spring Break
Week 8 3/17 to 3/21	Reading: Chapter 8 The Americas in Ancient Times PowerPoints: Mesoamerica and Andean Classical	Read

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 9 3/24 to 3/28	Reading: Chapter 10 Empires of Faith PowerPoints: The Spread of Civilizations	Paper 3 Due 3/28
Week 10 3/31 to 4/4	Reading: Chapter 11 The Rise of Islam and the Caliphates PowerPoints: The Spread of Islam	Read
Week 11 4/7 to 4/11	Reading: Chapter 9 Africa in Ancient Times PowerPoints: The Spread of Islam in Africa and Asia	Read
Week 12 4/14 to 4/18	Reading: Chapter 12 India, the Indian Ocean Basin, and East Asia PowerPoints: Reunification of Renaissance Chinese HOLIDAY BREAK STARTS AT 10:00 P.M.	Paper 4 Due 4/18
Week 13 4/21 to 4/25	Reading: Chapter 13 The Post-Roman West and the Crusading Movement PowerPoints: The Worlds of Christendom	Read
Week 14 4/28 to 5/2	Reading: Chapter 14 Pax Mongolica: The Steppe Empire of the Mongols PowerPoints: Mongol Eurasia and its Aftermath	Research Project Due 5/2
Week 15 5/5 to 5/9	Reading: PowerPoints: The Age of Exploration	Read
Week 16 5/12 to 5/16	FINALS WEEK	TBA Paper 5 Due