

Professor Michael Furtado
340V McKenzie Hall
mfurtado@uoregon.edu
TEL: 346-4838
Office Hours: T 11-Noon, W 9-10

HIST 104
World History I (to 1500)
Fall, 2015

Course Description

The history of the world before 1500 is a tale of the collision of civilizations, seemingly endless conflict between nomadic peoples and empires, the emergence of nation states, and the creation of new artistic, legal, religious, and scientific traditions in both the West and the East. It is a tale of both continuity and change, of great accomplishment and equally great atrocity, of conflict, innovation, and great diversity of experience. We will explore some of this diversity of experience in this course and attempt to gain an appreciation for the unique contributions of the civilizations of the past to the world in which we live today.

Course Objectives

Students taking this course will:

- Learn how Historians ask and answer questions about history
- Learn to read primary sources critically and secondary sources analytically
- Gain an increased appreciation of other cultures, as well as the unique place of their own in world history
- Practice developing and writing effective, supported answers to various questions
- Engage in comparative thinking designed to stimulate an understanding of the interrelated nature of world cultures and their subsequent influence on the course of historical continuity and change

Required Reading

The following titles are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore.

Elizabeth Pollard, et.al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, Concise Edition

Additional Readings indicated with an asterisk (*) are available online or at Canvas.

Grading

Discussion Section Assignments:	25%
Marco Polo/Ibn Battuta Paper	20%
Midterm Examination:	25%
Final Examination:	30%

Please note: All elements are required in order to receive a passing grade.

Course Policies

Attendance

Lecture Attendance, while not mandatory, is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all information given as part of any lecture or reading assignment in this course. The Midterm and Final exams will both contain questions requiring a thorough understanding of material presented in lecture. It will be difficult to do well in the course if you do not attend and take good notes.

Discussion Section Attendance is Mandatory. Your Section Instructor will take roll and evaluate your participation on a weekly basis. There will also be a weekly quiz, prepared paper, or in-class writing due during your section meetings, conducted on the following schedule:

- Two one-page assignments due in weeks 4 and 7.
- Quizzes or in-class exercises during weeks 2,3,5, 6, and 8.

Your instructors will grade the assignments on a “check” system ($\surd+$ = ‘A’, \surd = ‘B’, $\surd-$ = ‘C’), and this grade will form the basis for your Section grade for the week. However, participation counts – if your participation is good during discussion, you will receive a ‘+’ to your existing letter grade; if you do not participate but seem engaged, your grade will remain as it stands; if you are inattentive, clearly unprepared, or disruptive, you will receive a ‘-’ to the weekly grade.

Your instructors will accept no late papers or assignments. You must be present in Section from beginning to end of class in order to receive credit for your attendance and participation, as well as for any assignments or quizzes given or due during the meeting.

One Exception: You may choose to miss one section during the term for any reason and submit your paper (or for a missed quiz, attend your GTF’s office hours to make it up). Your instructor must receive this makeup assignment prior to or during the next Section meeting.

Regarding Excused Absences: As a rule, your instructors are able to excuse you only for verifiable absences; however, please do not attend lecture or section if you are ill. You are always welcome to visit your Section Instructors or me during our office hours in order to discuss missed material, though your first recourse should be to obtain notes from a fellow student. Note that PowerPoint presentations will be available under Course Documents for two weeks after the date I finish a lecture. **You will need to provide documentation for any illness causing you to miss more than two section meetings.**

Regarding Unexcused Absences: If you miss Section three or more times without an acceptable excuse, you will fail the Section portion of the course. Please note that I will then make a decision regarding whether or not you will be eligible to receive a grade in the course as a whole.

Required Format for Papers due in Section:

- **Margins:** 1” maximum top, bottom, left, right.
- **Spacing:** Double-spaced.
- **Font:** 12 pt. Times.
- **Heading:** Name, date, and title **on one line.**

You must notify me or your Instructor of any scheduling problems with either the Midterm or the Final examination by the end of the first week of classes. I will consider these matters on a case by case basis, but you must realize that you may be unable to continue in the course if you cannot sit for the exams as scheduled.

General Student Conduct

- You may refer to me as either Dr. or Professor Furtado. I will not respond to email messages that do not begin with one of those two salutations.
- Please turn off all cell phone ringers before class begins. No cell phone use during class.
- Please refrain from reading materials unrelated to our course during class.
- Please do not engage in conversations during lecture. If you have a question, please ask.
- The lecture hall is an expensive and uncomfortable bedroom. If you are too tired to stay awake during class, please go find somewhere else to sleep.
- If you know you will be leaving class early, please sit near an exit to avoid disturbing the lecturer or other students.
- You may use laptops or tablets only for taking notes, as activities unrelated to the course may be distracting to others.

I reserve the right to ban the use of electronic devices at any time for all students.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Week 1 – Roots of Civilization

Monday, Sep. 28 Introduction to the Course

Wednesday, Sep. 31 Domestication and Agriculture

Read: *Jared Diamond; *Worlds*, Chapter 1.

Friday, Oct 3 Civilization

Read: *Worlds*, Competing Perspectives, pgs. 38-41; Prepare answers to each of the Questions for Analysis on pg. 41. You will discuss these next week in your Sections.

Section Assignment: Make a list of the five most important events in World History during your lifetime that you feel will be included in a future history textbook and indicate your justifications for your choices. **Print a copy of the Syllabus and bring it to Section with you.**

Week 2 – Civilization and Empire

Monday, Oct 6 The First Empires

Read: *Worlds*, 45-81; 88-99; 122-134; *Competing Perspectives*, pgs. 114-117

Wednesday, Oct. 8 The State in Ancient China

Read: *Worlds*, 99-105;143-149

Friday, Oct. 10 The Technology of Writing

Read: *Worlds*, *Competing Perspectives*, pgs. 78-80; 152-154.

Section Assignment: Discussion of Chap. 1 questions; using visual evidence. Map Quiz; Prepare using the map located on pgs. 24-25. Discussion of the significance of ancient reliance on oracles.

Week 3 – Philosophy, Religion, and the State

Monday, Oct. 13 Confucius

Read *Analects; *World*, 159-167

Wednesday, Oct. 15 Buddhism

Read: *World*, 159-174, especially note Current Trends on pgs. 172-173.

Friday, Oct. 17 Humanism & the Hellenistic World

Read: *Plato; *World*, *Competing Perspectives*, 191-192; 197-214.

Section Assignment: Discussion: Be prepared to discuss the Questions for Analysis for all source readings from last week.

Week 4

Monday, Oct. 20 The Tragedy and Triumph of Greece

Read: Funeral Oration of Pericles*; Thucydides, the Peloponnesian War*; *Worlds*, 172-180.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 The Roman Republic and Empire

Read: *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* (The Deeds of the Divine Augustus); *Worlds*, 245-257.

Friday, Oct. 24 Christianity

Read: *Romans 1-3, 12-16; *Gospel of Thomas; *Worlds*, 267-274.

Section Assignment: *Mystery Text: Confucian or Buddhist? Read and Discuss.

Week 5

Monday, Oct. 27 The “Silk Road”

Read: *Worlds*, 214-225; 277-282

Wednesday, Oct. 29 The Period of Division and Buddhism in China

Read: *Lotus Sutra; *Worlds*,

Friday, Oct 31 Germanic Peoples and the “Fall” of Rome

Read: *Tacitus; *Procopius; *Worlds*, 257; 274-277.

Section Assignment: Write a two page paper summarizing why you believe Augustus was successful in creating a disguised military monarchy, citing specific examples from your source material as support.

Week 6

Monday, Nov 3 Islam and Expansion, Guest Lecture by Prof. David Hollenberg

Read: *Qur’an; *Worlds*, 302-308.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Friday, Nov. 7 Tang and early Song China

Read: *Examination anecdotes; *Worlds*, 315-329

Section Assignment: Analysis and discussion of study habits; Comparison of *Gospel of Thomas with Lotus Sutra.

Week 7

Monday, Nov. 10 The ‘Abbasid Empire

Read: *al-Tabari; *Worlds*, 308-315.

Wednesday Nov. 12 The Carolingian Empire

Read: *Einhard; *World*, 327-333; 357-361.

Friday, Nov. 14 The Mongols

Read: *Marco Polo*, (Excerpts)*; *Ibn Battuta* (Excerpts)*; *World*, 368-373; Prepare answers to the Questions for Analysis (pg. 378) for Competing Perspectives, 376-378 (for next week’s Section)

Section Assignment: Discussion of Study Habits; In-class writing.

Week 8

Monday, Nov. 17 Song & Yuan China and Late Medieval Europe

Wednesday, Nov. 19 “Southernization” and the Indian Ocean Trade

Friday, Nov. 21 Southeast Asia & Africa

Read: *East African Coast; *HWC*, Top of page 436, 451-End of Chapter

Section Assignment: Write a one page paper in which you compare and contrast the Abbasid Empire with that of Charlemagne; Discussion of Marco *Polo* and *Ibn Battuta*.

Week 9

Monday, Nov. 24 The Calamitous 14th Century

Read: Worlds, 383-391.

Wednesday, Nov. 26 Review and Discussion **Polo/Battuta Paper Due Today**

Friday, Nov. 28 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Section Assignment: In Class Discussion of readings.

Week 10 – Empires and Encounters

Monday, Dec. 1 The Rediscovery of Africa

Read: Worlds, 419-423; *Competing Perspectives*, 448-449.

Wednesday, Dec. 3 The Aztec and Incan Empires

*Read: *Florentine Codex; Worlds*, 426-430

Friday, Dec. 5 1492

Worlds, 423-426.

Section Assignment: Final Exam Prep.

**Final Examination:
Thursday, December 10, 10:15 AM
177 Lawrence**