History 104 is an introduction to aspects of and interactions among some of the cultures and civilizations that came into being between approximately 3500 BCE and 1500 CE.

In a 10 week course it is neither feasible to acquire, nor pedagogically productive to teach, an encyclopedic knowledge of this 5,000 year period. Rather, we will aim to familiarize ourselves with a general overview of some events, people and places (some facts and information), some of the broader rhythms and historical processes which have been identified (some interpretations), and elements in the shaping and understanding of the human environment (some themes).

We will thus be engaging the past as a dynamic process that exhibits varying degrees of stability, continuity, disruption, larger forces, and human choices. We will also have the opportunity to gain a sense of some of the building blocks that have contributed to our collective human existence.

The course is structured as an overlapping and complementary two-track combination that melds lectures (including some guest lectures) on topics and themes drawn from the textbook, and discussion sections that explore the textbook in greater detail.

Course materials:

COURSE ENGAGEMENT. The textbook is central, and you will benefit greatly from continuous engagement of it. Readings for discussion sections are indicated below. For readings for the lectures, it will be useful to peruse the text according to the general theme, and to make good use of the index.

POWERPOINTs: Powerpoints for the lectures will be uploaded to Canvas (as PDFs).
1. Attendance at lectures (10% of course grade).
2. Mid-Term Exam: 11/04 (worth 15% of course grade). Study guide will be provided.
3. A term paper due no later than Wednesday November 27 (worth 20% of course grade). The topic of the term paper must be discussed with and approved by your GE no later than Friday November 08.
   No less than 2500 words: typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, printed on one side of the paper, with footnotes or endnotes. Must be submitted in hard copy. Late or short papers may be penalized.
4. Discussion and Engagement section: participation in section, and completion of required engagement work (worth 30% of course grade).
5. Final exam, in the regular classroom, Tuesday December 10, at 1015 (worth 25% of course grade). A study guide will be provided.
   Students requiring specific accommodations, and who have been in contact with the Accessible Education Center, please notify instructor in timely fashion.

COURSE ACHIEVEMENTS: Successful completion of the course should result in:
   A sense of some of the historical dynamics – intellectual, military, political, economic, social, and religious – that have shaped human civilizations.
   Acquaintance with some of the visual legacies of those civilizations.
   A sense of how historians explore such things as the interactions of cultural and social factors, the unfolding of events, and inevitability and serendipity.
   A sense of how to understand or approach thinking about different assumptions regarding the individual and society.
   Enhancing your writing skills and your confidence in articulating your thoughtful assessment of material.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL.
   We see the classroom as a collective learning environment, where you concentrate on the class content, and do not distract either yourself or anyone around you.
   Cell-phones, texting etc.: please turn cell phones to silent mode; and do not use them while the class is in session (life-threatening emergencies excepted). Lap-tops, IPads etc.: to be used for taking notes. If it appears that they are being used for non-class-related reasons, we may ask you to turn them off.
   The classroom is not a theater, kitchen, living room, or the like. 1/ Please eat before you come to class, not during it. 2/ Non-alcoholic liquids are OK.
   Please arrive on time. Late arrivals are always disruptive. Late arrival for quizzes or the final exam may prevent you from taking them.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT.
   Simply stated, we take this seriously. We assume that you have familiarized yourself with the University of Oregon’s student conduct code.
ANTICIPATED LECTURE, ENGAGEMENT, AND READING SCHEDULE.

WEEK ONE. Broad Overviews.
09/30 No classes.

Please note: Monday Discussion sections: since classes will not be held on Monday, in order that we don’t get behind, we will hold an informal (i.e. voluntary) meeting on Tuesday 10/01 at 5 PM in 208 Deady Hall for all those in Monday Discussion sections.

10/02 Approaching World History: From Asia.
10/04 Theme: Language, Writing, Knowledge.

Discussion Engagement #1 Course Orientation, Discussion Engagement rhythms.
ALSO: while there is no assigned reading for the first Discussion, you may be well served by getting ahead of your reading schedule, and have already started (or finished) reading Chapter One of Worlds Together, Worlds Apart (WTWA).

WEEK TWO. Some Middle Eastern Riverine Civilizations.
10/07 Mesopotamian Confluences.
10/09 Egyptian Currents.
10/11 Theme: Laws and Legal Codes.

Discussion Engagement #2 Reading: WTWA, Chapter One, Chapter Two.

WEEK THREE. Some Mediterranean Networked Worlds.
10/14 Phoenicians and Greeks.
10/16 Rome and Its Empire.
10/18 Theme: Warfare (guest lecture: Professor Alex Dracobly).

Discussion Engagement #3 Reading: WTWA, Chapter Three.

WEEK FOUR. Some Chinese Unfoldings.
10/21 Thinking Early China: Shang, Zhou, and Warring States eras.
10/23 Creating China: the Qin, Han and Tang empires.

Discussion Engagement #4 Reading: WTWA, Chapters Four and Seven.

WEEK FIVE. Some South Asian Dynamics.
10/28 Vedic to Mauryan India: Aryan conquests, social structure, Ashoka.
10/30 Desired Behavior: Arthasastra to Kamasutra.

Discussion Engagement #5 Reading: WTWA, Chapter Five.
WEEK SIX. Universal Monotheistic Religions.
11/04 MID-TERM EXAM.
11/06 Christianity.
11/08 Islam (guest lecture: Professor Rick Colby).

Discussion Engagement #6 Reading: *WTWA*, Chapters Eight and Nine.

WEEK SEVEN. Some Further Fusions and Interactions (1).
11/11 Theme: Mapping Empires and States 1300 BCE – 1500 CE.
11/13 The Silk Road(s): Connecting Threads.
11/15 The Mongol Empire(s).

Discussion Engagement #7 Reading: *WTWA*, Chapter Six.

WEEK EIGHT. Some Further Fusions and Interactions (2).
11/18 Medieval European Networks of Trade (guest lecture: Professor Lisa Wolverton).
11/20 Muslim Empires: Maldives to Mali.
11/22 Maritime Mosaic of South-east Asia.

Discussion Engagement #8 Reading: *WTWA*, Chapter Nine.

WEEK NINE. Some Meso-American Worlds.
11/27 Incas and Aztecs (guest lecture: Professor Robert Haskett).

TERM PAPER DUE
11/29 No class - Thanksgiving break.

Discussion Engagement #9: *WTWA*, Chapter 8 (relevant parts), Chapter Ten.

WEEK TEN. The Cusp of a New World Order.
12/02 Europe: Some Emerging Nations and Identities.
12/04 Iberia’s Impulses: Why 1492 Mattered (guest lecture: Professor Reuben Zahler).
12/06 Final exam review.

Discussion Engagement #10 Reading: *WTWA*, Chapter Eleven.

12/10 Tuesday FINAL EXAM. In regular classroom, 177 LA, at 1015.