

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
HIST 1303- World Civilization to 1500
Online Campus
Fall 2008

Instructor: Mr. Robert McMichael

Office Hours: anytime via email at robert.mcmichael@wayland.wbu.edu

Catalog Description: Major religious, political, economic, and social development in the world from ancient times through the Middle Ages.

There is no prerequisite for this course

Textbook: Craig, Graham, Kagan, Ozment, Turner. *The Heritage of World Civilizations*. 8th edition, ISBN 0136019056.

Course Outline:

We will follow the chapter organization of the textbook.

Course requirements:

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the course material through three methods. There are two types of written requirements for this course. Three short essays will require analysis of the question and a well-organized answer to provide the material required by the question. The other type of writing will be a 4-5-page critical book review.

In addition, students will demonstrate limited research ability through finding specific answers in the textbook to questions asked on the tests. I will provide detailed instructions on how to prepare for the tests before they are assigned.

Finally, students are required to complete essays posted as discussion questions, with the answers posted for discussion by the other students in the class.

Course outcome competencies: At the conclusion of this course, the student will understand and be able to describe:

- Locate major features of the geography of the ancient Near East, Asia, Africa, and Europe;
- The growth and development of the earliest civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Africa, and Meso-America
- The emergence of major world religions and philosophies including Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism, Taoism, and Christianity;
- Trace the development and historical events of Ancient and Classical Greece and Rome;
- Define Feudalism and describe the historic events of the Middle Ages.

Method of determining course grade:

3 written exams	45%
3 essays	30%
1 book review	15%
Class discussion	10%

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60,

W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reason beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Attendance: Students enrolled in an online class should check the class web site at least once per week for assignment and announcements. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus dean. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the required class assignments will receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University's attendance policy.

Instructor's policy on Academic Dishonesty: Students who practice academic dishonesty will receive a zero on that assignment with no chance for a makeup.

Service for the Disabled: It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University.

Tentative Schedule:

Due dates:

8/24	Read ch 1
8/31	Read ch 2, essay #1, turn in title for book review
9/7	Read ch 3-4, essay #2
9/14	Read ch 5-6, book review
9/21	Read ch 7-8, exam 1 (ch 1-6)
9/28	Read ch 9-10
10/5	Read ch 11, disc ques #1, exam 2 (ch 7-10)
10/12	Read ch 12-13, disc ques #2
10/19	Read ch 14, essay #3
10/26	Read ch 15-16, disc ques #3

10/29 final exam (ch 11-15)

Answering Essay Questions:

The following procedures will assist you in writing effective answers to the required essays. The essays are 30% of your grade for the class.

1. Read the question carefully to make sure you understand its requirements. All of my questions require a multi-part answer. Even though the answers usually will not require more than a 1-2 page double-spaced answer, I recommend you sketch out an outline somewhere that you can follow to make sure you cover all of the required points.
2. Follow the outline you make. Students often start an answer and get lost pursuing an idea and never address all the parts of the question.
3. After you finish the essay, read the question once more and then the answer – make sure they match. The answer should provide all the information required by the question and no extra information. However, you do want to explain your answer. Do not use bullet-type short answers. Every item of your answer must include an explanation. Pretend that you are the teacher and I am the student and explain your answers so I can understand them.

Class Discussion:

The discussion will be 10% of your grade. This essentially takes the place of class discussions in a normal classroom setting. I will post questions for the class to discuss online in the Discussion Board area. I expect you to answer the posted question yourself, read all of the other students' responses, and comment on one or two other responses.

Exams:

The three exams will each consist of 30 questions, multiple choice and true/false, about the assigned readings. The exams total 45% of your semester grade. I encourage you, as I post the weekly study guides, to not only write out answers to the study questions, but also to jot down the page numbers from the textbook where you got the information. This will be very helpful to you on my open-book, unproctored exams. The exams are timed, so do not start them until you are fully prepared and ready to complete them. When the time expires, you need to submit your answers. Blackboard will not stop the test or record your answers until you submit them. If you take more than the allotted time, I will deduct points from your score.

Book Review:

The 4-5 page book review provides 15% of your grade. You need to select a history book describing events in the period covered by the class (essentially 3000 BC to 1500 AD) and send me the title, the author's name and the number of pages. Wait for my approval before reading the book. The book needs to have a minimum of 250 pages. Find a book that covers a relatively short period of time. Examples would be ancient Greece, the Crusades, the Black Death, Charlemagne, Alexander the Great, Michelangelo, the foundations of Islam, Confucianism, and a host of other possibilities. The back of our textbook has a section of recommended books – you could choose any topic covered in the first 16 chapters. I will provide more details when I assign the book review.