

## **HISTORY 1030-80 — FOUNDATIONS OF CIVILIZATION ONLINE**

**Instructor: Scott McDonough**

Office Hours: Online or by appointment

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Course Website: <http://bb.wpunj.edu> [login with WPU id and password]

### **Course Description**

This course provides broad coverage of the origins of human civilizations and their development through the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Topics include: the comparative analysis of the origins of urban societies; the rise of imperial systems; the construction of ethnic, religious and philosophical identities; and conflict, trade, and communication among pre-modern societies.

### **Course Prerequisites**

None

### **Course Objectives**

- a.) To introduce students to major issues and events in global history up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE, such as the origins of urban societies; the rise of imperial systems; the construction of ethnic, religious, and philosophical identities; and conflict, trade, and communication among pre-modern societies.
- b.) To teach students to understand individual historical events and issues within the context of the interactions of peoples across different geographical regions up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE.
- c.) To enable students to ask meaningful questions about historical developments and events related to causation, significance, and continuity versus change, across a range of distinct geo-political and cultural contexts up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE.
- d.) To enable students to analyze and understand an array of primary sources and secondary literature drawn from diverse world cultures up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE by evaluating authorship, bias, context and accuracy.
- e.) To introduce students to different interpretive approaches or historiographical debates related to the understanding of events and issues in global history up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE.
- f.) To acquaint students with the pre-modern contexts of contemporary world issues in political, social, economic, philosophical and spiritual aspects, up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Course Requirements and Policies**

- 1) READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY! If you don't understand something, ASK!
- 2) This is a three-week ONLINE course, you should expect substantial reading and posting on the online discussion board.
- 2) You are expected to do all course readings, from the textbook (Tignor), course reader (Pomeranz), and any readings posted online (under "Course Materials"). I will not accept "I don't have the book" as an excuse for not completing your work.
- 4) Readings will be due EVERY DAY.
- 5) If you are having trouble keeping up with the class work due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, PLEASE TELL ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I CANNOT HELP YOU IF YOU TELL ME AT THE TIME OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION.
- 6) You will post comments and questions on the BlackBoard discussion board **EVERY DAY THAT READINGS ARE DUE**, based on that day's assigned readings. In addition, you should **respond to at least three (3)** comments by other students or the professor during the rest of the week. Total of
- 7) Each week you should expect to produce approximately 1000–1500 words of writing in a **minimum of ten (10) discussion board postings a week.**
- 8) ONLINE DISCUSSION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE COMPONENT OF YOUR GRADE.
- 9) You may post new topics and questions, or follow up on existing topics on the discussion board (posted by the instructor or other students). However, all postings should have substance (i.e. not simply, "I agree"). Please use the discussion as an opportunity to interact with the instructor and other students.
- 10) I will make myself available to comment on the discussion board on a daily basis, however you should generally give me 48 hours to respond to any post or email. I WILL NOT NECESSARILY RESPOND TO EVERY POST INDIVIDUALLY.
- 11) The more you post and respond to others with substantive comments, the better your discussion grade will be. Unexcused absences from online posting will result in grade reduction. **FOUR DAYS without posting and I will give you an "F" for the class.**
- 12) I will post recordings of lectures covering course material on BlackBoard. These lectures are not required listening, but they may help supplement your readings.
- 13) There will be TWO ONLINE MIDTERMS. **These will post on Friday 1 January and 8 January, they must be completed by the following Monday at 11.59 PM for credit.** Midterms will be a mix of short answer and multiple-choice questions.
- 14) All work submitted in the course must be your own. All uses of other people's work must be documented, whether you quote, paraphrase, or borrow another person's ideas in any other way. Submission of work that is not your own (including copy-paste to discussion boards, etc.) is **PLAGIARISM**, and will result in an automatic failure for the course.
- 15) If you have any questions, comments don't hesitate to or contact me.. I want to make this class as valuable for you as I can, so I always welcome any suggestions to improve your class experience.

### Coursework and Grading

**BlackBoard Discussion 50%** — Each week post **substantive** questions and comments about that week's readings (especially ancient texts in translation) to the class BlackBoard discussion board. Original postings should be when readings are assigned, and be at least 100–150 words in length (each). Also, each week you should **respond to at least three** other comments by other students or the professor. **A MINIMUM OF 10 POSTS A WEEK.** Please make specific reference to the class readings.

**Midterms (2) 30%** — Midterms will be a mix of short answer and multiple-choice questions. These will post on Friday 1 January and 8 January, they must be completed by the following Monday at 11.59 PM for credit.

**Final Examination: 20%** — Cumulative take-home final examination with essays and short answer questions, to be submitted through BlackBoard to turnitin.com.

### Textbooks

Tignor, Robert, et al. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World: Beginnings to 600 CE (Fourth Edition, Volume A)*. W.W. Norton, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-393-92210-3.

Pomeranz, Kenneth, et al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart. A Companion Reader. Volume 1*. W.W. Norton, 2011. ISBN 9780393911602.

### Winter Session Schedule (26 December–14 January)

26 December (Sa) **History Before “History”?**

Tignor, Chapter 1 (“Becoming Human”), 2–23

Pomeranz, Chapter 1

Rachael Moeller Gorman, “Cooking Up Bigger Brains”

Temple Grandin, “Dogs Make Us Human”

27 December (Su) **From the “Neolithic Revolution” to Uruk**

Tignor, Chapter 1 (“Becoming Human”), 23–41

*Gilgamesh* [Excerpts online]

28 December (M) **Gods and Monsters: Early Dynastic Mesopotamia**

Tignor, Chapter 2 (“Rivers, Cities and First States”), 42–58

Pomeranz, Chapter 2

The Royal Standard of Ur

29 December (T) **The Gift of the Nile: Egypt’s Old Kingdom**

Tignor, Chapter 2 (“Rivers, Cities and First States”), 62–70

Pomeranz, Chapters 2 and 3

Ptah-Hotep, *Precepts*

“Egyptian Funerary Texts”

30 December (W) **The First Territorial States: Conquerors, Law Codes and Chariots**

Tignor, Chapter 3 (“Nomads, Territorial States, and Microsocieties”), 84–103, 108–109

Tignor, Chapter 4 (“First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia”), 145–150

Pomeranz, Chapter 2 and 3

*The Curse of Agade*

*Code of Hammurabi*

### 31 December (R) **The First International Age**

Tignor, Chapter 3 (“Nomads, Territorial States, and Microsocieties”), 112–118, 120–121

*Amarna Letters* (Online)

Pomeranz, Chapter 3

*“Images of Hatshepsut of Egypt (r. c. 1479–1458 bce)”*

*Egyptian Account of the Battle of Qadesh*

### 1 January (F) **Empire of Iron: Assyria**

Tignor, Chapter 4 (“First Empires and Common Cultures”), 122–134, 142–43

Pomeranz, Chapters 2, 3, 4

*“Sargon of Assyria Records his Deeds”*

*“Relief of Assyrians Crossing the Euphrates”*

### 2 January (Sa) **The People of the Covenant**

Tignor, Chapter 4 (“First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia”), 143–145

Pomeranz, Chapter 4

*Genesis 22, “The Near-Sacrifice of Isaac”*

*Exodus 19–23, “The Covenant with God”* (Online)

### 3 January (Su) **The Israelites and Persia: Exile and Return**

Tignor, Chapter 4 (“First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia”), 134–142

Pomeranz, Chapters 2, 3, 4

*Cyrus the Great, The Decree for the Return of the Jews*

*“Royal Women at the Court of Xerxes”*

*Job 1–3 and 38–42* (Online)

### 4 January (M) **The Greek *Poleis***

Tignor, Chapter 5 (“Worlds Turned Inside Out”), 190–195

Pomeranz, Chapters 4 and 5

Homer, *Shield of Achilles*

Herodotus, *The Persians Debate the Governance*

## **MIDTERM ONE DUE**

### 5 January (T) **The Greek “Classical Age”**

Tignor, Chapter 5 (“Worlds Turned Inside Out”), 195–199

Thucydides, *Histories* (“The Melian Dialogue”) [Online]

Lysias, *On The Murder of Eratosthenes* [Online]

### 6 January (W) **From Sicily to India: The Hellenistic Age**

Tignor, Chapter 5 (“Worlds Turned Inside Out”), 186–187

Tignor, Chapter 6 (“Shrinking the Afro-Eurasian World”), 227–237

Pomeranz, Chapter 5

Aristotle, *Politics*

Pomeranz, Chapter 6  
*The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*

7 January (R) **The Origins of Buddhism and the “Silk Routes”**

Tignor, Chapter 5 (“Worlds Turned Inside Out”), 171–178  
Tignor, Chapter 6 (“Shrinking the Afro-Eurasian World”), 213–237  
Pomeranz, Chapter 4

*Rigveda*  
*Upanishads*

Pomeranz, Chapter 5 and 6  
Aśoka, *Three Edicts*  
The Buddha: Sermons and Teachings

8 January (F) **China: Warring States, Warring Ideas**

Tignor, Chapter 3 (“Nomads, Territorial States, and Microsocieties”), 103–110  
Tignor, Chapter 4 (“First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia”), 150–159  
Tignor, Chapter 5 (“Worlds Turned Inside Out”), 160–171

Pomeranz, Chapter 3  
Guanzi, *How to Rule*

Pomeranz, Chapter 5  
Confucius, *The Analects*  
Mencius, *Humane Government* (c. 371–289 bce)

9 January (Sa) **Imperial China**

Tignor, Chapter 7 (“Han Dynasty China and Imperial Rome”), 238–256  
Pomeranz, Chapter 7  
*The Legend of Meng Jiangnu*  
*The Debate on Salt and Iron*

10 January (Su) **The Roman Republic: From City State to Empire**

Tignor, Chapter 7 (“Han Dynasty China and Imperial Rome”), 256–268  
Pomeranz, Chapter 7  
Polybius, *The Roman Maniples versus The Macedonian Phalanx*  
Diodorus Siculus, *On the Slave Revolt in Sicily*

Pomeranz, Chapter 3  
Dio Cassius, *Livia*

11 January (M) **From Britain to Egypt: The High Roman Empire**

Tignor, Chapter 7 (“Han Dynasty China and Imperial Rome”), 269–277  
Tacitus, *Agricola* (excerpts online)  
Pomeranz, Chapter 7  
*Vindolanda Tablet*

**MIDTERM TWO DUE**

12 January (T) **Second Temple Judaism and the Jesus Movement**

Pomeranz, Chapter 6  
Ketubot, *Jewish Premarital Agreements*

*Gospel of Matthew, "Sermon on the Mount"* (Online)

13 January (W) **From Persecution to Triumph: The Christian *Oikoumene***

Tignor, Chapter 8 ("The Rise of Universal Religions"), 278–295

Pliny the Younger and Trajan, *Exchange on Prosecuting Christians* [Online]

Sources on the Life of Hypatia of Alexandria [Online]

14 January (R) **The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity and Islam**

Tignor, Chapter 9 ("New Empires and Common Cultures") [Excerpts Online]

Pomeranz, Chapter 9

Ibn Ishaq, *Biography of Messenger of God*

*Pact of Umar*

17 January (Su) **FINAL EXAMINATION DUE**