This course surveys major developments in world history up until around 1500. It will center on a few themes and topics until 1500 in order to familiarize students with world civilizations, such as cross-cultural interactions, migratory movements, ideologies/religions, foreign relations/conflict, and social/political/economic change and development.

This course will trace the development of world civilizations from the rise of the river valley civilizations to the age of global expansion in the 16th century. In tracing our past, beginning with the formation of the earliest city-states, this course will emphasize the distinctive histories and cultural values that shaped major regions while also highlighting the cross-cultural contacts that played equally important roles in shaping these early civilizations. How ancient and pre-modern societies adapted to their environments, organized their political economies, expressed themselves in art and philosophy and interacted with other peoples different from themselves will help us appreciate the dynamism of these ancient and pre-modern societies.

**Readings**


Valerie Hansen, *The Silk Road: A New History.*


*Course Reserve:* A World History survey textbook has been placed under reserve and is available at the library.

  *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Attendance
You are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and in-class assignments. As this is a lecture-based course irregular attendance will preclude the student from performing well in the course. It is important to note that class lectures are not a substitute for the readings and proper comprehension of both the readings and lectures are necessary to pass this course.
All assignments are due on the day mentioned in the syllabus.
Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The instructor will have full discretion over what behavior is deemed appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.
All cell phones must be turned off or put on silent or vibrate mode. Students are not to use their cell phones to text during class sessions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments
Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day as well as complete the in-class quizzes and assignments.

Exams: There will be 2 exams for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the lectures and the readings assigned for the period. The exams are not going to be cumulative. I will provide guidelines and study guides the week prior to the exam.

Papers: There will be three short paper (4 pages) assignments for this course. The papers will be based on the readings assigned for this course. There are four paper assignments posted on the syllabus but you may choose any three books to write your papers on. I will discuss the format of the papers in greater detail in class.

Grading Policy:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
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<td>Exam I</td>
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<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>Papers</td>
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<td>Paper I</td>
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<td>Paper II</td>
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<td>Paper III</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Grading Scale
- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 0-59 = F

No alternate (or "make-up") quizzes/exams will be offered. You must contact me prior to any excusable absence (medical, sport-related, etc.). Alternate and make-up exams and will only be given for prior excused absences or in case of emergencies that prevent you from taking the
exam on the assigned day. You will not be allowed to make-up for the exam unless you provide me with appropriate documentation verifying your absence. Any late assignment will reflect in a lowering of your grade by 5% for each day they are late allowing for a maximum deduction of 30% of the total allotted points for that assignment.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. The student will evaluate the role of the historian in society.
2. The student will assess the significance of historical events/phenomena and analyze their historical contexts.
3. The student will locate, identify and critically analyze primary and secondary sources appropriate for historical research.
4. The student will interpret evidence found within primary sources and place those sources within their appropriate historical context.
5. The student will effectively communicate historical arguments in support of a central thesis, including the proper citation of sources using the most recent edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

This section of this course will focus on PLOs 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. The student will be able to explain the rise and development of early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt and Harappa.
2. The student will be able to explain the rise and development of major world religions like Buddhism and Islam.
3. The student will be able to explain the early dynasties of China beginning with the Zhou to the Tang.
4. The student will be able develop a critical understanding of the Silk Road as well as the Mongols and appreciate their roles shaping the world.
5. The student will be able to explain the global transformations that lead to the formation of a new world order beginning in the 15th century.
COURSE OUTLINE WITH ASSIGNED READINGS

* The syllabus is subject to change dependent on the instructor’s assessment of the progress of the course. Students will be notified of such changes in class.

Week 1

Wednesday, January 20  
Course Introduction

Week 2

Monday, January 25  
PODCAST & IMAGES: Bird Shaped Pestle

Wednesday, January 27  
PODCAST & IMAGES: Standard of UR; Early Writing Tablet; Flood Tablet  
See Also: A Closer Look at the Code of Hammurabi

Week 3

Monday, February 1  
PODCAST & IMAGES: King Den's Sandal Label; Rhind Mathematical Papyrus; Statue of Ramesses II

Wednesday, February 3  
PAPER DUE What Makes Civilization?

Week 4

Monday, February 8  
PODCAST & IMAGES: Parthenon Sculpture; Coin with Head of Alexander  
See also: Oracle at Delphi Not Just Hot Air

Wednesday, February 10  
PODCAST & IMAGES: Minoan Bull-leaper

Week 5

Monday, February 15  
PODCAST & IMAGES: Chinese Zhou Ritual Vessel; Chinese Bronze Bell; Chinese Han Lacquer Cup

Wednesday, February 17  
PODCAST & IMAGES: Silk Princess Painting; Chinese Tang Tomb Figures
Week 6

Monday, February 22  Valerie Hansen, *The Silk Road.*
Finish reading the entire book before class.  
PAPER ON *The Silk Road* DUE IN CLASS.

Wednesday, February 24  Exam Review

Week 7

Monday, February 29  EXAM I

Wednesday, March 2  Harappa: Apocalypse or Utopia?  
PODCAST & IMAGES:  Indus Seal

Week 8

Monday, March 7  Primers of How to Rule  
PODCAST & IMAGES:  Pillar of Ashoka; Gold Coins of Kumaragupta I

Wednesday, March 9  Enlightenment and Power in South Asia  
PODCAST & IMAGES:  Seated Buddha from Gandhara; Statue of Tara;  
Borobudur Buddha Head

Week 9  SPRING HOLIDAYS

Monday, March 14  Spring Holidays

Wednesday, March 16  Spring Holidays

Week 10

Monday, March 21  Republican Values and the Rise of Rome  
Roman Heroes  
PODCAST & IMAGES:  Head of Augustus; Warren Cup

Wednesday, March 23  Byzantium & Saving the Roman Empire  
PODCAST & IMAGES:  Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy  
See Also:  Hagia Sophia 360 Degree Tour

Week 11

Monday, March 28  Easter Holiday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Monday, April 4</th>
<th>Islam: Empire of Faith Part 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, April 6</td>
<td>Sita Sings the Blues</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th>Monday, April 11</th>
<th>Islam and a New World Order</th>
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<tr>
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<td>PODCAST &amp; IMAGES:</td>
<td>Gold Coins of Abd al-Malik</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 13</td>
<td>Baghdad: The Translation Movement and Islam</td>
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<td>PODCAST &amp; IMAGES:</td>
<td>Hebrew Astrolabe</td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Monday, April 18</th>
<th>Mongolians From the Steppes</th>
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<td>PODCAST &amp; IMAGES:</td>
<td>The David Vases</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>Monday, April 25</th>
<th>Suleiman the Magnificent</th>
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<tr>
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<td>PODCAST &amp; IMAGES:</td>
<td>Tughra of Suleiman the Magnificent</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 27</td>
<td>The Renaissance: Europe’s Rebirth</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16</th>
<th>Monday, May 2</th>
<th>The Beginning of a New World Order? New World Discovery: Colonialism and Capitalism</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, May 4</td>
<td>EXAM II REVIEW</td>
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| Week 17 | Friday, May 13 | EXAM II (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) |