

**University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (Fall 2012)**  
**History 151: World Civilizations to 1500 (65080)**  
**MON/WED, 9:30 – 10:50**

**Instructor:** Dr. Alan Rosenfeld    **Classroom:** TBA    **Office:** D 224  
**Office Hours:** MON, 11-12 and 2-3; WED, 11-12; and by appointment  
**Phone:** 689-2351                      **Email:** [alan3@hawaii.edu](mailto:alan3@hawaii.edu)  
**Course website:** <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal/site/WOA.65080.201310>  
(UH login ID and password required)



### **Course Description**

What can we learn from the ancient cultures and civilizations of the world? We cannot have a clear picture of where humanity is headed without an understanding of our past, of where we, as a human race, have come from. Studying history can help us avoid repeating the mistakes of our ancestors and take command of our future. This survey course is the first segment of a two-part sequence dealing with significant historical events and differing perspectives in world civilizations from prehistory to 1500.

The emphasis of the course will be on trans-regional and transcontinental connections and comparisons, rather than on comprehensive coverage. The course will be divided into three thematic units. In first stage of the course we will explore the origins of complex human societies, including the development of agriculture, cities, and writing. In the second stage we will examine several of the world's ancient civilizations in a comparative context, focusing on their political, economic, and social infrastructures, as well as their understandings of time, life and death, and the cosmos. The final stage of the course is centered on a study of cross-cultural exchanges of resources, products, and beliefs. This will include an examination of the dramatic Mongol conquests of Asia and Europe as well as the emergence of transcendental religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, etc.) and their roles as pathways for cross-cultural communication and connections.

### Required Books

Texts for the course are as follows, and are available for purchase through the UH West O`ahu College Bookstore. They can also be purchased at a lower price through any of the major online vendors (amazon.com, bn.com, bookfinder.com, half.com, etc.), especially if you are willing to settle for used books. Finally, I have placed all four books on reserve at the UHWO Library:

### Required Texts:

- Bentley, Jerry. *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Mason, Herbert. *Gilgamesh: A Verse Narrative*. New York: Mariner Books, 2003. (*Any version is fine.*)
- *The Prentice Hall Atlas of World History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education, 2009.
- Weatherford, Jack. *Genghis Khan and the making of the Modern World*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2004.

The **required primary-source readings** listed here are available as a Course Reader (in a single PDF file) on our Lualima course website. Print out the Course Reader (or download it to your computer) and bring it with you to class on the appropriate days. All weekly reading assignments should be completed by our weekly class meeting on Wednesday at the latest. These are required readings, but are only between one and five pages in length:

- “Advice to the Young Egyptian: ‘Be a Scribe’” (Week 5)
- “From the Upanishads: Brahman and Atman” (Week 6)
- Excerpts from the “Edicts of King Ashoka” (Week 6)
- Ban Zhao, “Lessons for a Woman” (Week 8)
- Wei Chi, “Report of the People of Wa” (Week 8)
- Excerpt from *Hiwa: A Tale of Ancient Hawai’i* (Week 10)
- Excerpt from the Quran: “Pilgrimage” (Week 11)
- Ibn Battuta, “Adventures in Black Africa” (Week 12)
- Abu al-Jahiz, “Turkish Mercenaries” (Week 13)
- Ala-ad-Din Juvaini, “Mongol Siege of Merv” (Week 14)
- William of Rubrick, “Travels through the Mongol Empire” (Week 14)
- Giovanni Boccaccio, “The Decameron” (Week 15)

The following article is also **required reading** and can be accessed as a PDF file on Lualima:

- Diamond, Jared. “Location, Location, Location: The First Farmers.” *Science* 278, no. 534, (1997): 1243-1244.

## Grading Scale

93 – 100% = A	80 – 82% = B-	67 – 69% = D+
90 – 92% = A-	77 – 79% = C+	63 – 66% = D
87 – 89% = B+	73 – 76% = C	60 – 62% = D-
83 – 86% = B	70 – 72% = C-	59% and below = F

## Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

In-Class Essays (five)*	20%
At-Home Typed Response Papers (four)*	20%
Map Quizzes (two)	5%
Pop Lecture Quizzes (four)+	5%
Wikipedia Project (pairs)	10%
Attendance and Participation	20%
In-Class Final Exam	20%
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Although there are five In-Class Essays, only your best four will count towards your final grade. Similarly, only the best three of your four typed response papers will count towards your final grade. See the blurbs below for further details.

+These are short “surprise” multiple-choice quizzes based on lectures and readings.

## Response Papers

Typed response papers are assigned and graded to help you improve your writing skills and ensure that everyone comes to class having done some critical thought on the readings. You must submit four **400-word response papers** in total, **once every four weeks**. There is a different assigned response question each week, and the sets of questions will be posted on Lulima. Each question asks you to respond to the readings for *that week only*. (Question 1A is for the Week 1 readings, Question 1B for the Week 2 readings... Question 2A is for the Week 5 readings, Question 2B is for the Week 6 readings, etc.) You therefore have four chances to complete each response paper. In other words, if you complete paper 1A, you should skip papers 1B, 1C, and 1D. The final due dates for the four response papers are listed on the class schedule below. Note that only your best three response papers will count towards your final grade. If you complete all four response papers, I will drop your lowest grade. Late papers will not be accepted since (a) you are only required to submit four of them over a 16-week period and (b) I am only counting your best three. You are strongly encouraged to complete these assignments a week or two before the deadlines. Remember, each assignment asks you to respond to course readings for that week only. Here are some guidelines for the organization of your response paper.

- Use the assigned question to analyze portions of the assigned text(s). Do not merely summarize the text or – even worse – fail to address the assigned readings altogether.
- Try to make connections between the assigned readings, lectures, and other course materials – show me that you are critically thinking about the ideas.
- Organize each paragraph around an arguable claim in the form of a topic sentence. A topic sentence should typically come at the start of a paragraph.
- Support your claims with specific examples and evidence from the text. Explain clearly how each piece of evidence supports the claim.
- Cite your sources, even if you do not quote an author word-for-word. You may simply place the author’s name and the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence, like this (Bentley, 126).
- Proofread for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

### In-Class Essays

There is no midterm exam in this course. In lieu of a midterm, this course features five in-class essays, according to the dates listed on the syllabus. You will be given at least twenty minutes to complete each assignment. These writing assignments will focus on a combination of readings, lectures, and other class material. *The first two in-class essays will be open-book style and the last three will be closed book.* You will be able to access the possible essay questions via Lulima two days before the scheduled essay. On the day of the in-class essay, the question will be chosen by the draw of a card, so you will not be able to choose the question you wish to answer. Only the best four of your five in-class essays (ICEs) will count towards your course grade. If you complete all five assignments, your lowest grade will be dropped. This system is meant to reward improvement in writing and argumentation over the term. Make-up in-class essays will not be granted, since only your lowest score is already being dropped.



## Class Schedule

*Students are expected to read all assigned readings before class begins. Be sure to check our course website on Laulima regularly for postings, updates, and announcements. Please note that you only need to submit ONE response paper every three-to-four weeks. You should be prepared to discuss the weekly readings when you come to class on Wednesday.*

### Part I: From Wanderers to Settlers

Date	Lesson Plan	Due today
Monday, August 20	<b>Week 1: Course Introduction</b>	
Wednesday, August 22	<b>What is World History?</b> Film Clip: <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>	- read <i>Gilgamesh</i> , p. 15-24
Monday, August 27	<b>Week 2: Peopling the World</b> (lecture) Using the UHWO Library	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 5-15
Wednesday, August 29	Film Clip and discussion: <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> <u>Skill Focus</u> : how to read a journal article ("Location, Location, Location")	- read "Location, Location, Location" (available as PDF file on Laulima)
Monday, September 3	<b>Labor Day – No Class!</b>	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 16-19
Wednesday, September 5	<b>Week 3: Development of Agriculture</b> (lecture) <u>Skill Focus</u> : Map Reading	- read <i>Gilgamesh</i> , p. 27-50
Monday, September 10	<b>Week 4: Birth of the City</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 20-23, 25-27
Wednesday, September 12	<u>Skill Focus</u> : Note-Taking Class Activity: Gilgamesh and Enkidu	- read <i>Gilgamesh</i> , p. 53-92 <b>Last chance to turn in response paper #1!</b>
Monday, September 17	<b>Week 5: The Origins of Writing</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 28-31
Wednesday, September 19	<b>In-Class Essay #1</b> Class Activity: Code of Hammurabi	- first in-class essay ( <b>ICE #1</b> ) - read "Be A Scribe"

### Part II: Civilizations of the Ancient World

Date	Topic	Due today
Monday, September 24	<b>Week 6: Ancient Civilizations: India</b>	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 32-33, 38-39

	(lecture)	
Wednesday, September 26	<b>Map Quiz #1</b> Film Clip and discussion: <i>Asoka</i> (2001)	- read <i>Old World Encounters</i> , 3-28 - read "Brahman and Atman" - read "Edicts of King Ashoka" <b>- Map Quiz #1</b>
Monday, October 1	<b>Week 7:</b> <b>Ancient Civilizations: Greece</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 34-35
Wednesday, October 3	<u>No'eau Workshop</u> : Paraphrasing and Citing (in class)  <u>Skill Focus</u> : Textbook Analysis	- read <i>Old World Encounters</i> , 29-66 <b>Last chance to turn in response paper #2!</b>
Monday, October 8	<b>Week 8:</b> <b>Ancient Civilizations: China</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 40-41, 44-45
Wednesday, October 10	<b>In-Class Essay #2</b>  <u>Skill Focus</u> : Primary Source Practice Session	<b>- ICE #2</b> - read <i>Old World Encounters</i> , 67-110 - read "Lessons for a Woman" - read "Report of the People of Wa"
Monday, October 15	<b>Week 9:</b> <b>Ancient Civilizations: Rome</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 42-43
Wednesday, October 17	Introduce Wikipedia Project Film clip and discussion: <i>Empire</i> (2005)	- read <i>Old World Encounters</i> , 111-164
Monday, October 22	<b>Week 10:</b> <b>Ancient Civilizations:</b> <b>Polynesia</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 24
Wednesday, October 24	<b>In-Class Essay #3</b> Work on Wikipedia Project (Computer Lab)	<b>- ICE #3</b> - read <i>Old World Encounters</i> , 165-183 - read <i>Hiwa: A Tale of Ancient Hawai'i</i>

### Part III: Cross-Cultural Encounters

Date	Topic	Due today
Monday, October 29	<b>Week 11:</b> <b>The Transcendental Religions</b> (lecture)	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 46-49
Wednesday, October 31	Film clip and discussion: <i>The Buddha</i> (2010)	- read <i>Genghis Khan</i> , ch. 1 - read "Pilgrimage" <b>Last chance to turn in response paper #3!</b>
Monday, November 5	<b>Week 12:</b> <b>The Muslim World</b>	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 55-57, 68
Wednesday,	<b>In-Class Essay #4</b>	<b>- ICE #4</b>

November 7	Film clip and discussion: <i>The Message</i> (1976)	- read <i>Genghis Khan</i> , ch. 2 and 3 - read Ibn Battuta, "Adventures"
Monday, November 12	<b>No Class – Veterans' Day!</b>	
Wednesday, November 14	<b>Week 13: Settled Peoples and "Barbarians"</b> (lecture) Film Clip: <i>Mongol</i> (2007)	- read <i>Genghis Khan</i> , ch. 5 - read "Turkish Mercenaries" <b>Wikipedia Project Due!</b>
Monday, November 19	<b>Week 14: The Mongol Conquests</b> (lecture) <b>Map Quiz #2</b>	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 62-63, 68-69 <b>Map Quiz #2</b>
Wednesday, November 21	Class activity: <i>Genghis Khan</i> Film Clip (cont'd): <i>Mongol</i> (2007)	- read <i>Genghis Khan</i> , ch. 7 - read "Travels through the Mongol Empire" - read "Mongol Siege of Merv"
Monday, November 26	<b>Week 15: Globalization and Disease: The Black Death</b> (lecture) Film clip: <i>The Seventh Seal</i>	- study <i>Atlas of World History</i> , 66-67
Wednesday, November 28	<b>In-Class Essay #5</b> Final Exam Review and Tips	- read <i>Genghis Khan</i> , ch. 10 - read "The Decameron" <b>Last chance to turn in response paper #4!</b>

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 5, 9:00 – 11:00 am

*Note: the date and time of the final exam are set by UHWO*

### Participation and attendance

A major part of your grade will consist of course attendance and participation. I will take attendance and those of you with three or more unexcused absences will have your grades substantially reduced. Every two late arrivals and/or early departures will typically be weighted the same as one absence.

- **A:** Always participates in class, and comes with an excellent grasp of the readings. Careful to let others speak, and respects their opinions. Shows active engagement with the class readings, and helps serve as a "spark" in the class.
- **B:** Attends class regularly and participates. Shows competencies in the readings.
- **C:** Rarely misses class and participates satisfactorily with some attention to the assigned readings.
- **D:** Misses more than a quarter of the classes and/or does not participate in discussions. Shows little evidence of completing the assigned readings. Can also be disruptive in class.
- **F:** Misses more than forty percent of class meetings and/or does not participate in discussions and activities. Is disruptive in class or disrespects classmates and/or instructor.



## **Policies, Responsibilities, and Expectations**

*Violating the course expectations will hurt your overall grade*

1. You should always treat your fellow classmates (as well as your instructor) with courtesy and respect, and you should appreciate differences of opinion. Bullying or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, sexual preference, age, or any other factor is not permitted in our classroom.
2. You are expected to abide by the university's policy on **academic honesty**, including the university's policy on plagiarism. When composing written assignments, do not simply cut and paste materials from the Internet. Trying to pass off someone else's work as your own is the most severe form of plagiarism.
3. Be sure to bring copies of weekly assigned documents and readings to class meetings on Wednesday.
4. Turn off your **cell phones**, androids, blackberries, and sidekicks when you enter the classroom. (Yes, turn them off. Setting them to "vibrate" mode is not going to cut it.) Cell phone use during class time is not permitted. That includes sending and receiving text messages. If you have an emergency and expect to receive a text or call during class, you must get my permission before class starts. Laptops may only be used to follow and record course content. (Facebook is not part of our course content.) You will be provided a 5-minute break during lectures to check your cell phone or text messages and to use the restroom. Do not do homework for other courses during our class time.
5. Be seated and prepared to begin class at 9:30 am. Tell me before class if you need to leave early and try not to disturb the class if you arrive late. Do not chat or create disturbances during class time. If you wish to ask a question during the course lecture, raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged.
6. Students agree to complete an **eCafe** course evaluation before the close of the term. Your instructor will not be able to access the results of these evaluations until course grades have been submitted.
7. If you have **personal issues** you need to discuss, you are always welcome (and encouraged) to visit me during my scheduled office hours. If you have a scheduling conflict, I will do my best to arrange a separate meeting with you. Please do not wait until the course is over to inform me of a significant problem.
8. You may also **email** me at [alan3@hawaii.edu](mailto:alan3@hawaii.edu) whenever you have a question or



concern. However, please allow at least a 24-hour window for a response. I will usually reply to emails sooner than this, but I am not wired into my router 24 hours a day, especially at nights or on the weekend. Also be sure to include a greeting and a closing or signature with your name. Please note that I will not respond to anonymous messages that do not come from a UH mail account.

9. This course will make regular use of Lualima for postings, announcements, and course content. It is your responsibility to make sure that your Lualima account is active and be sure to check your UH email and our Lualima course website *regularly*.
10. UH West O'ahu is committed to providing **students with disabilities** or special needs equal access to courses, programs, facilities, and activities. If you have a disability or a condition that requires special accommodations, please inform the Student Services Office (689-2689) immediately. You are also encouraged to consult me at the start of the term so that I can assist you.
11. I reserve the right to change readings, assignments, and course content, but I will be sure to notify the class in a timely manner.

**Special Note:** If you have heavy work/family responsibilities that affect your participation in this course, please meet privately with me or email me to discuss your needs. I will make reasonable efforts to accommodate you. But do remember that you are expected to do a full semester's worth of work. In other words, I cannot reduce the class workload just for you alone.

### **Extra Credit**

There will be several extra-credit opportunities during the course of the semester. Students will receive extra credit (equivalent to 1/3 of a letter grade on one of the first three writing assignments) for attending *certain* No'eau Center workshops. The dates of the workshops will be announced in class. You may receive extra credit up to three times during the semester.

### **Course Objectives**

*By the end of this course, you should be able to:*

- Write, document, and organize a sound historical argument, presenting evidence in an orderly and logical chain of reasoning [HIST1: UHWO1/HUM4]
- Function effectively in group discussions in history [HIST 2: UHWO2/HUM5]
- Analyze historical developments before 1500 in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific [HIST3: UHWO4/HUM2]
- Make clear historical arguments and develop them using recognized historical methods [HIST4: UHWO5/HUM6]
- Use sources such as plays, novels, film, music, law codes, and travel journals to analyze historical issues [HIST 5: UHWO5/HUM 6]
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the history, philosophy, arts, and/or literature of different cultures from different global regions and indigenous traditions including Native Hawaiian [UHWO4/HUM 1]

## **Plagiarism**

As this is a History course, you are expected to cite your sources carefully. The easiest way to cite your sources is to use parenthetical references. For example, you can write: "The Japanese education system stresses the importance of teaching morals in the school system" (Reid, 98). Your grade will suffer if you do not cite your sources.

You are responsible for knowing the University of Hawai'i policy on academic dishonesty. Here's a quote from the university web page on student conduct (<http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/policies>):

"Cheating includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination; obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is given; using inappropriate or unallowable sources of information during an examination; falsifying data in experiments and other research; altering the record of any grade; altering answers after an examination has been submitted; falsifying any official University record; or misrepresenting the facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements."

"Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation, another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved."

### **YOU MUST CITE YOUR SOURCES.**

- When completing a written assignment, do not "cut and paste" from the Internet under any circumstances, especially without citing your sources. This constitutes plagiarism, and if these Internet sources are not cited, it constitutes the worst form of plagiarism, namely attempting to pass off someone else's work as your own.
- You will receive an automatic "F" for this class and be reported to the university should you choose to submit plagiarized work.