

History 151 – World History I
The World To 1500
Spring 2013

Instructor: Alan Boyes

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Office Hours: M/W/F 11:00-12:00

T/R 12:30-1:30

and by appointment

Course Information

Course Description: History 151 is the first half of a two-semester series of courses that cover human history from our earliest origins through the twentieth century. This course provides a survey of world history from our earliest ancestors to 1500 C.E. Emphasis will be placed on the development of complex societies in the Old World: Mesopotamia, the Mediterranean, India, China, and Europe. Religious, philosophical, technological, biological, cultural and ecological developments will be examined.

Expectations: Students who complete this course will

Distinguish the most important characteristics of the major complex societies in their geographic settings.

Demonstrate an understanding of how human factors such as religion, warfare, trade and technology affect world history.

Demonstrate an understanding of how non-human factors such as disease and geography affect world history.

Describe the tenets of major world religions and philosophies.

Analyze primary source documents.

Describe the extent, nature, and impact of cross-cultural interaction.

Exams and Grading: There will be three tests and a final examination. Students are also expected to read and participate in discussions about *The Ramayana*, translated by R. K. Narayan and *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone* by Sophocles. There will be an in-class quiz about each reading. Missed tests and quizzes must be made up within seven days. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to complete the work. Regular attendance is expected and can factor into your grade. Excessive absenteeism (more than 5 unexcused absences) may lower your grade.

The final grade will be calculated from 400 points, divided as follows:

- 3 Tests : 200 points total
- 2 Book Quizzes: 80 points total
- 1 Final Exam: 120 points

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

- 360-400 points – A
- 320-359 points – B
- 280-319 points – C
- 240-279 points – D
- Fewer than 240 – F

Course Textbooks:

Bentley & Ziegler, *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, Vol. 1
R. K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*
Sophocles, *The Oedipus Cycle*

Academic Honesty: All work turned in for a grade must be the work of the student. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on examinations or plagiarism will result in failure of the class and can result in expulsion from the College.

Disabilities: If you have a disability and have not voluntarily disclosed the nature of your disability and the support that you need, you are invited to contact the Counseling and Advising Office at 245-8212.

Lecture and Reading Schedule (Subject to Revision)

Week 1: For those about to rock: Paleolithic and Neolithic life
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 1

Week 2: Walk like and Egyptian: North African States
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 3

Week 3: I fought the law: Mesopotamia and the Development of Complex Societies
Readings: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 2

Week 4: **Test - Wednesday January 30th**
Reading: *The Ramayana*

Week 5: **Quiz: *The Ramayana*, Monday February 4th**
Karma Chameleon: Societies in the Indus River Valley
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 4, 6

Week 6: Confucius Says: Warring States and the unification of China
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 5, 8

Week 7: Presidents' Day – No Classes Monday February 18th
Prince of Persia: The Achaemenid Empire
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 7

Week 8: Test – Wednesday February 27th
No Classes Friday March 1st
Reading: Sophocles, *Oedipus Cycle*

Week 9: It's all Greek to me: Governance and philosophy in the Mediterranean
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 10
Quiz: *Oedipus the King & Antigone*, Friday March 8th

Week 10: I'm Spartacus! The Roman Empire
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 11

Week 11: Rock the Casbah: Christianity, Islam and early Islamic empires
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 13

Week 12: SPRING BREAK

Week 13: Test – Friday April 5th

Week 14: Livin' on a Prayer: Medieval Europe
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 16

Week 15: Horsemen from Hell: The Mongolian Empire
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 17, 18

Week 16: Bring out your dead! Global integration and the Plague
Reading: Bentley & Ziegler, Ch. 21

Week 17: Review

Final Exam: