

HISTORY 86: INTRO TO WORLD CIVILIZATIONS FALL 2013 TUES 6:50-10:00 INST 1003

CLASS BASICS

Professor: Gustavo Jimenez

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Office Hours: 6:10-6:45 Tuesday INST BLDG Faculty Offices Cubicle 46

Website: <http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenega> You will find valuable information for this class including syllabus, rubrics, and study guides.

Break: A 20 minute break will be given at my discretion, typically coming at the midway point of the class.

Important Dates: September 6-Add Deadline; November 17-Drop Deadline

BOOKS

Both books purchased new at the campus bookstore will run you about \$70.

<http://www.lamissionbookstore.com/>

- *The World, A History Volume I Penguin Academics Edition* by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto (ISBN: 978-0-205-75931-6)

Different editions are acceptable, however, the edition must include chapters 1-15, typically contained in Volume I editions. You can also purchase *The World* as an e-book for your computer, tablet, or smartphone at the following website:

<http://www.coursesmart.com/the-world-a-history-volume-1-to-1500-penguin/felipe-fernandez-armesto/dp/9780205032679>

- *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond (ISBN: 978-0-393-31755-8)

GGG is also available as an e-book on Amazon and iTunes.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze the political/diplomatic development of World Civilizations from their origins to the end of the Postclassical Era in the 15th century.
2. Critically analyze the economic development of World Civilizations from their origins to the end of the Post-classical Era in the 15th century.
3. Critically analyze the social/cultural development of World Civilizations from their origins to the end of the Post-classical Era in the 15th century.

COURSE DESCRIPTION PHILOSOPHY

This course traces the development and interrelationships of the major world civilizations and their cultural traditions and contributions from the earliest time to the beginning of the era of European Expansion in the sixteenth century. We will begin by exploring the pre-historical records of human development and explore how different societies throughout the world developed different cultures and societies.

My philosophy is simple: understanding the past. This is done not through endless facts, dates, and information, but through ideas. If we start seeing history as the study of ideas, it will make it that much more relevant. In the past ancient societies were studied separately from one another. For example, one chapter would be dedicated to the Romans and the next to the Aztecs. Very little comparison was done in

regards to similarities that these cultures shared. Instead the differences were overstated resulting in a disconnected history of the ancient world. This class, through lectures, discussions, and readings seeks to change that perception. Constant comparisons are fundamental to the analysis of historical developments. Topics will include typical historical ideas like war and politics, but also diverse topics, such as geography and food. Attention will also be paid to our current society. Global warming, for example, is not the only shift in climate humans have experienced. Europeans went through a similar climate shift in the 14th century. How can we connect the two and what lessons can we learn from them are just two questions we can immediately ask. And once we can grasp the past, it is that much easier to understand the present. Students will find their own world opened up and placed in a global setting, letting them see clearly past national borders and cultural boundaries to the interconnected world in which they live.

There will be a very deliberate attempt to get you to like history. History isn't just dates and facts, but a living testament to the world we live in today. Hopefully, through the topics, readings, and lectures in this class you will be able to better appreciate all that history has to offer. Who knows? You might end up switching majors and making history your future career. This class will also seek to make you a better college student. You will gain valuable knowledge, not just in your appreciation for history, but for the college experience as well. Becoming a disciplined student will mean becoming adept at writing, reading, and studying not just history, but other subjects as well. If at any point during the course of the class you find yourself overwhelmed, do not hesitate to contact so that we can work on a solution together. Do not wait until the last week of the course to tell me that you have problems, either academically or personal. By then it will be too late to salvage a desirable grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

The class will be organized through lecture and class discussions focused on specific topics relevant to world history. The following is a tentative guideline on specific topics we will cover. Please keep in mind that through the course of the semester some topics and chapters will be changed. Due dates, quizzes, and exams may be changed as well. Make sure to stay current by attending class on a weekly basis. All chapters are mandatory reading, unless stated. NOTE: Chapters are from the main text, *The World*.

Week 1-August 27

Introduction to World History: Discourse on human development and evolution and why farming beat foraging?

(Chapter 1-optional, Chapter 2)

Week 2-September 3

River valley civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China

(Chapter 3)

Week 3-September 10

Emergence of civilizations in the Americas: Mesoamerica & Peru

(Chapter 4)

Week 4-Septemeber 17

Quiz 1: *Guns, Germs, & Steel*

Ancient Greece: Synthesizers of Antiquity

(Chapter 5)

Week 5-September 24

Video

Exam #1

Week 6-October 1

Philosophy in the ancient world-Eastern v. Western thought

(Chapter 6)

Week 7-October 8

Empires in the ancient world: Persia, Alexander, Rome, Han China

(Chapter 7, Chapter 8-optional)

Week 8-October 15

The Rise of World Religions: Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism

(Chapter 9)

Week 9-October 22

Quiz #2: *Guns, Germs & Steel*

Environment and impact on state building: Maya & Japan / Collapse: Why societies succeed and fail?

(Chapter 10)

Week 10-October 29

Video

Exam #2

Week 11-November 5

The emergence of the Middle Age & Crusades: Consequences of Holy War

(Chapter 12)

Week 12-November 12

The Mongol World: The creation of the modern world

(Chapter 13)

Week 13-November 19

Plague, Destruction, & Rebirth

(Chapter 14)

Week 14- November 26

Hemispheres Collide: Empires in America and the arrival of European Conquerors

(Chapter 15)

Week 15- December 3

Quiz #3 *Guns, Germs, & Steel*

Presentations

Final Review

Week 16-December 10

Exam #3 8:00-10:00

EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION (15%)

This will be evaluated primarily through class conduct. This includes participation in class discussion, courtesy to professor and students, and attendance. The following will be reasons for losing vital percentage points: sleeping during class, texting, phones not silenced, tardiness, leaving mid-lecture, not returning promptly from breaks, not returning from breaks, missing class. Since we only meet once a week, it is extremely important to attend every week. Missing 2-3 classes during the semester will put you in serious danger of not doing well in the class. If those 2-3 absences include missing quizzes and exams, you will be dropped from the class. *In addition, pop quizzes will be given at the professor's discretion. The quizzes will take place during the first 5 minutes of class AND/OR the first 5 minutes after the break.*

INFORMAL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (10%)

Anywhere from 3-5 written assignments will be given throughout the course of the semester. These are expected to be about 1-2 pages in length (about 300-500 words) and should contain a brief analysis of the issues under consideration relative to the assigned reading material or class discussions. These should not be a recitation of facts, but should instead be a discussion of the issues at hand. If you refer to outside material, be sure to cite your sources, whether or not you directly quote the material. Assignments must be typed. Assignments are due in class, no emailed assignments will be accepted, late assignments will be deducted 10%.

CLASS PROJECT (15%)

You will have three options for the class project.

Option 1: A 5-7 minute presentation on a cultural topic (food, sport, music, etc...) relevant to world history.

Option 2: A 7-page paper on a topic relevant to world history (no biographies).

Option 3: Visiting a local museum (LACMA, Getty) and completing the museum assignment.

More information will be given at a later date. If you are doing Option 1 or 2, you must clear your topic with me and the topic subject matter must be placed within the time period of the class.

QUIZZES (20%)

There will be 3 reading quizzes given throughout the course of the semester. All the questions are taken from the the *Guns, Germs, & Steel* reading guide that you can find on my website (<http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenega>). There are no make-ups available for the reading quizzes. The quizzes will be given at the start of class.

The quizzes are as follow:

Quiz 1: Prologue, Chapters 1-6

Quiz 2: Chapters 7-13

Quiz 3: Chapters 14-19, Epilogue

EXAMS (40%)

The exams given will be a combination of subjective questions (short/long response) and objective questions (identifications, multiple choice, true/false). There will also be a geography component in which you will have to identify key world regions. You will need a blue book and scantron for each exam (3 blue books and 3 scantrons in total). The objective questions will be drawn strictly from the main text, *The World*. Subjective questions will be drawn from the main text and lectures. No make-up exams or pre-exams will be given. Since this class meets only once a week, giving you an extra week to prepare for an exam is unfair to the other students who have worked hard to prepare for the exam on time. Preparing

for exams means taking good notes in class and doing the assigned reading. Things to concentrate on in the main text will be the Focus Questions at the beginning of each chapter, the Problems and Parallels questions at the end of each chapter, and the bold-type words in each chapter

EXTRA CREDIT

Throughout the semester there will be opportunities for you to earn extra credit. There is no specific point or grading system for extra credit assignments. Extra credit assignments will not replace assignments, exams, quizzes, or term papers. Instead, e.c. assignments will be taken into consideration if you find yourself on the border of a higher grade. If you end up with an 89% and I see that you have done several extra credit assignments, then I will give you a 90%. If you would like to suggest an extra credit assignment make sure you come to me before completing it. All extra credit assignments must be typed. Percentage points added to final grade can range from 1% to 3%. Extra credit assignments may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Films or t.v. shows dealing with topics discussed in class
- Turning in completed Focus Questions and Problems and Parallels questions on the day of the exam.
- Turning in completed *Guns, Germs, & Steel* reading questions on the day of the quiz.

GRADING SCALE

I use the following grading scale to determine your grades and final grade. Since you will be getting back completed work from

me with a percentage please refer to the following scale for specific letter grade:

90%-100% A

80%-89% B

70%-79% C

60%-69% D

Below 60% FAIL

Rubrics for exams, quizzes, papers, and presentations are available online:

<http://www.lamission.edu/~jimenea>

L.A. MISSION COLLEGE SOCIAL SCIENCE POLICIES

Cheating- *unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and be referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.*

Plagiarism- *Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:*

- *Failing to give credit by proper citations for others' ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions*
- *Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, **whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof***
- *Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution*
- *Representing another's artistic/scholarly works (such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures) or similar works as one's own.*

For a first offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action of the Office of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom: Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (This includes cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, cameras, and other recording devices)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability who qualifies for accommodations through DSP&S, please contact me privately. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students with disabilities, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring me a letter indicating what accommodations are needed.

Medical conditions: If you have and conditions that I need to know about, please notify me immediately by email.

Emergencies: Please program the Campus Sheriff's phone number in your cell: 818 364-7843

Student Portal: update your email address, view your schedule and grades from past semesters through the portal. www.lamission.edu – “students” – “My Mission student portal access” If you have not yet changed your PIN it's your birthdate (MMDD)

CLASS THOUGHTS

This class will demand a certain amount of commitment from you. If you run into any problems do not hesitate to contact me. Do not wait until the last week of the class to reveal your problems with the class. Please also be aware that I reserve the right to change this syllabus throughout the course of the semester. Good luck in the upcoming semester.