This course concerns developments in the ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean worlds from roughly 3500 B.C. to roughly A.D. 500. In order to impose some thematic coherence on developments over this 4000-year span, we consider them as parts of a single “story”. The story is that of political and cultural consolidation (or unification) over a progressively larger area until we reach the “world-state” of the Roman Empire. Along the way, we will learn a good deal about different peoples and civilizations, but we want always to keep in mind that we are trying to understand a larger “story”. That means we always want to ask and understand what the place of different peoples and civilizations is in the larger story.

The textbook, Nagle’s *Ancient World*, will provide a basic narrative guide. Lectures amplify and supplement the text. Since Nagle does not present his material in terms of the “story” this course emphasizes, it is critical that students pay close attention to the lecture presentations. We will also be reading extensive primary (original) source selections which alone furnish us with direct experience of the ideas and thought patterns of various peoples and periods of the ancient world.

Evaluation is based on the results of three examinations, three papers, and periodic writing assignments and quizzes.

**Required Books**

Nagle, *The Ancient World* (AW)
Bailkey and Lim, *Readings in Ancient History* (Readings)
Sandars, *Epic of Gilgamesh*

**Class Schedule**

8/14 Introduction

**I. Early Civilizations**

8/16 Neolithic Revolution/Sumerian Civilization  
AW 1-20  
Readings 17-20  
Handout; writing assignment

8/18 Emergence of Kingship  
*Gilgamesh*; writing assignment

8/21 *Creation Story* (and map quiz)  
Handout; writing assignment

8/23 *Epic of Gilgamesh*  
Handout; writing assignment
8/25  Early Imperialism                             AW 10-11, 34-36; Readings 24-32
8/28  Early Egypt                                   AW 21-31
8/30  Theology of Memphis                          Handout; writing assignment
9/1   Egypt through the Middle Kingdom             AW 31-33
9/6   Indo-European Impact                         AW 38-42, 76-85
9/8   Hyksos and Egyptian Imperialism              AW 42-50; paper #1 due

9/11 FIRST EXAM

II. Big Empires and Little Peoples

9/13  Overview 1500-300 B.C.                       Readings 48-54; AW 53-58, 61-65, 64-65, 50-52
9/15  Hebrew History in Near Eastern Context      AW 57-60, 65-75; Readings 68-94; writing assignment
9/18  Exile and Creation of Judaism               Readings 94-104
9/20  Greek History Overview/Homer                 AW 87-97; Readings 107-120, 130-133; writing assignment
9/22  From Aristocracy to Democracy                AW 97-119, 164-183;
9/25  Athenian Empire                               AW 120-140; Readings 151-165
9/27  Civic Problems/Civic Culture                 AW 141-164; Readings 165-193; writing assignment
9/29  Socrates/Plato                                Readings 200-215, 218-225; paper #2 due

10/2  SECOND EXAM

III. Toward One World

10/4  Alexander                                     AW 184-194; Readings 260-269
10/6  Hellenistic World                             AW 194-204; 225-234
10/11 Hellenistic Philosophies                     AW 205-225; Readings 292-295, 386-393, 473-477; writing assignment
10/13 Rise of Rome                                  AW 235-256; Readings 303-313, 319-324
10/15 Roman Wars                                   AW 257-294; Readings 314-319
10/18 Transformation and Crisis                    AW 295-329
10/20 Augustus                                     AW 330-336; Readings 397-414; writing assignment
10/23 The Roman Peace                               AW 336-349; Readings 414-423
10/25  The Roman World
10/27  EXAM #3

IV. Toward Late Antiquity

10/30  Religions in the Roman World
10/32  Jesus and Paul
11/1   Pagans and Christians
11/3   3rd-century Crisis and Response
11/6   3rd-century Crisis and Response
11/8   Constantine
11/10  The Christian Empire
11/13  Late Roman Government and Society
11/15  Consolidation/Unity, A.D.400
11/17  Roman World and World View
11/20  Beyond the Roman World
11/27  Fractures and Fragmentation
11/29  6th Century and Beyond

12/1   Legacy of the Ancient World
12/4   Review

12/2   EXAM #4