

Pre-Modern Global Developments

HIS 206

TR 8-9:15

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History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

Description:

This course will investigate pre-modern world history by exploring archaeological sites and written documents from the earliest centers of civilization in Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific. We will look to trace concurrent cultural, political, and religious developments to better understand the origins of our modern world.

Themes we will investigate:

- 1) How did they organize themselves? Hierarchically? Horizontally? How rigid was their social structure? Can you see the social structure in their stuff?
- 2) What did they believe in? Did their beliefs impact their social structure or their stuff? And/or did their world help to create the things they believed in?
- 3) What similarities do they share with other cultures and with us? What are the things that make them unique and what might account for those differences?
- 4) How do we talk about/deal with the past? Does it differ depending on its impact on our modern world? Does it change over time?

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives. (Gen Ed Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcome)
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing. (Gen Ed Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcome)
3. Synthesize material from a variety of sources to produce a larger analytical conclusion
4. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the cultural, religious, and political themes of the development of civilizations world-wide
5. Articulate the purpose and value of historical inquiry in the modern world
6. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
7. Describe interconnections among regions of the world.
8. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

Books:

No books are required for this class. All assigned readings can be found on Canvas.

Assignments:

Material Culture Paper: 30%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 25%

Reading Responses: 5%

Doing History papers: 7.5% x 2

Grading Scale:

100.99-97.00 = A+ 89.99-87.00 = B+ 79.99-77.00 = C+ 69.99-67.00 = D+ 59.99-0 = F

96.99-94.00 = A 86.99-84.00 = B 76.99-74.00 = C 66.99-64.00 = D

93.99-90.00 = A- 83.99-80.00 = B- 73.99-70.00 = C- 63.99-60.00 = D-

I do not accept late work, and there will be no makeup for reading responses.

Doing History papers (SLOs 2, 3, 5, 8): Two short, 2-page papers. At the beginning of the semester, you will be asked to provide a historical and archaeological analysis of artifacts from your own life. At the end of the semester, you will be asked to reflect on how we, as humans, relate and commemorate our past. These two papers will be graded based on quality of argument and clearness of prose, as well as references to in-class discussion; a full rubric can be found on Canvas.

Material Culture research paper (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8): You will research an artifact from the list provided on Canvas and write a 3-5 page paper about its appearance, historical context, relationship to other artifacts, and any influences of other cultures on your artifact. You will need to cite at least one scholarly source for this paper.

Midterm and Final (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7): These exams will consist of five short answer questions and a longer essay of 3-5 pages. The final will not be cumulative.

Reading responses (SLOs 1, 2, 4): These will be based on the assigned readings. For each day's reading assignments, you will need to come up with two 140-character, twitter-style questions or observations that clearly show you read the text, even if it didn't make a lot of sense to you. I will ask for these randomly throughout the semester. More information can be found on Canvas.

Attendance Policy:

I don't have an attendance policy. Since we have no textbook, and since much of our understanding of these societies will be based on in-class discussions, missing a lot of classes will likely negatively impact your midterm and final grades. But that is up to you – I do not need to know why you missed class.

Religious Observance

The University allows for a limited number of excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of the student. Students must notify instructors of absences in advance of the date of the religious observance. When appropriate notice is provided by a student, the student must be granted at least two excused absences under this policy and must be allowed to make up or waive work and tests missed due to these particular absences. With regard to any test or other assignment that a student would miss due to notice of a required religious observance, faculty members may require the student to complete the test or assignment in advance of the originally scheduled date of the test or assignment

Academic Integrity Policy:

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any other violation of the Academic Integrity Policy (if you don't know what the policy says, it's right here: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>. Go read it). This includes any and all plagiarism from websites – **the only websites you should be using are those specifically assigned**. If you think I won't notice that you copied and pasted whole paragraphs from Wikipedia, you're wrong.

Adverse Weather Policy:

If you think that the university might be closed due to adverse weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the SpartanAlert website (<http://spartanalert.uncg.edu/>). If the university is open, we will have class. If the university is closed, I will send an email letting you know how the syllabus has changed and what readings we will cover during the next class.

Other policies:

You can bring your laptop to class for note-taking purposes and to have access to the readings. However, if I find that you are using your laptop for non-class-related purposes, I will ask you to put it away and not bring it to class again.

Aug 15	First day of class	
Aug 17	How to do History (without written sources)	
Aug 22	Deep origins of human history	
Aug 24	Modern Hunter/Gatherers	
Aug 29	Neolithic Revolution	Doing History Paper #1
Aug 31	Mesopotamia: Uruk and Babylon	
Sept 5	Mesopotamia: The Israelites	
Sept 7	Indus River: Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro	
Sept 12	Egypt: Old and Middle Kingdoms	
Sept 14	Egypt: New and Greco-Roman kingdoms	
Sept 19	Greece: Mycenae and the Minoans	
Sept 21	Greece: Athens & Sparta	
Sept 26	China: Shang and Qin dynasties	
Sept 28	Japan: Yoshinogari	
Oct 3	Rome	
Oct 5		Midterm
Oct 10	FALL BREAK	
Oct 12	Rome: Pompeii	
Oct 17	The Byzantine Empire	
Oct 19	Vikings	
Oct 24	Islamic Caliphates	
Oct 26	Inca	
Oct 31	Aztecs	
Nov 2	Maya	
Nov 7	Africa: Great Zimbabwe and Ghana	
Nov 9	NO CLASS	
Nov 14	South Pacific	
Nov 16	Angkor Wat	Doing History Paper #2 due
Nov 21	Mississippian Culture	
Nov 23	Thanksgiving	
Nov 28	Review	Material Culture paper due
Dec 5		Final Exam