

Instructor: Caroline Kelly
History Department
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Office MHRA 2114

HIST 220 Ancient World

Course Description

This course surveys the ancient civilizations of Egypt, the Near East, and the world of classical Greece and Italy through the reign of Constantine.

Course Outline

Throughout the semester we will explore the political, social, and religious history of the ancient world using a combination of lecture and assigned readings (textbook and primary sources). There will be in addition several hands-on classroom activities which are designed to allow us to work closely with a few specific primary sources that can be used to illustrate unique characteristics of the societies in question and/or common historical approaches to reconstructing the past. Regular quizzes will test retention of essential facts. Reflection papers will be assigned in conjunction with the classroom activities which are designed to help students make connections between the materials we are working with in class and the modern world. Essay exams will test students' understanding of the historical processes at work in the ancient world and their ability to analyze primary sources.

Requirements, Assignments and Grading

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| 10% | <u>Attendance and participation</u> : Regular attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at every class. If a student misses more than 2 classes for any reason, a quarter point will be deducted from the final grade for every class missed thereafter. Class discussion is a critical part of this course. Students are expected to show up to class ready to discuss the readings and to contribute to collective learning. Participation in class projects (there will be several) will also count toward this portion of the grade (see below) |
| 10% | <u>Quizzes</u> : Quizzes will be administered regularly to test reading retention. |
| 10% | <u>Presentations</u> : At the end of term, students will work in groups to present on different aspects of doing history (use of texts, historical reconstruction, etc.). This project will serve as a review of key concepts introduced throughout the semester. Students will draw on these presentations for their final reflection paper. |
| 30% | <u>4 Writing assignments</u> : a writing assignment will accompany each section of the course; over the course of the semester, students will choose 3 paper topics on which to write (at least 1 paper must be completed before spring break); these assignments are designed to allow students to reflect on the relationship between the past and the modern world. The final writing assignment will be common to all students and will be based on the end of term presentations. |
| 40% | <u>4 Essay Exams</u> : in-depth, multi-part essays on historical methodology as it relates to the reconstruction of the past; each examination will test students' mastery of the material (with special attention to primary sources) covered since the previous exam |

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In-Class Activities: Over the course of the semester students will be asked to participate in several in-class activities. These activities will typically involve some prep work at home with primary source texts, with maps, and/or diagrams. In these classroom activities we will narrow the range of our focus, working closely with one or two specific pieces of evidence to address broad historical questions (examples are exploring the intersection of text and archaeology or comparing and contrasting the function of political institutions, such as law, in the ancient world with those in the modern world). Instructions for each in-class projects will be distributed beforehand and students will be graded on their participation as a part of their overall class participation grade. Each activity, moreover, is designed to contribute to the learning goals of the course and will serve as a stepping-stone toward mastery of the material that will appear on the exams.

Textbooks (Required)

- Brendan, Nagle. *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*; 7th edition, 2009
- Primary source reading selections (posted to Blackboard)

Miscellaneous

The instructor reserves the right to make minor changes to the syllabus as needed.

No cell phones are to be visible or audible during class.

No web surfing.

Please bring your textbook and any primary source readings for that day to class.

I do not provide lecture notes. You are very welcome to come to my office hours and I will go over anything you missed.

Nametags are a requirement.

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Course Schedule

Week 1

Jan 10: Introduction to the course

Jan 12: How we do history; sources; places; names: let's make a chart!

Jan 14: Mesopotamia; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 1 through Early Mesopotamian History; *Enuma Elish* (entire)

Week 2

Jan 17: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: NO CLASS

Jan 19: Mesopotamia; assignment due: *Gilgamesh*

Jan 21: *Epic of Gilgamesh* (entire)

Week 3

Jan 24 Pharaonic Egypt; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 1 The Egyptian Alternative

Jan 26 Pyramids; assignment due: selections on pyramids and Egypt

Jan 28 Video on the Great Pyramid at Giza; introduction to the conflicting theories on construction for upcoming class activity; assignment due: primary source review

Week 4

Jan 31 **Activity:** Make your case! Who built it and how? paper topic 1 due

Feb 2 The Legend of Babylon; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 2 Mesopotamia in the Age of Hammurabi; chapter 3 The Glory of Assyria and Babylon selections from law code of Hammurabi; selections on the Hanging Gardens; Berosus' *Babylonica*; the Bible; Herodotus

Feb 4 EXAM ONE

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Week 5

Feb 7 the Hebrews; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 2 Abraham, the Patriarchs, and the Origins of Israel; chapter 3

Feb 9 the Israelites; assignment due: *Genesis* selections; *Exodus* selections

Feb 11 **Activity:** Violation! paper topic 2 due

Week 6

Feb 14 Archaic Greece; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 4

Feb 16 Archaic Greece; assignment due: *Odyssey*, Books 1, 6, 9, 18, 19

Feb 18 Archaic Greece; assignment due: *Odyssey*, Books 20-24

Week 7

Feb 21 **Activity:** Constructing Homer's Greece

Feb 23 Classical Greece; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 6

Feb 25 Plays of Sophocles' VIDEO

Week 8

Feb 28 EXAM TWO

Mar 2 Alexander the Great; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 7 through Aims of Alexander

Mar 4 VIDEO on Alexander the Great

Week 9

Mar 7 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

Mar 9 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

Mar 11 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

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Week 10

Mar 14 **Activity:** Uncovering the Real Alexander; assignment due: Alexander sources; paper topic 3 due

Mar 16 Conflicting Cultures: the Hellenistic World; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 7, Alexander's Successor to end; *1 Maccabees* selections

Mar 18 Origins of Rome; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 8

Week 11

Mar 21 Rome; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 9; Livy selections

Mar 23 Rome; assignment due: Nagle, chapter 10; Polybius selections

Mar 25 Rome; assignment due: Plautus, *Pseudolus* (entire)

Week 12

Mar 28 Augustus; assignment due: Nagle, chapters 11 and 12; *Res Gestae*; Tacitus selections; Suetonius selections

Mar 30 **Activity:** Mapping Rome; paper topic 4 due

Apr1 EXAM THREE

Week 13

Apr 4 Christianity; assignment due: Nagle, chapters 13 and 14; Paul's *Letter to the Roman* selections

Apr 6 Christianity; assignment due: *Gospel of Luke* selections

Apr 8 Roman Law; assignment due: selections from the *Digest*

Week 14

Apr 11 **Activity:** Roman Law Then and Now; paper topic 5 due

Apr 13 The Martyrs; assignment due: *Martrydom of St. Polycarp* (entire)

Apr 15 Constantine; assignment due; Eusebius' *Life of Constantine* selections

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Week 15

Apr 18 presentations

Apr 20 presentations

Apr 22 NO CLASS

Week 16

Apr 25 EXAM FOUR DUE 4th papers due