

HIS 206-01-04: Global Developments to 1500

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Simply put, we are going to be trying to understand the history of the world up to about 1500. This reflects the assumptions 1) that the world as a whole has a history (as opposed to numerous separate histories), 2) that there are distinct *global* developments over time which are shared by or affect numerous peoples throughout the world, and 3) that it is meaningful to view these in the broadest terms rather than as part of regional or national histories. Students should acquire a grasp of the basic patterns of human history up the early modern period, that is, up to about 1500. Our text, *Ways of the World. A Brief Global History with Sources*, 3rd ed., vol. 1, by Robert W. Strayer and Eric W. Nelson will be our primary resource, and we will be reading it closely. Lectures will provide further explanation and, at times, supplementary details, but will follow Strayer and Nelson's organizational structure and interpretive approach. Occasionally internet resources add to the text and lecture material.

The class is divided into common lecture meetings for all sections on Monday and Wednesday in Ferguson 100 and separate Discussion Group meetings on Friday. Discussion Group meetings provide opportunities to address any problems with the reading or lecture material. They also serve as opportunities to look closely at primary sources connected with the week's readings and to practice looking at historical developments from a world historical perspective. Friday assignments in the syllabus or the question posed in the syllabus provide starting points for discussion, but there are no boundaries to what we may discuss. It is expected that students will bring questions they have to each discussion meeting—big questions and little questions—as well as personal views about interpretations.

In addition to the Discussion Group assignments, there are 3 exams, each dealing with the material from 1 of the 3 Parts of the text. The exams have a two-fold format—identification items and short answer questions. These test your familiarity with major figures, events, concepts, and places dealt with in each Part of the text and your understanding of the themes and the illustrative cases dealt with in each Part of the text. Study guides will be distributed before each exam.

Discussion Group meeting times and locations are:
206-01 Ferguson 248 F 11-11:50 (Richard Smith)
206-02 Ferguson 113 F 12-12:50 (Richard Smith)

Evaluations will be based on performance on exams (60%) and the various writing assignments (25%) and participation in class discussion (15%). Study guides will be provided before each examination.

Required Text: Robert W. Strayer and Eric W. Nelson, *Ways of the World. A Brief Global History with Sources*, 3rd edition, vol. 1, (= S), available at UNCG Bookstore

Class Schedule/Assignments (reading assignments are to be completed by the time of the class connected with them (e.g., read S 2-20 *before* class on 1/23).

The textbook uses what it calls “a themes and cases approach to world history”. This means that the authors identify the main themes (think of these as “storylines” or major developments) for each part of world history in general terms and provide after this specific information about different regions, societies, and cultures (the “cases”) which illustrate the themes. You will find the themes identified in The Big Picture essay at the beginning of each of the three parts that make up volume 1 of the text. This is the important starting point and you must know the themes before you move on to the more specific material. The text typically uses the same approach chapter by chapter, restating and amplifying the relevant part of the theme to set up the “cases” each chapter describes. Make sure you pay attention to the theme statements at the beginning of each chapter.

1/18 Orientation	Read the Strayer’s Preface, pages x-xiv, paying particular attention to the sections entitled “The Dilemma of World History” and “Organizing World History”
1/20 Discussion	Geography, Climate, and Adaptation; look closely at map on pages 16-17
1/23 Peopling the Planet	S 2-20
1/25 Paleolithic Patterns	S 20-24
1/27 Discussion	Using primary sources: S xxxvi-xxxix, 49-57
1/30 Agricultural Revolution	S 24-40
2/1 Various societies in the Age of the Agricultural Revolution	S 40-47
2/3 Discussion	In Chapter 1, there are 8 sections labeled in red type (they are listed in the chapter outline in the left margin on p. 11), which begin with an overview of the developments discussed in each section. There is always a sentence in each overview which

states in concise fashion the main point or theme of the section. Find and copy out that sentence in each of the first five red sections in Chapter 1 (this means bring this in written form to your discussion class); be prepared to answer questions 2-4 on p. 47.

- 2/6 Civilization: Definitions and Descriptions** S 59-70
- 2/8 Social and Political Consequences** S 70-80
- 2/10 Discussion** S 89-90; write (and bring to class) your answer to the “Seeking the Main Point” question on p. 60 (“What distinguished ‘civilizations’ from earlier Paleolithic and Neolithic societies?”); be prepared to discuss Questions 1, 2, and 4 on p. 90
- 2/13 Civilizations Close Up** S 80-88, 91-107;
<http://www.harappa.com/har/har0.html>
- 2/15 Discussion/Review** Be prepared to discuss Question 3 on p. 90 and all study guide material
- 2/17 FIRST EXAM** Go to your Discussion Classrooms for the exam
- 2/20 Second Wave Civilizations: The Big Picture** S 96-103, 260-264, 289-290
- 2/22 Second Wave Civilizations: Details** S 117-144
- 2/24 Discussion** Use Strayer’s introduction to Chapter 3 to produce a definition of “empire” and to describe what common problems all the Eurasian empires of the second-wave era faced (write this out and bring to your discussion class); S 146-163; be prepared to discuss Questions 1 and 4 on pp. 144-145
- 2/27 Social Structures** S 190-219
- 3/1 Cultural and Religious Traditions I** S 146-164, 183-189
- 3/3 Discussion** Identify in Strayer’s first two red sections in Chapter 4 the

sentences which provide the main general point for each section (write them out and bring to your discussion class). Be prepared to answer Question 3 on p. 196

3/6 Cultural and Religious Traditions II S 165-181; 220-227

3/8 Africa/Americas S 228-271

3/10 Discussion Provide (in written form) an answer to Question 4 on p. 264

3/13-17 Spring Break

3/20 Review

3/22 SECOND EXAM

3/24 Discussion

3/27 Age of Accelerating Connections: Big Picture S 272-279

3/29 Trade and Communication S 280-321

3/31 Spring Holiday

4/3 3rd Wave Civilizations: China S 322-337, 349-353, 356-361

4/5 3rd Wave Civilizations: Korea, Vietnam, Japan S 337-349

**4/7 Discussion Read the “Constitution of Prince Shotoku” and identify (in written form) the concepts and practices that reflect borrowings from China
<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/shotoku.pdf>**

4/10 Islam I S 362-382, 339-407

4/12 Islam II S 382-397 (Note and try to answer the question posed in the “Summing Up So Far” box on p. 390

4/14 Discussion Using Strayer’s discussion on pp. 390-396, answer (= write your answer and bring it to the discussion class) Question 3 on p. 397. Be prepared to answer Questions 1, 2, and 4 on p. 397

- 4/17 European Christendom I S 408-424**
- 4/19 European Christendom II S 424-446, 449-455**
- 4/21 Discussion Answer in written form Question 1 on p. 447**
- 4/24 Mongols I S 456-480, 488-497**
- 4/26 Mongols II S 480-487**
- 4/28 Discussion Write an answer to question 3 on p. 487. Be prepared to answer Questions 4 and 5 on p. 487**
- 5/1 15th Century (East meets West) S 498-534**
- 5/2 Discussion/Review Be prepared to answer question 3 on p. 534**
- 5/10 FINAL EXAM 8-11 a.m.**