

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*, 4th 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 Graham 212 and separate Discussion Group meetings on Friday (locations below). 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. 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. Brief Writing Assignments (a paragraph to a page in length) are due for each Discussion Group meeting. These are responses to the Writing Assignment questions that appear in the syllabus. Students should complete The assignments and submit to their Discussion Group leader as directed.

Discussion Group meeting times and locations are:

206-01 MHRA 1207 10-10:50 (Loper)

206-02 MHRA 2210 11-11:50 (Loper)

206-03 SOEB 219 10-10:50 (Williams)

206-04 Graham 212 11-11:50 (Williams)

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*, 4th 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 2-19 *before* class on 1/13).

- 1/14 Orientation Read Strayer's *Prologue*, pages xlix-xvi
- 1/16 Four Beginnings through 500 BCE S 2-19; look closely at the map on pages 14-15
- 1/18 Discussion **Writing Assignment:** Using the text's section and subsection headings as your headings, outline story of the globalization of humankind presented in pages 10-19. Under the headings, add information about chronology (time) and other pertinent details
- 1/21 No Class—Martin Luther King Holiday
- 1/23 Paleolithic Patterns S 19-23
- 1/25 Discussion Using primary sources: S xlv-xlvii, 44-51;
Writing Assignment: Read and look at the Aboriginal sources on pages 44-49; then write a paragraph in which you describe the questions that you think these stories and visual images are trying to answer
- 1/28 Agricultural Revolution S 23-39
- 1/30 Various societies in the Age of the Agricultural Revolution S 39-42
- 2/1 Discussion **Writing Assignment:** Write an answer to the Guided Reading Question posed in the margin of page 27—"What accounts for

the emergence of agriculture after countless millennia of human life without it?"

- 2/4 **Civilization: Definitions and Descriptions** S 53-65
- 2/6 **Social and Political Consequences** S 65-74
- 2/8 **Discussion** S 89-90; **Writing Assignment:** provide an answer to the Guided Reading Question posed in the margin on page 62—
“What Accounts for the initial breakthroughs to civilization?”
- 2/11 **Civilizations Close Up** S 74-82, 84-91;
<http://www.harappa.com/har/har0.html>
- 2/13 **Discussion/Review** Review the Study Guide
- 2/15 **FIRST EXAM** Go to your Discussion Classrooms for the exam
- 2/18 **Second Wave Civilizations: The Big Picture** S 92-97
- 2/20 **Second Wave Civilizations: Details** S 99-129
- 2/22 **Discussion** **Writing Assignment:** Using Strayer’s introductory statements on pages 99-100, write out his definition of “empire” and explain what three problems all empires of the 2nd wave era faced
- 2/25 **Social Structures** S 187-222
- 2/27 **Cultural and Religious Traditions I** S 141-155; 176-183
- 3/1 **Discussion** **Writing Assignment:** What are the “larger cultural or religious traditions that emerged from the civilizations of the second-wave era”? What is the difference between a cultural tradition and a religious tradition?

- 4/10 Islam I S 357-365, 391-395
- 4/12 Discussion Read and look at the sources on pages 391-400.
Writing Assignment: Using Strayer pages 358-363, discuss the ways in which the basic ideas and practices of Islam resemble those of Judaism and Christianity and the ways in which they differ?
- 4/15 Islam II S 365-389, 397-401
- 4/17 European Christendom I S 403-415
- 4/19 Spring Holiday—No Discussion
- 4/22 European Christendom II S 415-437, 438-446
- 4/24 Mongols I S 449-464
- 4/26 Discussion **Writing Assignment:** Discuss how the Mongols were able to gain control of most of Eurasia in the 13th century.
- 4/29 Mongols II S 464-480, 481-489
- 5/1 15th Century S 493-525
- 5/6 FINAL EXAM 12-3 p.m. in Graham 212