

SYLLABUS

History 206: Afro-Eurasian Civilization, Religion, and Society to about 1650
Spring 2020 TR 12:30 – 1:45 MHRA 1214

Instructor: Timothy M Reagin

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Hours: TR 11:30 – 12:00, 2:00 – 3:00, by appt.

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

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

Course Description

This course surveys civilizations, religions, and societies in Europe, North Africa, and Asia from pre-history to about 1650 A.D. Our focus will be on political, economic, social, cultural, and military trends as well as significant and representative people and events.

In addition to the course textbook, we will explore supplementary books and assigned readings that allow an in-depth analysis of key figures and events. It is expected that the course will sharpen critical thinking, concise writing, and perceptive reading.

Our overall goal here is to investigate major events, people, movements, and ideas that shaped Eurasian society before the modern period. It is also my goal to introduce you to historical thinking skills. Regardless of your major, learning history and the skills of an historian can be valuable to you at UNCG and in your future career. History is not, to the surprise of many, simply the memorization of facts and dates. Rather, history teaches us all transferable skills that apply to every major and career path. Skills that we will learn this semester include: evaluating evidence, evaluating significance, analysis of documents, and synthesizing ideas.

Course Objectives and Gen. Ed. Markers. Field: Europe. Markers: .GHP .GL .GPM.

General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP), Historical Perspectives (GPM) Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources

representing divergent perspectives. (GHP 1) 2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing. (GHP 2)

General Education Global Perspectives (GL) Student Learning Outcomes: 1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse

cultures, polities, and/or intellectual traditions. (GN 1) 2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (GN 2) 3. Use

diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.(GN 3). GPM – Pre-Modern Historical Perspectives.

Instructor's Objectives

1. Use contemporary film depictions of history to investigate popular views of history. 2. Foster collegiality through small group discussions of primary sources and historical thinking skills. 3. Introduce students to history and historical thinking skills including: Evaluating evidence, determining significance, and synthesizing an argument.

Teaching Methods

History 206 will be taught through a variety of methods. I will offer lecture presentations for content. Additionally, we will read primary documents, secondary materials, and watch documentaries to promote classroom discussion.

Supplemental readings will play a key role in classroom discussion throughout the semester and developing the historical thinking skills outlines in our Student Learning Outcomes. We will reserve time noted on the schedule to discuss weekly readings. We will address wide-ranging big historical questions. As such, your participation will be essential to learning in this class in order to answer our big questions.

Required Readings and Videos: *Mythology* is available as an e-book through UNCG's library. Please search it in the library webpage. You only need to purchase these from the bookstore if you prefer a physical copy. I will show you how to download them to your computer/tablet if you need assistance. However, you choose, you must have both. You may also check them out but keep in mind that others in this class will also need to read them this semester. Both videos are available through our library as e-videos. Follow the links below and sign in with your UNCG library information to view them (you do not need a Films on Demand account, your UNCG info is your account). You may also search the titles on our library website. I am sure that you can buy them as DVDs from somewhere if you want to, but I have not ordered them for the bookstore. I will show you how to access these if you are unclear.

BOOK: Edith Hamilton, *Mythology*, (there are many different editions, any edition will do)

BOOK: Keith Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome*

VIDEO: *The Crusades: Crescent and the Cross* e-video link <https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/878700290>

VIDEO: *The Plague* (Films for the Humanities & Sciences [2012]) e-video link https://fod-infobase-com.libproxy.uncg.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=47372

VIDEO: *Genghis Khan* e-video youtube playlist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgYYUZGNSO8&list=PL312AC5EAFB69F072>

Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

Movie Analysis: 100 Points (GHP 1 + 3)

Students will select and watch a movie from the list that I provide you. Students will then complete a 3-4-page paper on their thoughts of the film and respond to a prompt provided by the instructor. It is important to employ what you learn in the class and readings to determine if the movie is accurate or not. You may not use one of the documentary analysis videos, those are part of a separate assignment. The following is for extra credit and is not required: You may put together a short 3-5 minute powerpoint presentation to explain your analysis to the class, see the assignment handout for more info.

Reading Questions: 2 x 50 points each = 100 Points (GHP 1, GL 1+2)

Students will read two books, *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (a classic) and *Slavery and Society at Rome* by Keith Bradley. Students will answer, in essay form, a series of questions provided on a handout. You may turn this in online on Canvas or as a hard copy in class, do not email it to me. Answers must be typewritten in Times New Roman (or a very similar/professional font) 12 point font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins on all sides. There are no length requirements so long as you answer the question sufficiently. I will assign particular pages every week until the due date, check the schedule below for details. By the due date, you will read the whole book.

Docu-Drama Analysis: 100 Points (GHP 1, GL 1+2)

Students will watch three docu-drama videos produced by the history channel (from when they actually made history programs) or the BBC. This is distinct from the movie analysis you are doing. They are about 90 minutes long. You must watch all three, but you only need to write an analysis on one, all three are testable material. You will need to view it and write a three to four page reflection. In order to succeed on this reflection, you must briefly summarize the contents of the video in about two pages and then reflect for one to two pages. The reflection is open ended in nature. Pick something in the video that stood out to you and explain why and how it stood out. You may also connect the videos to what we learn in class. You may turn this in online on Canvas or as a hard copy in class, do not email it to me. Answers must be typewritten in Times New Roman (or a very similar/professional font) 12 point font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins on all sides. *NOTE THAT THERE ARE THREE videos you will watch but you only write about ONE, you may pick which one you wish to analyze.*

Working with Evidence Exercises: 25 points each x 4 = 100 points (GHP 1 + 2, GL 1, 2, +3)

Students will complete four "Working with Evidence" exercises during the semester. Each assignment will be available on our Canvas webpage. Please check the modules section under the heading "Working with Evidence," they are in PDF format. Students must answer each question at the end of the assignment in hand written or type written form to be turned in, in class, on the due date listed on the syllabus. Please note: You will only be answering the questions at the very end of each set of sources under the "doing history" section.

Mid-Term Examination: 100 Points (GHP 1 + 2, GL 1, 2, +3)

Students will complete an exam covering the first half of the course material. Questions will include short answer identifications, short essays, and book analysis for the book you did not write a reflection on. You will have multiple options to choose from on this exam. Answers will be judged on accuracy, employment of historical thinking skills, and abundance of historical information. If you have an extremely substantial and documented reason for missing the mid-term, contact me at the earliest possible time to schedule a make-up time. It is your responsibility to notify me as early as possible to schedule the make-up. Please bring a pen.

Final Examination: 100 Points (GHP 1 + 2, GL 1, 2, +3)

Students will complete an exam covering the final half of the course material. Questions will include short answer identifications short essays, and book analysis for the book you did not write a reflection on. Answers will be judged on accuracy, employment of historical thinking skills, and abundance of historical information. You will have multiple options on this exam. The final examination is not cumulative but will include important material from the mid-term as I see fit. There will be no make-up time for the final. Please bring a pen.

Attendance and General Participation: 100 points

I will pass around a daily attendance sheet that you must sign. I expect every student to attend every class session. Attendance and participation will count towards a portion of your grade. You can miss 3 class meetings before I begin deducting points from your final grade. Since the course is out of a total number of points, I will deduct 5 points from your final grade per absence beyond the third. **I do not distinguish between excused or unexcused absences.** Students

are expected to attend every class, be attentive, and act in an adult manner. The correlation between class attendance and student grades is strongly related. If you absolutely have to miss a class for a serious reason, I suggest you get the class notes from a classmate. It is your responsibility to keep up with the class notes and readings. Please raise your hand if you have a question about anything I say. We will also watch short videos and documentaries in this course. I will ask you to write a short reflection on these – the points for that will come from this category. Do not be late to class. Two latenesses will equal an absence. I will calculate your percentage at the end of the semester and that will be your attendance grade. For example, if you attend 47 out of 50 class sessions your final attendance grade will be 94%. Your participation grade will come from discussion throughout the semester. I will keep notes on how much participation each student achieved.

Total: 800 Points

Divide your total earned points by 800 and you will arrive at your percentage. Everyone starts this class with 800 points and receives deductions. That's how your assignments work too. Every assignment worth 25 points is what you begin with and you lose points for incorrect answers, for example. This is how I grade. It is up to you to prove to me (through evidence) that you should keep the full credit. Final grade calculations as follows:

93+ = A, 90-93 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 63-66 = D, 60-62 = D-, 59 = F

Late Work:

I will accept late work at a 10% per day, including weekends, grade reduction. For example: This class ends at 1:45pm. If I don't have your assignment in my hand at that time the clock will start. This does not mean that you will earn a 9 out of 10 if you turn it in one day late, it means you will earn whatever grade you do and then I will take 10% off. If you hand me a subpar assignment and it earned 7 out of 10 points, the lateness will turn it into a 6 out of 10 and so on.

Code of proper classroom conduct

The classroom is a learning environment and requires appropriate behavior. A higher degree of maturity and consideration for others is expected of you now that you are in college. Students will NOT: 1.) talk to neighbors or whisper during class, 2.) arrive or depart as they please, 3.) eat in class, 4.) use cell phone telephones, I know when you are texting, TURN IT OFF, I can hear vibrations and so can everyone else - it's distracting and annoying. Students WILL: 1.) raise your hand if you have a question, 2.) attend to bathroom needs before or after class, 3.) eat before or after class - I'm okay with drinks. I take all of this very seriously and I expect you to take it seriously too.

I encourage, and love, questions and comments. Raise your hand during class, see me before or after class, or during my office hours.

At the first sign of trouble - come to me and I will help you. I may not know you are having problems if you don't come to me.

Academic Integrity

The best learning environment is one based on mutual respect and trust. There are no mitigating circumstances to justify academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism, please ask - Ignorance is no excuse. Discovery of academic dishonesty will bring stiff penalties, including a failing grade for the assignment in question and possibly a grade of F for the course. The maximum penalty at ACC for plagiarism is possible expulsion from the entire state school system, so for your own sakes, DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Don't think you can fool me. I have been reading and writing history for many years now. You will be caught if you plagiarize. This is not a challenge; this is a plea. Don't do it, it will ruin your career as a student at UNCG.

Additional Information

I want you to succeed in this class. Please come see me if you are having trouble, or if you want to talk history! Ask questions, read often, study often. Please see me or have the OARS office contact me if you require a disability accommodation as soon as possible. For accommodations including additional test time or distraction free zones, you must register with the university's office or I will not be able to accommodate you.

The course schedule on the following page will change as circumstances dictate. Considering the breadth of material that we have to cover in a short period of time, do not be surprised if I have to revise the schedule. I will announce in class and by email if I need to make changes.

If you need to contact me outside of class, email me. I check it several times daily.

If class is cancelled for any reason - snow, hurricanes, or a sick instructor - you will be notified on your UNCG issued email address, so check it often.

Course Schedule [Assignments as assigned in bold]

Week 1 (1/14-1/16)

Course introduction, Syllabus, What is history?, Primary and secondary sources.
Early Mesopotamia, Early Egypt

Week 2 (1/21-1/23) [Working with Evidence (Canvas): Indus Valley Civilization, due 1/23 in class]

Early India, Early China, Chinese Philosophy, and Indian Religion, Israelites and Zoroastrianism

Week 3 (1/28-1/30) [Begin Reading *Mythology* Introduction and Part One: Chapters 1 and 3]

Greek Civilization, Athens and Sparta, Persian Wars, Classical Greece, Northern Africa

Week 4 (2/4-2/6) [Begin Reading *Mythology* Part Three: Chapters 9 - 12]

Alexander, the Diadochi, and legacy in Asia/Persia

Week 5 (2/11-2/13) [Begin Reading *Mythology* Part Four: Chapters 13-15]

Iran, Inner Asia, Indian Empire

Week 6 (2/18-2/20) [Working with Evidence (Canvas): Travelers' Tales, due 2/20 in class] [Begin Reading *Mythology* Part Seven: Chapters 22 and 23]

Qin Unification, Han Dynasty, Imperial China

Week 7 (2/25-2/27) [Reading Questions: *Mythology*, due 2/27 by 8:00am] [Video Reflection: *Genghis Khan*, due 2/25 by 8:00am if you chose this one]

Mongolia, Japan, Miyamoto Musashi

Week 8 (3/3-3/5) Last day to withdraw without a WF is Monday 3/9)

SPRING BREAK, no classes

Week 9 (3/10-3/12) [Begin Reading *Slavery and Society at Rome*]

Review, MID TERM EXAM 3/12, please bring a pen and your brain

Week 10 (3/17-3/19) [Continue Reading *Slavery and Society at Rome*]

The Etruscans and Rome, The Republic, The Empire

Week 11 (3/24-3/26) [Reading Questions: *Slavery and Society at Rome*, due 3/26 by 8:00am]

The Fall of Rome, The Byzantines, Middle Aged Europe

Week 12 (3/31-4/2) [Video Reflection: *The Crusades: Crescent and the Cross*, due 4/2 8:00am if you chose this one]

Feudalism, The Rise of Islam, The Crusades

Week 13 (4/7-4/9) [Working with Evidence (Canvas): Life of the Prophet, due 4/9 in class]

The Renaissance, Medieval Medicine

Week 14 (4/14-4/16) [Working with Evidence (Canvas): Making of Christian Europe, due 4/16 in class]

The Reformation, English Reformation, Tudor-Stuart England

Week 15 (4/21-4/23) [Video Reflection: *The Plague*, due 4/23 by 8:00am if you chose this one]

English society in the Middle Ages

Week 16 (4/28) [Movie Analysis: due 4/28 by 8:00am]

Review for final, and powerpoints

Final Exam on Friday May 1 10th from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm outlined by the University's final exam schedule in our regular classroom, please bring a pen and your brain.