

Spring 2021 | University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Instructor: Mr. Anderson Rouse | Email: arrouse@uncg.edu
Office Hours: over Zoom, by appointment

HIS 206-01 - Topics in Premodern Western History: “Survey of Premodern Global History” ONLINE

Course Syllabus

“Civilization is movement and not a condition, a voyage and not a harbor.” – Arnold Toynbee, *Reader’s Digest*, 1955.

Course Description: This course provides a broad overview of world history in the pre-modern era from early Paleolithic societies to 1500 CE. It emphasizes connection, comparison, and change across Eurasia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. This course pays particular attention to wide-ranging world developments - population movements, trade, and cultural exchange - and webs of connection between societies. This course also examines the origins and histories of distinctive societies and cultural traditions in Africa, Eurasia, China, South Asia, the Near East and the Western Hemisphere. Students should gain a broad and balanced understanding of the most significant social, political, and cultural developments of human societies up to the eve of the modern era. In this course, we will be exploring five main themes or ideas:

- 1) interconnection and divergence;
- 2) crossing religious, political, and cultural borders;
- 3) transformations and conflicts;
- 4) changes in world power arrangements; and,
- 5) the important roles that gender, identity, and environmental forces play in shaping societies.

Course Learning Objectives: Upon completing HIS 206, you will be able to:

1. Explain significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in early world history. (CLO 1)
2. Analyze continuity and change and explain large-scale and long-term historical developments of regional, interregional, and global scope from roughly 12,000 BCE to 1500 CE. (CLO 2)

General Education Historical Perspectives 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 Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures. (GL 1)
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America). (GL 2)

3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues. (GL 3)

Required Reading Materials:

Pollard, Rosenberg, et al., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart* (concise 2nd edition), volume 1 (W.W. Norton, 2019) (ISBN: 9780393668544)

You are **required** to obtain this book– by purchasing it from the UNCG Bookstore or another retailer or by borrowing it – for this course. Other course materials will be posted to Canvas.

Evaluation and Assessment:

The class will be graded based on student performance in four (4) categories:

Terms and Concepts Quizzes: 20% of final grade

Students will complete weekly online reading quizzes throughout the course of the semester. These quizzes will assess students' comprehension of the reading material and their familiarity with key terms and concepts. *Assesses CLO 1*

Document Analysis Activities: 30% of final grade

Students will complete **three (3)** document analysis activities. Throughout the semester, students will analyze collections of primary source documents. These activities will allow student to practice and demonstrate their ability to use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives, as well as to develop their information literacy skills. *Assesses GHP 1, GHP 2, and GL 2.*

Midterm and Final Examinations: 30% of final grade

Students will complete two exams covering the course material. Questions will include short answer identifications, short essays, and primary source analysis. You will have multiple options to choose from on these exams. Answers will be judged on accuracy, employment of historical thinking skills, and sufficient use of historical information. *Assesses GL 1, GL 3, GHP 1, and CLO 2*

Discussion Boards: 20% of final grade

Course Policies and Resources:

- **Late Policy:**

It is important to hand in assignments on time, both for this class and as practice for the professional world. For every day that a paper is late, I will deduct 10% from the paper grade. If you know of any reason in advance that you will not be able to hand in an assignment on time, please inform the instructor.

- **Quizzes:**

You will not be able to make up quizzes after the day they are assigned. If you know that you, for whatever reason, will be unable to take the quiz on the due date, you should take the quiz ahead of time. **I will drop the two (2) lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester.**

- **Academic Accommodations**

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. If you feel you will encounter any barriers to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS). The OARS staff can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can learn more about OARS by visiting their website at <https://ods.uncg.edu/> or by calling 336-334-5440 or visiting them in Suite 215, EUC.

- **Health and Wellness**

Your health impacts your learning. Throughout your time in college, you may experience a range of health issues that can cause barriers to your learning. These might include physical ailments, illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may be experiencing. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. Help is always available.

- **Academic Support**

For assistance with writing assignments, contact the UNCG Writing Center, where staff members hold appointments both in person and via instant-messaging. The Digital Media Commons and the Digital ACT Studio in Jackson Library provide help with multimedia projects and UNCG's Speaking Center offers a great resource for building public, small-group or individual speaking skills.

- **Academic Integrity & Plagiarism**

The UNC-Greensboro community values integrity in the work of its students. To that end, you must submit work that you yourself have written. Copying the work of others and passing it off as your own (known as plagiarizing) will not be tolerated. The consequences for plagiarism can include receiving a zero for the assignment, a failing grade for the class and/or university sanctions. You should be familiar with UNCG's policy on academic integrity, available at <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>.

Furthermore, for this course, you may not "self-plagiarize" – that is, all assignment submissions for this course should be original to this class, and not a resubmission of prior work. As a course policy, rather than as a university-wide policy, self-plagiarism only carries an academic penalty.

- **Syllabus Revisions**

The instructor for this course reserves the right to alter the syllabus with advance notification to students.

- **Communication**

As an instructor, I am committed to being available and accessible. I am also always available by email. During the week (Monday through Friday) I will make every effort to respond to your initial inquiry within 48 hours, but if I do not, please follow up. Students are expected to be professional and courteous in their email communications (correct grammar and spelling are always appreciated, and “please” and “thank you” truly are the “magic words.”

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor.

Week	Overview	Assignments (due dates in parentheses)
WEEK 1: 01/19-01/24	Introductions; Defining and Doing History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read Benjamin, "How Historians Work" (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Read Andrews and Burke, "What Does It Mean to Think Historically?" (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> "Getting to Know You" Discussion (due on 01/24 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Thinking Skills Quiz (due on 01/24 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 2: 01/25-01/31	Becoming Human	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read chapter 1 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 1 (due on 01/31 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 2 Discussion (due on 01/31 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 3: 02/01-02/07	Rivers, Cities, and First States: Mesopotamia and Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read chapter 2, pages 55-77 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Document Analysis Activity #1 (due on 02/07 at 11:59 pm)
WEEK 4: 02/08-02/14	Rivers, Cities, and First States: Indus River Valley, Yellow and Yangzi River Basins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read chapter 2, pages 78-104 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 2 (due on 02/14 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 4 Discussion (due on 02/14 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 5: 02/15-02/21	Nomads, Territorial States, and Micro-societies, 2000-1200 BCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read chapter 3 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 3 (due on 02/21 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 5 Discussion (due on 02/21 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 6: 02/22-02/28	First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read chapter 4 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 4 (due on 02/28 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 6 Discussion (due on 02/28 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 7: 03/01-03/07	An "Axial Age": Socio-political Change in China, South Asia, the Mediterranean World, and the Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read chapter 5 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Take-home Midterm (due on Canvas on 02/27 at 11:59 pm)

WEEK 8: 03/08-03/14	Shrinking the Afro-Eurasian World, 350-100 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 6 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 6 (due on 03/14 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 8 Discussion (due on 03/14 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 9: 03/15-03/21	An Age of Empires: Han Dynasty China, 300 BCE-300 CE	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 7, pages 297-311 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Document Analysis Activity #2 (due on 03/21 at 11:59 pm)
WEEK 10: 03/22-03/28	An Age of Empires: Imperial Rome, 300 BCE-300 CE	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 7, pages 312-342 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 7 (complete on Canvas by 03/28 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 10 Discussion (due on 03/28 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 11: 03/29-04/04	The Rise of Universalizing Religions, 300-600 CE	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 8 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 8 (due on 04/04 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 11 Discussion (due on 04/04 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 12: 04/04-04/11	New Empires and Common Cultures, 600-1000 CE: The Origins and Spread of Islam	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 9, pages 393-411 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Document Analysis Activity #3 (due on Canvas on 04/11 at 11:59 pm)
WEEK 13: 04/12-04/18	New Empires and Common Cultures, 600-1000 CE: Tang China and Western Christendom	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 9, pages 412-442 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 9 (due on 04/18 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 13 Discussion (due on 04/18 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 14: 04/19-04/25	Becoming "The World," 1000-1300	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 10 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 10 (due on 04/25 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 14 Discussion (due on 04/25 @ 11:59 pm)
WEEK 15 04/26-04/28	Crisis and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia, 1300-1500	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 11 in WTWA <input type="checkbox"/> Terms and Concepts Quiz 11 (due on 04/28 @ 11:59 pm)

		<input type="checkbox"/> Week 15 Discussion (due on 04/28 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/>
FINAL EXAM, Due on Canvas by May 5 at 11:59 pm		
<i>**Calendar is Subject to Change by Instructor**</i>		