

COURSE SYLLABUS
WORLD HISTORY FROM PREHISTORY TO THE RENAISSANCE
HIS265.02---(CID3515)---TTH 8:00-9:20AM---AB4 220-Olson Auditorium
(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Nicholas Pappas

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Office Hours, Monday & Wednesday, 11:00 am-12:00 noon and 1:00–3:00 pm

REQUIRED READINGS:

- [J. R. and L. B. Smith, *Essentials of World History*. Haupauge, N.Y.; Barrons Educational Series, 1980. \(*Essentials*\). This is the basic outline text and an aid to help you prepare for exams.](#)
- [MacroHistory by Frank Smitha. \(Smitha\)](#). These are web-based textbooks and interpretations of World History. Chapters from these works are given as links at the beginning of each READINGS. The author has a fascinating background, not your normal phuddy-dud. Read his [about this site](#) and [boring details](#).
- [H.G. Wells, *A Short History of the World*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1922.](#) (Wells) A world history written by one of the fathers of Science Fiction that is old but very interesting

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will acquaint themselves with the political, social, economic and cultural history of the World from earliest times to 1400.
- Students will sharpen their skills in historical interpretation and writing.
- Students will gain a factual knowledge of World history from Prehistory through the Renaissance.
- Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in lectures or text.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- This course will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the World from earliest times to the Fifteenth Century. It will investigate such areas of history as the cradles of civilization, the empires of Ancient Eurasia, Greece, Rome, China, India, Byzantium, Islam, Western Christendom, the Mongols, developments in Africa and the Americas, Muscovy, the Ottoman Empire, and the Renaissance. It will also attempt to assess the impact of these and other subjects upon today's world. Course work will consist of attending lectures, the writing of film reviews, and the taking of map quizzes and objective examinations.

There is no prerequisite for this course beyond the university's approval.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:

- The instructional method in class will primarily involve lectures.
- The class schedule will consist of 3 fifty-minute sessions each week. Each session is allotted to lectures by the instructor, while a portion of each session might be devoted to questions and discussion, as well as to view films.
- Lectures both supplement and complement reading assignments, as well as introduce problems to be brought up in assignments.
- Brief outlines of lectures, lectures maps and other supplementary materials will be distributed to students on BLACKBOARD.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and participate actively in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly and each student is responsible for keeping up with the class through attendance and blackboard announcements. Good attendance will be weighed as a factor in borderline grades. Since there is no penalty for absences and there are no make-ups on assignments, there will be no excused absences.
- **Reading Assignments:** Readings from the e-text are given on a weekly basis in the Course Schedule and Outline. **The instructor reserves the right to change the readings in the Course Schedule and Outline.**
- **Examinations:** Four exams will be presented during the session. Each examination will include about 25 multiple choice, 10 true/false, and 15 matching questions. None of the four exam scores will be dropped. Each examination will count 50 points toward the course grade. In total, the four examinations will count

200 points toward the course grade **The instructor reserves the right to change the dates of examinations in the Course Schedule and Outline.**

- **Geography Quizzes:** Twelve brief geography Quizzes will be presented and are scheduled in the course outline. The two lowest of twelve geography quiz scores will be dropped. Each quiz will count for 10 points for a total of 100 points toward the course grade.
- **Movie Reviews:** Three movie reviews will be assigned during the session. These reviews will be based upon viewing films and reading web sources related to them. In each review, students will, in one paragraph for each numerical item, give their impressions of the film and answer the following questions. How does the film relate to the primary and secondary sources of the web readings? What point of view the film represent (what are the film-makers try to say)? What does it contribute to your understanding of world history? Students will give each film a rating on a scale of 1 to 10. Each review and rating will be worth 50 points. Movie reviews will be due the day following the viewing of each film. The lowest of the three movie review essay scores will be dropped. Each review will be worth 50 points for a total of 100 points toward the course grade. **Each review will be due in class by hard copy on the day stated in the course outline and syllabus. Since the lowest of the three review scores will be dropped, no reviews will be accepted after each deadline, nor makeup reviews are allowed. The instructor reserves the right to change the movie review due dates in the Course Schedule and Outline.**
- **Films to be Reviewed:** Students are view and review at least two of three films for credit worth up to 100 points. The instructor has placed several films for each review in three different sections. Films for review will The titles of the films, the corresponding readings, and format for each review are give in a study guide for each review. Students may choose any of these available titles to view and review. Groups of students can rent and review films as a group, but they must write their reviews as individuals. **Since one of the three film viewings will be dropped from regular credit, no late film reviews are accepted. Be sure to start each film review assignment early and save your review on disk. It is your to view and review your films ON TIME.**
- **Make-ups:** Makeup exams will be given only for legitimate excuses during the last week of the semester. On legitimate excuses, please see the Attendance and Conduct section. Make up exams will consist of one essay from a field of three essay questions. No makeup assignments will be given for movie review essays or map quizzes. **No exceptions will be made. Do not ask.**

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

- Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class, as well as four scantrons for the four examinations.
- Use of a computer with a broadband internet connection for viewing films.
- Use of a computer with a word processing program, and a printer is required for composing reviews.
- If you do not have these at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.
- All assignments will be due in hard copy.
- No e-mailed copies will be accepted.

GRADING PLAN:

- Examinations will count 200 points or 50% of the Course grade. Only students who cannot finish the course because of documented health or emergency problems will be allowed a one extension grade of “X” in order to complete coursework. Students falling behind because of extensive absences or missing assignments during the semester will not be considered for an “X” grade.
- Map Quizzes will be worth 100 points or 25% of the course grade.
- Movie reviews will be worth 100points or 25% of the course grade.

The grade scale will be: 360-400=A; 320-359=B; 280-319=C; 240-279=D; 0-239=F. There will be no extra credit in this class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance for this course is mandatory.

- Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student in the class.
- I will keep a record of student attendance.
- I reserve the right to lower grades of students by one letter grade or more for excessive absences. You may miss **three (3)** classes without penalty—no excuses necessary. Absences beyond the three allowed can result in the lowering of a student’s grade by one letter for the equivalent of one week missed (three absences).
- Only absences with legitimate written excuses (notes from doctors, employers and other officials, published obituaries, etc.) will be considered for exception to the above policy. The instructor will not automatically accept notes from family members. In addition, absences due to participation in extracurricular activities will not automatically be considered legitimate excuses, even with documentation. Because of instances of

fraudulent excuses, authentic copies of the written excuses with addresses and telephone numbers of the issuing party must be given to the instructor. Any instances of fraud will result in expulsion from the class.

- Absence on Religious Holidays: Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day. Refer to the Academic Calendar for the deadline date for notification by students to the faculty members of the student's intent to be absent on religious holy days.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: According to Academic Policy Statement 810213 of SHSU:

- The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.
- The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
- **Cheating** includes:
 - Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
 - Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
 - Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.
 - Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.
 - Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
 - Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- **Plagiarism** means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.
- **Collusion** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.
- **Abuse of resource materials** means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 810213, I may impose failure or reduction of a grade in an assignment or the course, and/or performing additional academic work not required of other students in the course. If I believe that additional disciplinary action is necessary, I may refer the offending student to the Dean of Student Life or his designated appointee for further action.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT: According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook of SHSU:

- Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Laptop computers must be used for the curricular purposes of the course and not for net surfing or recreational purposes. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.
- **We will strictly and assiduously enforce this policy.**

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: According to the Faculty Handbook of SHSU:

In the event an unannounced visitor attends a class, the instructor should request identification in the form of a current and official Sam Houston State University identification card. If the visitor is not a registered Sam Houston State University student, the instructor should act at his/her own discretion or refer the visitor to the department

chair. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the instruction thereof.

Readings and Assignments Schedule

Weekly chapter reading assignments below refer to Smith, *Essentials in World History*, Smitha, *Macrohistory*, and H.G. Wells, *A Short History of the World*. Please be aware that the lectures and weekly readings will not always be synchronous. By the time you take each exam, however, lectures and readings ought to coincide.

Week 1: A PROLOGUE TO THE STUDY OF WORLD CIVILIZATION. (1/17)

- [1\) An Introduction to History and the Early Development of Humankind.](#)
 - READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 1-2; Smitha -- [Primitive Religion and the Rise of Agriculture](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 1-76.
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Week 2: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND EMPIRES OF THE NEAR EAST. (1/22-24)

[2\) Mesopotamia and Egypt.](#)

[3\) Hittites, Assyrians and Persians.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 2-12; Smitha -- [The Sumerians](#) and [Africa and Egypt, to 1750 BCE](#); Smitha -- [New Societies in the Ancient Middle East and The Hebrews between Assyria and Egypt and Babylon, Persia and Judaism](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 77-90, 97-114.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #1

Week 3: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND EMPIRES OF SOUTH AND EAST ASIA. (1/29-31)

[4\) India.](#)

[5\) China.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 280-288, 314-321, 351-353; Smitha -- [India, Hinduism and Religious Rebellion, to 483 BCE](#) and [Empire, Fragmentation and Salvation in Ancient India](#); Smitha -- [The Rise of Ancient China](#) and [The Rise and Fall of Han China](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 156-174.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #2

Week 4: CIVILIZATIONS IN MINIATURE: KINGDOMS AND CITY STATES. (2/5-7)

[6\) Phoenicians, Sea peoples and Israelites.](#)

FIRST EXAMINATION

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 7-10; Smitha -- [The Hebrews between Assyria and Egypt and Babylon, Persia and Judaism](#) and [Judea and Civil War](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 91-96, 115-126.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #3

Week 5: GREEK CIVILIZATION. (2/12-14)

[7\) The Development of Early Greece.](#)

[8\) Hellenic Greece](#)

[9\) Hellenistic Greece.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 47-55, 12-13; Smitha -- [Europe, Greece, and Philosophy, to 500 BCE](#), [The Greeks to the 4th Century BCE](#), [Ideas from Anaxagoras to Aristotle](#), [Alexander Changes the World and Hellenistic Civilization -- an Almost Modern World](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 91-96, 127-155.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #4

FIRST FILM REVIEW DUE

Week 6: ROMAN CIVILIZATION. (2/19-21)

[10\) Republican Rome.](#)

11) Imperial Rome.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 56-58; Smitha -- [The Rise of Ancient Rome and Rome Expands its Empire and Wars at Home -- 200 to 79 BCE](#) and [Fall of the Roman Republic](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 174-195.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #5

Week 7: THE END OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. (2/26-29)

12) Nomadic and Sedentary Worlds.

13) Western Christendom: Its Birth and Growing Pains.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 58-64; Smitha -- [Caligula, Nero and Family -- the Julio-Claudians and Rome, from Golden Age to Political Chaos and Rome's Decline and Christianity's Ascent and Christian Emperors, Persia, and the Fall of Rome](#) and [Augustine Influences Christianity and Persia and Its Religious Mix, to 300 CE](#) and [Persia, Christians and a Communist Uprising](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 196-237.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #6

Week 8: WESTERN CHRISTENDOM. (3/4-6)

SECOND EXAMINATION

14) Manorialism and Feudalism.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 634-68; Smitha -- [Remnants of the Roman Empire: The Warlords of Europe, to 1050](#) and [England, from Arthur to William of Normandy](#); Munro--[Feudalism](#) and [The Peasants](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 258-267.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #7

Week 9 ((3/3-7): SPRING RECESS

Week 10: EASTERN CHRISTENDOM AND ISLAM. (3/18-20)

15) Byzantine Civilization and Early Russia.

16) The Rise of Islam in the Near East, 600-1400.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 13-22, 150-152; Smitha -- [Justinian's War for the Second Coming and Persia and Constantinople Make Way for Islam](#) and [Arabs, Muhammad and Islamic Empire, to 680](#) and [Islam Expands and Fragments](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 238-244, 248-252.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #8

SECOND FILM REVIEW DUE

Week 11: SOUTH AND EAST ASIA IN THE MIDDLE AGES. (3/25-27)

17) India and South Asia.

18) China.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 288-290, 321-324; Smitha -- [Rise and Fall of the Gupta Empire and India, from 500 to 1200 CE](#) and [China, Korea and Japan, to 500 CE](#) and [China, Monarchy and Confucianism, to 1126](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 245-247.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #9

Week 12: EAST ASIA AND AFRICA IN THE MIDDLE AGES. (4/1-3)

19) Japan.

20) Africa.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 353-358, 377-381, 397-403; Smitha -- [China, Korea and Japan, to 500 CE](#) and [Japan, Buddhism and Military Aristocracies](#) and [The Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia and Oceania, to 500 CE](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 245-247.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #10

Week 13 : DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AMERICAS AND OCEANIA. (4/8-10)

THIRD EXAMINATION

21) The Americas and Oceania.

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 254-257; Smitha -- [The Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia and Oceania, to 500 CE](#)

Week 14: HOLY WARS, STEPPE EMPIRES & THE UNIFICATION OF EURASIA. (4/15-17)

[17\) Expansion of Western Christendom--Towns, Trade, and Crusades.](#)

[22\) The Mongol Impact Upon Asia and Europe](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 68-70, 128, 153, 289, 321-323, 324, 326, 357, 380; Smitha -- [Europe, Church and Economic Growth, to 1300](#) and [Genghis Khan, the Mongols and Asia, to 1300 and China, Mongols and the Ming Dynasty](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 267-276, 287-294.

Week 15: THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY: AN ERA OF CRISIS & TRANSITION IN EUROPE. (4/22-24)

[23\) The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. ; Smitha -- [Timur and the Ottoman Turks; and Christendom in the 14th and 15th Centuries](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 277-296.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #11

Week 16: THE WORLD IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. (4/29-5/1)

[24\) Political, Social and Economic Developments.](#)

[25\) Cultural Developments--The World and the Origin of the Renaissance.](#)

READINGS: *Essentials in World History*, pp. 70-78; Smitha --[Christendom in the 14th and 15th Centuries](#); Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 294-304.

THIRD FILM REVIEW DUE

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #12

Week 17: CONCLUSION AND STUDY SESSIONS. (5/6-8)

[26\) The World on the Eve of European Expansion.](#)

Study Sessions

READINGS: Wells, *Short History of the World*, pp. 294-304.

The FOURTH EXAMINATION will be held during Finals Week, 5/10-15 and will be announced later in the semester.