

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO
FALL 2013**

UGC 111LR-A: World Civilizations I

Lecture Tu, Th 1:00-1:50 (+ recitation), Norton Hall, Rm. 112

Dr. Ray Barker

Office: 556 Park Hall

Office Hours: 12 noon - 12:45 Tu/Thurs. and by appointment • •

Cell Phone: (716) 255-1638 (ok to text, but please identify your name and course)

(• please leave a message if you reach my voice-mail)

E-mail: rbarker@buffalo.edu or rayinlondon@yahoo.com

• • Office hours subject to change for departmental and college meetings, which will be posted outside my door.

Teaching Assistants:

Xiangli Ding, xianglid@buffalo.edu

Averill Earls, avey2004@aol.com

Phillip Guingona: phillipg@buffalo.edu

Marissa Rhodes: marissac@buffalo.edu

Location & Meeting Times of Recitation Sections:				Reg. #	Instructor
A-01	M	3:00-3:50	Talbert Hall 112	10173	Averill Earls
A-02	M	2:00-2:50	Clemens Hall 104	10049	Averill Earls
A-03	M	12:00-12:50	Talbert Hall 106	10266	Averill Earls
A-4(Honors)	Tu	11:00-11:50	Capen Hall 109	10566	Dr. Ray Barker
A-05	Tu	10:00-10:50	Clemens Hall 104	10297	Xiangli Ding
A-06	Th	3:00-3:50	Baldy Hall 111	10648	Xiangli Ding
A-07	Tu	12:00-12:50	Baldy Hall 121	10666	Xiangli Ding
A-08	F	9:00-9:50	Clemens Hall 103	10562	Phillip Guingona
A-09	F	11:00-11:50	Clemens Hall 221	10188	Phillip Guingona
A-10	F	10:00-10:50	Clemens Hall 202	10134	Phillip Guingona
A-11	Th	11:00-11:50	Baldy Hall 119	10593	Marissa Rhodes
A-12	Th	12:00-12:50	Baldy Hall 126	10204	Marissa Rhodes
A-13	Th	3:00-3:50	Clemens Hall 206	10205	Marissa Rhodes

Registration number: Use registration number for recitation section

I. Course Description:

This course is a broad, introductory survey of world civilizations in global context from antiquity to 1500. Political history will be the primary emphasis of the course, but we will examine a variety of themes including the major religious and intellectual currents that have shaped civilizations around the globe, the impact of technology, and the evolution of a variety of institutions. No previous experience in history courses is required for this course.

I-B. General Course Objectives:

- To develop critical thinking skills through targeted writing assignments and examinations which emphasize fundamental human problems grounded in specific historical circumstances.
- To introduce students to the basic methodologies of historians in order to further understanding of research and analytical tools.
- To promote the development of verbal skills by establishing an open forum for discussion which promotes critical analysis in a collegial atmosphere open to many different points of view.
- To help students improve their writing ability in terms of style and content.

I-C. SUNY General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- a. demonstrate knowledge of a broad outline of World history.
- b. demonstrate the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture, and political structures of several non-Western civilizations, including ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, India, China, and Japan.
- c. be better able to evaluate historical evidence drawn from primary and secondary sources to understand how historians craft arguments.
- d. compare and contrast the development of Western and non-Western civilizations to better understand historical change and continuities.
- e. identify and describe the broad tenets of a number of world religions and philosophical systems including Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and a variety of polytheistic systems.

II. Required Readings [available for purchase in the UB Bookstore]:

A. TEXT:

Craig, Albert M.; Graham, William A.; Kagan, Donald; Ozment, Steven; and Turner, Frank M. The Heritage of World Civilizations Volume One: To 1700. Ninth edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall (Pearson), 2011. ISBN 10: 0-205-80348-2; ISBN-13: 978-0-205-80348-4

B. Supplemental Readings:

Aristophanes. Lysistrata. Trans. Douglas Parker. Afterword by Judith Fletcher. New York: Signet Classics, 2009. ISBN 0-45-152789-5; ISBN-13: 978-0-45-152789-9 or ISBN-13: 978-0-45-153124-7 [List price: \$5.99]

Confucius. The Analects. Trans. D.C. Lau. New York: Penguin Classics, 1979. Compiled by his pupils, 497 B.C. ISBN 0-14-044348-7; ISBN-13: 978-0-14-044348-6 [List price: \$12]

The Bhagavad Gita. Trans. Juan Mascaró. Introduction by Simon Brodbeck. New York: Penguin Classics, 1962 and 2003. ISBN 0-14-044121-2 or 0-14-044918-3; ISBN-13: 978-0-14-044918-1 [List price: \$10]

III. Course Requirements and Evaluation:

A. Class Format:

This course will be conducted in lecture format with discussion sessions held in separate recitation sections. Lecture sessions will **require note-taking**, but they will also involve a more general discussion of the assigned topic. I am always willing to be interrupted by intelligent questions. Students must prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials. Students will, of course, be expected to contribute to recitation discussions.

B. Attendance Policy:

Class attendance is **mandatory** and will be taken every class by means of an **attendance sheet**. Attendance sheets will be placed at the back of the lecture hall. It is the responsibility of the student to remember to sign his/her name every class. Should you miss class because of illness or for some other reason, please notify me by filling out an **absence notification form** (attached to the syllabus). If necessary, attach pertinent documentation (e.g. doctor's note). **Attendance will count for ten percent of the overall grade**. Excessive absences will result in a penalty to the overall grade.

Late Arrival to Class: I start all classes punctually at the designated time. Please be on time. If you are late, please find a seat by the door and try not to disturb others. You are responsible for any material and/or announcements you might miss.

C. Grades:

I use this system (with pluses and minuses as appropriate):

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69

F below 60
I do not scale or curve grades.

D. Cheating Policy/Academic Integrity:

All University at Buffalo students are automatically bound by the university's **Academic Integrity Policy**. You are responsible for reading and understanding this code, which is available through the university website.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to: 1) giving or receiving answers or using any materials or aids pertinent to examinations or course assignments without permission of the instructor, 2) **plagiarism**, 3) obtaining without permission, manipulating, or interfering with any academic work of another student, 4) buying or selling term papers, examinations, or other written assignments, or any part of them, 5) aiding or abetting the conduct in 1-4, or 6) attempting to engage in any of the conduct in sections 1-5.

It is also considered cheating for anyone to sign a name other than his/her own on an attendance sheet for this course for any reason. **Students that sign a name other than their own will receive a "F" for the attendance/participation portion of the grade for this course.**

Cheating, as described in the above two paragraphs, will not be tolerated, and this instructor will impose the stiffest penalties possible under ECC academic policies. Cheating may result in a **penalty of expulsion**, so please do not cheat under any circumstances.

E. Office of Disability Support Services (Accessibility Resources Office)

Students with medically documented disabilities (as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act), are entitled to reasonable accommodations and may utilize support services through the Accessibility Resources Office. They must self-identify, provide substantiating documentation, register with the A.R.O., and complete the A.R.O. intake form.

F. Make Up Exams Policy and Classroom Etiquette

- I do **not** allow make-ups for missed examinations.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** Since cellular telephones can be a distraction to oneself and to others, please make sure your **phone is turned off** before entering class. Absolutely no texting is allowed in class!

G. Course Requirements

For each class there is an assigned reading. No single act is more important to the understanding of this course and its lectures than to **do the specified reading in advance of the date for which the assignment is given.**

There will be two in-class examinations, one on **October 10th** and the other on **November 19th**, as well as a final examination which will be held **between December 9 and 16**. These exams may include objective questions such as matching and multiple choice, identifications (which ask students to identify and state the historical significance of key terms and concepts) and/or essays, and students will be expected to include material gathered both from assigned readings and class sessions. The examinations are worth 70 percent of the overall grade.

Final Grades to be based on the following scale:

Attendance of Lectures	10%
Quizzes (3)/Recitation	20%
Examinations	70%

* I rarely allow incompletes, and then only in the most extenuating circumstances.

IV. Schedule of Lecture Topics, Discussion Sessions, and Assignments (tentative)

UNIT ONE

I. Week One: Human Beginnings

READ: The Heritage of World Civilizations 9th ed. [hereafter Heritage], Chapter 1, pp. 1-8 (Friday)

Aug. 27 (Tu) **Introduction**

Aug. 29 (R) **What is Civilization?
Origins of Humanity**

Recitations:

Introduction, Roll

II. Week Two: Ancient Mesopotamia

READ: Heritage, Chapter 1, pp. 8-23

Sept. 2 (M) **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: Recitations do NOT meet**

Sept. 3 (Tu) **Sumer, Epic of Gilgamesh**
Last Day to Add or Drop Classes

Sept. 5 (R) **ROSH HASHANAH (JEWISH NEW YEAR): No Classes**

Recitations: Discussion of Sumeria, esp. Epic of Gilgamesh

III. Week Three: Egypt & Ancient Israel

READ: Heritage, Chapter 2, pp. 56-61, 72-73

Sept. 10 (Tu) **Egypt, Part I**

Sept. 12 (R) **Egypt, Part II**
Israel

Recitations: Discussion of Egypt & Israel

IV. Week Four: India

READ: Heritage, Chapter 1, pp. 23-30; Ch. 2 pp. 49-54; Ch. 4 pp. 131-145; and the Bhagavad Gita (entire)

Sept. 17 (Tu) **Indus Civilization**

Sept. 19 (R) **Bhagavad Gita**

Recitations: Bhagavad Gita

V. Week Five: China

READ: Heritage, Chapter 1, pp. 30-35, pp. 40-46, and pp. 54-56

Sept. 24 (Tu) **Buddhism**

Sept. 26 (R) **Origins of China**
Shang and Chou Dynasties

Recitations: Quiz #1

VI. Week Six: Confucius

READ: Heritage, Chapter 2, pp. 46-49, and Analects, Books I-II, IX-XVII (i.e. 1-2, 9-17)

Oct. 1 (Tu) **Life of Confucius**

Oct. 3 (R) **The Analects of Confucius**

Recitations: The Analects of Confucius

VII. Week Seven: China (Conclusion)

READ: Heritage, Chapter 7, pp. 212-230

Oct. 8 (Tu) **Taoism, Legalism**
Han Dynasty

Oct. 10 (R) **FIRST EXAM**

Recitations: Exam Review

UNIT TWO

VIII. Week Eight: Greece

READ: Heritage, Chapter 2 pp. 61-71; Chapter 3 pp. 74-104

Oct. 15 (Tu) **Minoans and Mycenaeans**

Oct. 17 (R) **Rise of Athens, Sparta, Corinth**

Recitations: Discussion of Early Greece

IX. Week Nine: Hellenistic Civilization; Lysistrata

READ: Heritage, Chapter 3 pp. 104-113; Aristophanes, Lysistrata (entire)

Oct. 22 (Tu) **Peloponnesian War**

Oct. 24 (R) **Greek Philosophy, Hellenistic Achievements**

Recitations: Lysistrata

X. Week Ten: The Rise of Rome

READ: Heritage, Chapter 6, pp. 175-188

Oct. 29 (Tu) **Early Rome**

Oct. 31 (R) **The Republic**

Recitations: Quiz #2 (on Greece, Lysistrata)

XI. Week Eleven: The Roman Empire

READ: Heritage, Chapter 6, pp. 189-202

Nov. 5 (Tu) **Julius Caesar**

Nov. 7 (R) **The Empire**

Last Day to Resign is Friday, November 8th

Recitations: focus on Julius Caesar, the empire under Caesar Augustus

XII. Week Twelve: The Fall of the Roman Empire

READ: Heritage, Chapter 6, pp. 203-210

Nov. 12 (Tu) **The Coming of Christianity**

Nov. 14 (R) **Barbarian Migrations**
Collapse of the Roman Empire in the West

Recitations: focus on historical debate over the “fall” of the Roman Empire

UNIT THREE

XIII. Week Thirteen: Islam

READ: Heritage, Chapter 10 pp. 290-311

Nov. 19 (Tu) **SECOND EXAM**

Nov. 21 (R) **Mohammed and the Five Pillars of Islam**
The Pirenne Thesis

Recitations: Exam Review (before Tuesday’s exam); Islam (after Tuesday’s exam)

XIV. Week Fourteen: Japan

READ: Heritage, Chapter 9, pp. 260-288

Nov. 26 (Tu) **Heian Japan**
 Medieval Japan

Nov. 28 (R) **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: No Classes**

Recitations: Consider Japanese literature such as “Tale of Genji”

XV. Week Fifteen: Early Medieval Europe

READ: Heritage, Chapter 11, pp. 313-343

Dec. 3 (Tu) **Early Medieval Europe**

Dec. 5 (R) **Medieval Monasticism**

Recitations: Exam Review, Quiz #3

XVI. Week Sixteen: Final Exam Week

FINAL EXAM: TBA
[exam period is
Monday, Dec. 9th -Monday, Dec. 16th]

Rules of Survival

Rule No. 1: Read the rules. That is, read the syllabus right away and carefully, and if there is something to which you object or you do not understand, speak out or forever hold your peace.

Rule No. 2: Be physically active. Worrying, sweating, and intensive “reviewing” just before the test do not count, because they are more mental than physical. When a red flag waves, do something physical about it right away: walk to my office, raise your hand for questions, go to the library, take notes on reading and lecture, etc. In spite of what they say, success in college is more physical than mental.

Rule No. 3: Learning is struggle. Don’t reduce it to a mechanical process that bypasses your brain. That is, throw away your highlighters (they are mental suicide), do not bring a tape recorder to class, and don’t try to take lecture notes verbatim. Real learning entails as much mental exertion as building up your skills in a sport. If you are laid back, you don’t get anywhere. So always strive to exceed expectations, such as buying and using a dictionary, learning where to find maps to get a sense of the geography, etc.

Rule No. 4: Learning is a matter of concentration, not intelligence. So avoid anything that reduces your attention span or ability to concentrate. That is, keep in mind that TV watching constructs neural connections that make it impossible to think; smoking weed does hurt your concentration despite what they say; don’t fall in love; get plenty of rest and don’t try to live on McDonald’s synthetic food.

Rule No. 5: Attend your classes whatever happens. Successful students never worry about the rest of the class catching their colds, never have birthdays, best friends who are getting married or alarms that don’t ring, and their grandmothers live forever.

Rule No. 6: Take advantage of office hours. Most faculty are harmless and some are even amusing. You need to get a handle on where your teacher is coming from and some of the broader value implications of the discipline. Office hours are not meant to be used just during the week before finals, but right from the start. Any test the grade of which you find disappointing should be brought to an office hour for discussion. Do not come to discuss a test or paper without bringing it.

Rule No. 7: Learn where the library is, visit it often, and explore it thoroughly. You will find that there are all kinds of talented and helpful people there willing and able to give you help (even almost write your term paper for you). The library is a treasure house, full of valuable information and a potential source of almost unlimited joy (unless some students nearby ruin your concentration by chatting). Give up sex and learn to love the library instead.

Rule No. 8: Always rewrite lecture notes the same day you take them. Things are then still fresh in your mind, and you can eliminate irrelevancies and restructure the material

in a meaningful way. Raw lecture notes tend to be “stream of consciousness” and will make no sense to you at all after a day or two. Redoing your lecture notes will also suggest what questions you should raise at the beginning of next class.

Rule No. 9: The purpose of any book worth reading is to do permanent damage to your brain. The author is out to manipulate your thinking, so read defensively. Don’t take more notes than there are pages in the book, but focus on the book’s scope, its thesis, and your critique of that thesis. A couple of pages of notes might be adequate for a book, and if you take more, it is very unlikely you will ever read them.

Rule No. 10: Take the professor and the subject he teaches seriously. Through some trauma experienced in childhood, the teacher is likely to take the subject very seriously, although you well know that in the broader scheme of things it is of little significance. Don’t for that reason think you can get away with absences from class, socializing with a member of the opposite sex in the back row, miss a test unless you are incarcerated or in intensive care, etc. If, against your natural instincts and better judgment you do somehow find some interest in the course, your chances of passing are immeasurably greater, but finding something of interest is not simply the teacher’s doing. It depends as much, sometimes even more, on your trying to find it.

Rule No. 11: Take responsibility for your grade. Don’t assume the teacher grades on a curve, gives extra credit, allows make-ups, or will give you any sort of break at all. If you screw up, no one is going to make it all better.

Rule No. 12: Murphy was right. Any time you wait until the night before a paper is due to write it, one of several things will happen. If you use a computer, the power will go off just before you save the text. If you need the computer lab to print your paper, it will be closed. The only way to be sure your paper gets in on time is to finish it before anyone realizes you have started it.

Absence Notification Form

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

COURSE: _____

I (missed class, will miss class) [circle one] **on these dates:**

_____ for the following reason:

- illness (if extended absence, please attach documentation)
- family obligation
- varsity sport obligation
- vacation
- academic obligation [example: Model UN]
- court date/jury duty
- appointment (ex: doctor's appt., job interview)
- religious obligation
- car accident
- other: _____

Absence Notification Form

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

COURSE: _____

I (missed class, will miss class) [circle one] **on these dates:**

_____ for the following reason:

- [] illness (if extended absence, please attach documentation)
- [] family obligation
- [] varsity sport obligation
- [] vacation
- [] academic obligation [example: Model UN]
- [] court date/jury duty
- [] appointment (ex: doctor's appt., job interview)
- [] religious obligation
- [] car accident
- [] other: _____