

UGC 111: World Civilizations before 1500 Fall, 2013

Prof. Timothy W. Boyd

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Office Hours: although my office is in Fillmore, I will hold office

hours on the 2nd or 3rd floor foyer above the Tim Horton's in the business school (Alfiero) on Tues/Thurs from 10:30 to noon. If these times don't fit your schedule, e-mail

me and we'll figure out another slot. (And, these days, a lot can be solved through e-mail.)

Lecture Times: TUES/THURS UGC111D 9:30-10:20am; UGC111M 12:00-12:50pm

Lecture Locations: UGC111D Knox 20; UGC111M Knox 104

Goals of the Course

The intent of World Civilizations is expressed in the name of the course. It is the study not of just one civilization--its origins, people, daily life, religion, arts, influences, political and military struggles, and fate--but of many different civilizations in many parts of the world over many centuries.

During this study, students are expected to be able to do the following:

1. understand and explain such basic concepts of civilization as the effects of agriculture, market economies, warfare, and religion upon the formation and maintenance of cultures
2. understand and be able to define such specific vocabulary terms from each civilization as dynasty, ziggurat, and caste
3. recognize and identify prominent figures from each period in each civilization
4. place civilizations and their various periods in a broad chronological framework
5. identify important geographical features (rivers, boundaries, cities, etc) of the various civilizations on maps

Course Outcomes

Successful completion of UGC111 should mean that a student will have (among other things):

1. a basic understanding of what makes and defines a civilization
2. a basic knowledge of the developments in technology through the centuries and how they influence civilizations
3. a basic understanding of world religions, their creation, beliefs, influences
4. an increased vocabulary of terms specific to different places at different times
5. a basic chronological sense of past civilizations
6. the ability to recognize influential figures in various world civilizations
7. the ability to identify important past human structures such as temples, theatres, cathedrals
8. the ability to identify important geographical features and to explain how they have influenced civilizations

Course Requirements

1. You are expected to attend all lectures and weekly recitations.

[NOTE: EXCUSED ABSENCES WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY FOR DOCUMENTED ILLNESSES AND EMERGENCIES--IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TO MISS A LECTURE, RECITATION, OR HOUR EXAM, CONTACT YOUR TA IMMEDIATELY] Recitations are designed not only to review materials from the lectures and the textbook and to answer questions about them, but also to encourage discussion and to expand a student's knowledge beyond the basic sources.

2. Attendance will be taken in recitation. (10% of your grade.) There will also be weekly recitation quizzes, covering material from the lectures, the text, and previous recitations. (10% of your grade.) If you miss recitation, you miss the quiz, thus potentially affecting 20% of your total grade. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. Missing more than 2 may result in the dropping of the final course grade by one grade. (If you had an overall B+, for example, a poor recitation attendance/recitation quiz grade could bring that down to a B.)

3. We expect active participation in recitation. Recitations are the place to dig in and really discuss the material. It's important, then:

- a. to come intellectually prepared (that is, having read the week's reading assignment), and
- b. to come prepared to talk, to listen, and to ask questions. We feel that recitation is so important that we've made attendance, participation, and quizzes 20% of the total grade. (Think what happens if you fail recitation--even with 100% performance on everything else, you may still get only an 80% on that final grade.)

4. 4 hour exams, 2 objective (1 and 3--each worth 15% of your grade), 2 split between objective and essay (2 and 4--each worth 25% of your grade). All four exams include an objective portion, which requires students to answer questions based upon their knowledge of the current lecture topics, including events, influential figures, specialized vocabulary, and appropriate geography. The second and fourth exams include an essay component. These essays are designed to encourage students to extend their knowledge through basic research, as well as to recreate for themselves the conditions within the civilizations studied.

Grade Breakdown (percentage = per cent of total grade)

Recitation attendance and participation:	10%
Recitation quizzes:	10%
Hour exam #1	15%
Hour exam #3	15%
Hour exam #2 (includes essay component):	25%
Hour exam #4 (includes essay component):	25%

The scale for grades is that used by the university:

- A = 92-100
- A- = 90-91
- B+ = 88-89
- B = 82-87
- B- = 80-81
- C+ = 78-79
- C = 72-77
- C- = 70-71
- D+ = 68-69
- F = 59 and below

NOTES:

1. The teaching assistants are responsible for your daily work and grades. Any questions about recitation or grades should be directed to your TA. If further action is needed, the TA will then contact me.
2. All work is due on the date stated.
3. If you need more time or special equipment for exams, you should notify your TA at the very beginning of the semester and she/he will be glad to collaborate with you.
4. Any work missed must be completed in a timely fashion under the direction of the student's TA. For the grade of Incomplete, please see the university's guidelines.
5. It is expected that all work in this course will be that of the individual student. SUNY Buffalo has a tough policy on intellectual honesty and plagiarism and we back it 100%.

Text

McKay, J.P., B.D. Hill, J. Buckler, P.B. Ebrey, and others, A History of World Societies: Volume I: To 1715. (9th ed.) Boston: Bedford/St.Martin's, 2012.

plus bi-weekly lecture handouts

TWO NOTES:

1. READING THE ASSIGNED MATERIAL BEFORE EACH LECTURE CAN REALLY HELP YOU TO BETTER UNDERSTAND BOTH THAT MATERIAL AND THE LECTURE.
2. LECTURES ARE A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE COURSE AND WILL CONTAIN MATERIAL FOUND NOWHERE ELSE, BUT, BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS, LECTURES CAN ONLY TOUCH UPON THE MAJOR POINTS OF THE COURSE AS A WHOLE. SO THAT YOU CAN GAIN A FULLER PICTURE, YOU NEED TO READ THE TEXTBOOK AS WELL AS TO ATTEND LECTURES AND STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION TO BE FOUND IN BOTH SOURCES.

AND ONE MORE WORD: we know how tempting electronic technology can be! When you're in lecture or recitation, however, please avoid using electronic devices for anything other than course work. Use your laptop only for taking notes and keep your phones stored away till after class.

Lecture Schedule

(Subject, of course, to change due to weather, invasions from outer space, etc.)

Week 1 (26 Aug-30 Aug)

Tues (27 Aug): Introduction to World Civilizations

Thurs (29 Aug): Old Stone Age to New

READING: McKay Chap 1: 4-29

Week 2 (2-6 Sept)

Tues (3 Sept): The Land Between the Rivers (the early Mesopotamian world)

READING: McKay Chap.2: 34-43

Thurs (5 Sept): no class--Rosh Hashanah

Week 3 (9-13 Sept)

Tues (10 Sept): Pyramid Power (ancient Egypt)

READING: McKay Chap.2: 44-51

Thurs (12 Sept): Bronze to Iron (Hittites/Israelites/Assyrians/Persians)

Reading: McKay Chap.2: 51-61

Week 4 (16-20 Sept)

Tues (17 Sept): The Greek World I: Minoans to City-States

READING: McKay Chap.5: 116-122

Thurs (19 Sept): The Greek World II: Classical

READING: McKay Chap.5: 122-131

Week 5 (23-27 Sept)

Tues (24 Sept): The Greek World III: Hellenistic

READING: McKay Chap.5: 131-139

Thurs (26 Sept): FIRST HOUR EXAM (during lecture hour--material from the first four weeks through Thurs 19 Sept)

Week 6 (30 Sept-4 Oct)

Tues (1 Oct) A Passage to India I: India to 300 AD

READING: McKay Chap.3: 66-87

Thurs (3 Oct): A Passage to India II: India 300 to 1400AD

READING: McKay Chap.12: 347-355

Week 7 (7-11 Oct)

Tues (8 Oct): From Seven Hills to Half the World: the Rise of Rome

READING: McKay Chap.6: 144-154

Thurs (10 Oct): High Empire to Decline and Change

READING: McKay Chap.6: 154-171

Week 8 (14-18 Oct)

Tues (15 Oct): Early China to 200BC

READING: McKay Chap. 4: 92-111; Chap.7: 176-178

Thurs (17 Oct): The Golden Age of China; the Coming of the Mongols

READING: McKay Chap.7: 178-196; 13: 366-380; 12: 332-347

Week 9 (21-25 Oct)

Tues (22 Oct): The World of Early Islam: Foundation and Growth

READING: McKay Chap.9: 234-245

Thurs (24 Oct): SECOND HOUR EXAM: 1. objective half in lecture --material from the first half of week 5 (The Greek World III) through week 8 (The Golden Age of China) 2. essay in this week's recitation- -details on essay to follow)

Week 10 (28 Oct-1 Nov)

Tues (29 Oct): Daily Life in Early Islam

READING: McKay Chap. 9: 245-263

Thurs (31 Oct): Below the Equator: Sub-Saharan Africa

READING: McKay Chap.10: 268-294

Week 11 (4-8 Nov)

Tues (5 Nov): The Americas Before the Wave of Conquest

READING: McKay Chap.11: 300-327

Thurs (7 Nov): The Making of Europe I: the Rise of Christianity

READING: McKay Chap.6: 166-171; Chap.8: 211-220

Week 12 (11-15 Nov)

Tues (12 Nov): The Making of Europe II: Byzantines

READING: McKay Chap.8: 206-211

Thurs (14 Nov): THIRD HOUR EXAM: objective on material from the first half of week 9 (The World of Early Islam) through week 11 (The Making of Europe I)

Week 13 (18-22 Nov)

Tues (19 Nov): Europe in the Middle Ages I: Invasions and Carolingians

READING: McKay Chap.8: 220-229

Thurs (Nov 21): Europe in the Middle Ages II: Daily Life

READING: McKay Chap.14: 408-414

Week 14 (25-29 Nov)

Tues (26 Nov) Europe in the Middle Ages III: Crusades

READING: McKay Chap.14: 404-408

Thurs (28 Nov): no class--Thanksgiving

Week 15 (2-6 Dec)

Tues (3 Dec) Europe in the Middle Ages IV: Crises

READING: McKay Chap.14: 415-421

Thurs (5 Dec): FOURTH HOUR EXAM: 1. objective on material from the first half of week 12 (Byzantines) through the first half of week 14 (Crusades); 2. essay to be administered in recitation

CLASSES END ON FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 2013.

A FINAL NOTE

These lecture halls were designed to make lectures more easily heard, but the contrary is also true: the lecturer can easily hear conversation from any part of the audience. This can be very distracting for the speaker and for those taking notes around you, as well. If you have a thought to share with your neighbor, please use the traditional method--write him/her a note (with a pen or with a tweet). Thanks!

AND A FINAL, FINAL NOTE

UGC111 is a Controlled Enrollment Course. "Enrollment in a controlled course (CEC) is restricted by the available student positions, and self-registration for a CEC in any Fall or Spring semesters is available only to students taking that course for the first time. Repeat enrollment may be difficult or impossible in a Fall or Spring semester. A student seeking to repeat a CEC should plan to register for and do this in a UB summer session. Repeat enrollment is enrollment by a student who previously enrolled in the course at UB or transferred an equivalent course to UB and for which course the student has a grade of A, B, C, D, F, or qualified value thereof (e.g., A-, D+), or a grade of P, S, U, I, J, N, or R. A student may self-register to repeat a CEC in a Fall or Spring term only if the student's grade of record for the previous enrollment is W: i.e., administrative withdrawal. Students may petition for enrollment in such a designated spring course by the third week of the preceding fall semester, and , in a fall course, by the third week of the preceding spring semester."