

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Profile

Course Number: HSS 101	Course Title: History of Civilization I
Required / Elective: Elective	Pre / Co-requisites: - None
Catalog Description: The agricultural revolution, the rise of civilizations in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Classical Greece and the Hellenistic world, Rome and its empire. The spread of civilizations and the movement of peoples. Byzantium and Europe. The rise and spread of Islam, African civilizations, Western civilizations.	Textbook / Required Material : Peter N.Stearns, Michael Adas, Stuart B.Schwartz, Marc Iason Gilbert, <i>World Civilizations</i> , 4th Edition, (New York: Pearson Education, 2004).
Course Structure / Schedule: (3+0+0) 3 / 5 ECTS	
<p>Extended Description:</p> <p>This course is an introduction to world civilizations and the major political, social, cultural and economic events in world history. It covers the main historical events from the Neolithic Period to the Decline of Roman Empire including the agricultural revolution, the rise of the civilization in the Middle East and Africa, Asia's first civilizations, classical Greece and the Hellenistic world and the Roman Empire. The topics to be discussed are social, political and economic systems; the brutality and destruction caused by conflicts, the changes in technology and the organization of labour, political institutions, formal scientific discoveries, art and literature.</p>	
Design content: None	Computer usage: No particular computer usage required. Powerpoint presentations, documentaries, visual material usage, however, support the course extensively.
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, video clips, slides	
<u>Course Outline:</u>	
Week	Topics
1	Introduction
2	The meanings of history. Historical and sociological imagination. Imagining those that once existed.
3	Introduction to the Course: The Meaning of Civilization and its Foundations; The Earliest Beginnings (Human Life in the Era of Hunters and Gatherers); Paleolithic Age, Agriculture and the Origins of Civilization: Neolithic Revolution.

4	The Rise of Civilization in the Middle East and Africa Mesopotamia: Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians (Political institutions, Religion, Law, Literature, Sciences); Egyptian Civilization: The river Nile and significance of geography; political history under the Pharaohs; intellectual achievements, Egyptian culture; Hebrews as part of Eastern Mediterranean civilizations.
5	Asia's First Civilizations: India; The Indus Valley and the Birth of South-Asian Civilization; India's Golden Age; the Age of Brahman Dominance; the Rise of Hinduism and Buddhism.
6	Asia's First Civilizations: China; Confucianism and teachings of rival Chinese Schools; imperial unity; the Han Dynasty; the foundations of China's Classical Age.
7	Early Greek civilizations, The rise of the Persian Empire and the rise of the Greek Polis, political and social structure, Athens and Sparta, Athenian Democracy.
8	Greek civic culture: Architecture and Drama, Religion, Philosophy; Persian Civilization; the Rise of Alexander, Macedonian conquest and the Hellenistic World.
9	DOCUMENTARY: GUNS, GERMS AND STEEL.
10	The Rise of Rome, the Roman Republic, Government, Politics, Economy, Institutions and Culture
11	Roman imperialism; the culture of the Roman Republic; from Republic to Empire, Pax Romana, Slavery. The Fall of the Roman Empire.
12	Early Christianity, the birth of the Byzantium Empire, the origins of Islam: the movement of people and ideas.
13	General overview of the classical period: Legacies of previous civilizations.
14	Conclusion

Assessment methods:

Attendance to the course, participation in classroom discussions, midterm and final exams.

Class participation and attendance: 10%

Midterm exam: 40%

Final exam: 50%

Course Outcomes:

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Apply analytical and critical thinking skills to contemporary global issues.				*	
2	Describe the interrelationships between science, technology, and society.					*
3	Describe the interrelationships between art, culture, and society.					*
4	Explain the historical, political and economic conditions in which science and technology emerge.					*
5	Explain the historical, political and material conditions in which art and cultural expression emerge.					*
6	Analyze how modes of thought are shaped by socio-cultural, historical, political and economic variables.					*
7	Apply discipline-relevant methods to HSS research assignments.	*				
8	Summarize and assess current developments in their subject area.		*			
9	Recognize ethical issues and social responsibilities in the contemporary world.				*	
10	Synthesize complex ideas in clear and concise ways.			*		
11	Generate creative solutions to local and/or global problems.			*		
12	Recognize relevance of coursework to personal experiences, lifelong learning, and job security.					*
13	Demonstrate an ability to function on teams.	*				
14	Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with written, oral and visual means.			*		

Student workload:

Reading	40 hrs
Lectures	50 hrs
Class discussion	10 hrs
Exam reading	10 hrs
Examinations	3 hrs

TOTAL 123 hrs . . . to match 25x5 ECTS

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