



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN TIRANA

Course: World History and Civilizations I (3 credit hours) NY701101

Professor: Ols Lafe

Office Hours: only by appointment

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Catalog Description

This course examines the first traces of humankind, its evolution and achievements throughout the world to 1500 C.E.

Prerequisite: WAP, preferably Composition I

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the development of human society and main historical stages of World History and Civilizations. Everything evolves, and what we see and experience around us today is part of this evolution. We will be looking at important events, people and trends that have shaped the world we live in. Starting from the early hominids and the Paleolithic people we will thoroughly cover places all over the world until 1500 C.E. The periodization of history will be seen through the great legacies of the Greek and Roman Civilizations, accompanied by the not least important Asian, Indian, Egyptian and American civilizations. Parallel to these civilizations, the contributions and interaction of the Illyrian people in the framework of the Balkans will be further explored.

Required Readings

Brummet P., Edgar R. R., Hacket N. J., Jewsbury G. F., Taylor A. M., Bailkey N. M., Lewis C. J., Wallbank T. W. (2000¹¹), *Civilization: Past and Present*, New York: Longman.

Bibliography (Additional Required Readings)

Reilly K. (2004), *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader*, v. 1, Bedford/St Martin's (available in the UNYT library).

Required additional materials

Additional readings shall be assigned from other books, articles, or in-class handouts on a case-by-case basis. Various audio-visual materials shall be included in class presentations.

Course Website:

In the course's cyberspace <http://www.unyt.edu.al/west1> you can find primarily practice tests related to the study of the main textbook. This website has been set up using information from the 10th edition of the main textbook.

Please note the following website: http://wps.ablongman.com/long_brummett_cpp_11/

This is the website of the 11th edition of the main textbook, which we will be using in our class. Both websites may be used ahead of the exams and test, which have been scheduled for this course. Expect to have in your exams questions that DO NOT necessarily appear on these websites. Your preparation ahead of such exams, should not be solely based on learning these questions at the above mentioned websites, but also reviewing closely the main textbook and additional readings.

Supplemental Web-based Research:

You are expected to supplement your course-book readings with web-based research, especially the links that are offered at the end of each chapter in Brummett *et al.* under "*Suggestions for Web Browsing*".

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the development of the oldest cultures of the world.
2. Acquire a solid knowledge of past events.
3. Identify major events, persons and ideas.
4. Read primary and secondary sources and explain how significant they are to relevant historical moments.
5. Develop critical and analytical skills on historical controversies.

Content of the Course

1. **October 9th**. Course introduction, subjects, and requirements. How to write the research paper. History and its problems. THE STONE AGE: Paleolithic societies. Historical Thinking Skills: Periodization in history; primary and secondary sources.
2. **October 16th**. THE STONE AGE: Paleolithic to Neolithic societies. Historical Thinking Skills: Periodization in history; primary and secondary sources. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 1, up to p.10); 2) Reilly, Chapter 1.
3. **October 23rd**. EARLY CIVILISATIONS: The Near East. Historical Thinking Skills: Relationships between facts, opinions, sources and interpretations. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 1, up to p. 36); 2) Reilly, Chapter 2. *Titles of research papers and outlines due.*
4. **October 30th**. ANCIENT CHINA-ORIGINS TO EMPIRE: Prehistory to 220 C.E.; ANCIENT INDIA: From Origins to 300 C.E. Historical Thinking Skills: Analyzing primary sources often tells us more than their authors had in mind. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapters 2-3); 2) Reilly, Chapter 3.
5. **November 6th**. **Test 1**. THE GREEK ACHIEVEMENT (part I): Minoan, Mycenaean, and Archaic. Historical Thinking Skills: Relating the individuals in

- historical understanding. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 4 (up to p. 108); 2) Reilly, Chapter 4.
6. **November 13th**. THE GREEK ACHIEVEMENT (part II): Classical and Hellenistic Period. Historical Thinking Skills: Comparing and contrasting internationally social structures, economies, politics and cultures. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 4 (p. 108-129); 2) Reilly, Chapters 3-4 (revision).
 7. **November 20th**. ROMAN CIVILISATION (part I). (Visit of Durrës archaeological museum and amphitheatre). Historical Thinking Skills: Understanding and evaluating historical change; distinguishing causes of change. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 5 (up to pg.144). 2) Reilly, Chapter 5.
 8. **November 27th**. **Mid-term exam.**
 9. **December 4th**. ROMAN CIVILISATION (part II). Historical Thinking Skills: Understanding and evaluating historical change; distinguishing causes of change. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 5 (pg.144-163). 2) Reilly, Chapter 5 (revision).
 10. **December 11th**. THE BYZANTINE WORLD: Paleo-Christian to Late Byzantine Period. Historical Thinking Skills: Diversities in judging the past. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 6. 2) Reilly, Chapters 6-7. *First research paper drafts due.*
 11. **December 18th**. ISLAM: From its origins to 1300. Historical Thinking Skills: Evaluating alternate theses; understanding how and why historical developments and events are interpreted and re-interpreted. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 7. 2) Reilly, Chapter 8.
 12. **January 8th**. AFRICAN BEGINNINGS: African Civilizations to 1500. Historical Thinking Skills: Sifting evidence: social, economic, political and cultural. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 8. 2) Reilly, Chapter 8 (revision). *Research papers due.*
 13. **January 15th**. THE EUROPEAN MIDDLE AGES, 476-1348 C.E. Historical Thinking Skills: Sifting evidence: ‘Before’ and ‘After’. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 9; 2) Reilly, Chapters 9-10. *Research Papers presentations.*
 14. **January 22nd**. CULTURE, POWER, AND TRADE IN THE ERA OF ASIAN HEGEMONY. Historical Thinking Skills: Using Literature in History; Understanding Processes. Readings: 1) Brummett *et al.*, Chapter 10; 2) Reilly, Chapter 11. *Research Papers presentations.*
 15. **January 29th**. **Final Exam**

Course Requirements

Participation: Regular attendance is expected. If there is an urgent reason to be absent, please e-mail me in advance. Absences will lower your class participation portion of your grade. A student may not enter an exam without having justified all of his/her absences. Even after having justified or not all absences, you cannot get a higher grade than the percentage of classes you have attended.

Exams: There will be two exams (mid-term and final) and one short test for this course. The format of the exams and the test will usually include multiple-choice questions, as

well as true/false, essay questions covering all readings, lecture and class discussion content.

Assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class session. Papers and assignments should be handed in, in person, on the assigned date. There will be a 10% daily deduction for late assignments (up to 2 days only, thereafter no grade will be given) unless you make special arrangements with me in advance via *e-mail* communications.

Research Paper: Students will be required to write a research paper on a topic of their choice. They are also required to study three related documents <http://www.unyt.edu.al/lib/research> : 1) 'What is a Research Paper'. 2) 'Plagiarism'. 3) 'MLA Style of References: Paper and Online.

The outline of the term paper should include:

- a. your name
- b. title of paper
- c. select points of the arguments presented
- d. bibliography

Excessive prose at this early stage should be AVOIDED at all costs!

The research paper should range between 7-10 pages, EXCLUDING illustrations and bibliography.

Specific requirements: (double-spaced, Font: Times New Roman 12). Illustrations and bibliography (based NOT only on web sources) must be included at the end of the paper. Any unaccredited use of the Internet (or other sources) will be SEVERELY penalized according to the UNYT policy. Please remember that the *deadline* for handing in the research paper will be *January 8th, 2008*.

Test 1: *November 6th*

Mid-term Exam: *November 27th*

Final Exam: *January 29th*

General Requirements

In the event of illness or emergency, contact me IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible. The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE, or ask me for clarification.

The required readings for each week must be done. I will advertise in class what will be covered in the next class. You are encouraged to take and make notes, underline key statements and be prepared for classroom discussion. I reserve the right to change this syllabus.

Technology Expectations

I expect all students to use their e-mails on a regular basis. If you don't have one, you should open one (UNYT offers e-mail accounts to students, contact the IT office for more information and/or check out the leaflets with the respective instructions on how to obtain one, on the university information boards).

Attention: the use of other e-mails other than the UNYT one, may create problems in our communications (sometime e-mails go to the bulk or junk folders for no reason). If this happens, you are expected to find any lost information through your classmates and before the next class session starts.

Some skills in putting together and delivering *PowerPoint* presentations in class are necessary. If you have problems with that, please let direct yourselves at the IT office.

Grading scale

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	96-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-95	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course

Evaluation method

Class participation	5%
Class presentation	5%
Test 1	10%
Mid-term exam	30%
Research paper	15%
Final exam	35%

STUDENTS: If you feel that you have special learning difficulties, please, make an appointment with Ms. Anxhela Gramo. Ms. Gramo is trained to help students with learning difficulties. She shall provide this service to our students, just as it is offered in all American universities.

October 9th 2007, by Ols Lufe