

Department of Humanities
Dr. Christopher B. Davis
Email: cdavis@sulross.edu
Phone: 830.703.4845
Office: Del Rio, F215
Hours of Availability:
Tuesday and Wednesday, 12p-4p
Thursday, 12p-2p



Ancient History

HST 5301
Online Course – Spring 2017

Course Description

This course examines ancient civilization and culture beginning with factors contributing to increasingly complex societies. Students examine civilizations from regions including the Mediterranean and Asia. Topics cover both broad trends and more focused cases in civilization development.

Course Style

Activities will focus on resources, class discussion, and writing.

Importance of Communication

It is vital that students stay in communication with me as the course progresses. Most struggles students have in college courses can be resolved with simple conversations between student and

teacher. If there are difficulties with concepts or assignments, it is not a cause for embarrassment or panic but an opportunity to improve skills and expand knowledge. Just get in touch. We will work through the issue.

I try to make communication as easy as possible and keep regular hours when I am available to talk. We can meet in person, talk on the phone, or video chat.

If you cannot meet during my hours of availability you can request another time when you are available. Please just email me to set up a time.

Resources

For this course your readings will be made available on Blackboard under the course week resources tab. See the folder that corresponds with the class week listed on the syllabus.

The resources provided are for your use only for this class. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. Do not illegally reproduce or distribute them.

Syllabus

Please keep your syllabus accessible for the entire semester. It will serve as a guide to not only class assignments but also to understand class expectations. If any major revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know when to obtain an updated syllabus from Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Responses (25%) – Each week prepare a two-page response to the resources provided. Focus your writing on what you learned. Show the breadth and depth of what you took away from the resources.

Teach a Topic (25%) – You will choose a topic and prepare a mini-class on that topic. The point is not to just lecture but to assign resources ahead of time and then lead an interactive class on that topic. You should incorporate your own explanations of key points and then incorporate students into examining topics. This assignment and its logistics will be discussed further in coming weeks.

Special Topic Project (50%) – In the first third of the semester you will develop several topics that you find interesting and want to know more about. They should coincide with the broad topics we will cover during the semester. I will work with each student to select the best topic.

During the rest of the semester you will research the topic and develop a 15-page paper discussing the topic using both books from academic publishers and professional journals

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize.
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly.
- 3) Have the ability to explain the “why” of history instead of just the “who, what, when, and where.”
- 4) Improve short-form writing skills in content, organization, style, and grammar.
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Class Weeks and Assignments

Week 1

- **Introduction to Themes**

Week 2

- **Agricultural Revolution and the Development of Civilizations**

- Resources:
 - Video – Agricultural Revolution – Crash Course (CC)
 - Solomon – *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*
 - Barker – *The Agricultural Revolution in Prehistory: Why did Foragers become Farmers?*

Week 3

- **Global: Civilization Beginnings**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Indus Valley Civilization – CC
 - Bentley, et al – *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History*

Week 4

- **Africa: Egypt**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Ancient Egypt – CC
 - Bentley, et al – *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History*
 - Shaw – *Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction*

Week 5

- **Mediterranean: Mesopotamia**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Mesopotamia – CC
 - Video – Overview of Ancient Mesopotamia – Khan Academy (KA)
 - Mathisen – *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: From Prehistory to 640 CE*
 - Pollock, Susan – *Ancient Mesopotamia*
 - Bottéro, Jean – *Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*

Week 6

- **Mediterranean: Ancient Greeks and Persians**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Persians and Greeks - CC
 - Video – Ancient Greeks and Persians – KA
 - Solomon – *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*
 - Mathisen – *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: From Prehistory to 640 CE*
 - Bentley, et al – *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History*

- Morris and Powell – *The Greeks: History, Culture, and Society*
- Osborne – *Greece in the Making, 1200-479 BC*
- Waters, Matt – *Ancient Persia: A Concise History of the Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BCE*

Week 7

- **Mediterranean: Rome Ascendant**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Rome Becomes Dominant – KA
 - Cornell – *The Beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars*

Week 8

- **Mediterranean: Studying Ancient Individuals – Alexander the Great**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Alexander the Great Takes Power – KA
 - Video – Alexander the Great Conquers Persia – KA
 - Video – Silk Road and Ancient Trade – CC
 - Martin and Blackwell – *Alexander the Great: The Story of An Ancient Life*
 - Mathisen – *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: From Prehistory to 640 CE*

Week 9

- **Spring Break – No classes**

Week 10

- **Mediterranean: Greece**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Diadochi and the Hellenistic Period – KA
 - Video – Overview of Ancient Greece – KA
 - Morris and Powell – *The Greeks: History, Culture, and Society*
 - Osborne – *Greece in the Making, 1200-479 BC*

Week 11

- **Mediterranean: Roman Empire**

- Resources:
 - Video – Roman Empire – CC
 - Video – Roman Empire – KA
 - Mathisen – *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: From Prehistory to 640 CE*
 - Bentley, et al – *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History*
 - Cary and Schullard – *A History of Rome: Down to the Reign of Constantine*

Week 12

- **Asia: China Beginnings**

- Resources:
 - Video – Buddha and Ashoka – CC
 - Solomon – *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*
 - Bentley, et al – *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History*
 - Hucker – *China to 1850: A Short History*
 - Ebrey and Walthall – *Pre-Modern East Asia: A Cultural, social and Political History*

Week 13

- **Asia: China Development**

- Resources:
 - Video – China – CC
 - Hucker – *China to 1850: A Short History*
 - McNeill and Sedlar – *Classical China*
 - Ebrey and Walthall – *Pre-Modern East Asia: A Cultural, social and Political History*

Week 14

- **Asia: East Asia**

- Resources:
 - Bentley, et al – *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History*
 - Ebrey and Walthall – *Pre-Modern East Asia: A Cultural, social and Political History*
 - Farris – *Japan to 1600: A Social and Economic History*

Week 15

- **Submit draft of special topic project**

Week 16

- **Submit final version of special topic project**