

# HST 2301: World History to 1500

**T/TH, 2-3:15pm**

**Amy St. Building - RGC 0A119**

**Fall Semester 2026, 16 Week Term, 8/24-12/9**

**Dr. Ives Hartman**

[ihartman@sulross.edu](mailto:ihartman@sulross.edu)

**Office: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

## Introduction: World History to 1500

In this class, you will learn about global history to 1500. Major people, ruling dynasties, and political, social, and economic developments from ancient North and South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa are covered in this class. You will learn to appreciate the multiplicity of global cultures and the confluence of complex circumstances that shaped the ancient world.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

The graduating student with a B. A. in History will:

1. Develop an informed, critical and articulate approach to the study of history. Marketable Skills: Critical Thinking: Absorption, comprehension, synthesis of Data Ibid: Development of pattern recognition and causal skills. Global Fluency: Ability to place the United States in a global context
2. The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History Marketable Skills: Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner. Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner. Students can manage the absorption of data.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of historical events, movements, major turning points and personalities of the past. Marketable Skills: Professionalism: Knowledge and understanding of the civic roles and responsibilities of a United States citizen. Critical

Thinking/Professionalism: Ability to relate the importance of the historical past when considering public policy decisions.

4. The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted. Marketable Skills: Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences. Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas. Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

5. The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content Marketable skills: Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data. Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner. Students can make written presentations to various audiences

**SLO's will be assessed as follows:**

Examinations (2) will assess SLOs 1-5

Reading Journals (14) will assess SLOs 1-4

Research Project Book Essay (1) will assess SLOs 2-5

Book Essay (1) will assess SLOs 2-5.

## Marketable Skills of a History Major

1. Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.
2. Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.
3. Students can make written presentations to various audiences.
4. Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.
5. Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.
6. Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.
7. Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

## Course Policies:

**Laptops, devices, and phones are not allowed during class except during structured class activities.** Bring your devices to class because we will be doing collaborative work that involves the internet, but during lecture you must take notes by hand and put your phone and computer/device away.

**AI is not allowed in this class.** Do not use AI to help you plan your assignments, write your assignments, or do research. A key component of college history classes is the rigor of doing these essential activities yourself. The process of planning, writing, and research is essential to your development as a liberal arts scholar. Also, AI is often wrong and makes some pretty serious mistakes, so it is not a reputable way to get factual information. If you need help with your writing, research, or course planning, please talk to me and we can come up with a plan together.

Please keep an eye on **Announcements** on Blackboard because I will communicate reminders and other important information there.

**Please contact me primarily by email at [ihartman@sulross.edu](mailto:ihartman@sulross.edu).** I check my email most often and will be most likely to respond quickly. You can expect a reply within 24 hours during the workweek and on the next business day over the weekend or break.

**Quizzes** will be released at least a week in advance.

The prompt for the **in-class essay** will be released 9/16 in class.

**In-class assignments** will be posted before class every Wednesday.

You can expect journals and essays to be graded within two weeks of their due date. The Final Essay will be graded by December 10.

**There is a hard class deadline on all materials on 12/6 at 11:59 pm.** I will not accept any revisions or late assignments after that date.

## Required Course Materials:

**Textbook (available for free online):**

Kordas Ann, et al. *World History Volume 1, to 1500*. OpenStax, 19 Apr. 2023, OpenStax World History Volume 1. <https://openstax.org/books/world-history-volume-1/pages/1-introduction>

**The Golden Ass (I have curated a free edition of this book for you):**

Apuleius, The Golden Ass, 2013

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ZeHjydlIt0wbbTtheRNdAKAm70wGTUG1/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ZeHjydlIt0wbbTtheRNdAKAm70wGTUG1/view?usp=drive_link)

**Primary sources** will be provided on the syllabus and in the weekly modules

## Grade Breakdown

|                      |                                                |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Attendance           | 140 pts (28 classes, 5 pts per class)          |
| Quizzes              | 70 pts (5 pts each, 1 per week)                |
| Reading Journals     | 140 pts (14 journals, 10 pts each, 1 per week) |
| In-Class Assignments | 70 pts (5 pts each, 1 per week)                |
| Golden Ass Paper     | 350 pts                                        |
| In-Class Essay       | 140 pts                                        |
| Midterm              | 350 pts                                        |
| Final                | 350 pts                                        |
| Bibliography         | 70 pts                                         |
| Rough Draft          | 140 pts                                        |
| Research Paper       | 210 pts                                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>2030 pts</b>                                |

## Grading

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

**Assignments will be marked down 10% every day that the assignment is late. Turning your work in past the deadline will automatically result in a 10% deduction.** If you are having issues getting your work in, please communicate with me. If you talk to me, I will be more than happy to come up with a plan to help you succeed. However, if we do not communicate and you turn in work late, you will incur late penalties. Like in the workplace,

you are accountable for your behavior. You must communicate with the people you work with, both professionally and academically, in order to collaborate most effectively.

## Explanation of Assignments

**Attendance:** Attendance is taken at the start of every class. If you are more than 10 minutes late and do not provide an explanation, you may be marked absent. Arriving late is very disruptive to both me and your classmates, so please be on time. If chronic lateness occurs, we will need to meet to come up with a plan. If you are going to be late or absent, please contact me in advance.

**Reading Journals:** You have weekly reading journals due at **11:59 pm every Sunday**. These journals are low-stakes assignments designed to gauge your engagement with the reading. You have specific questions that you must answer, and your journals should be germane to the reading and class activities that we have done that week. Journals on unrelated topics might not be accepted.

**In-Class Assignments:** Every week we will do some collaborative work in class with the primary sources and you will turn your work in for 5 points.

**In-Class Essay:** You will write an essay during class time based on a prompt that I provide. There is a rubric and extensive information in Blackboard that can guide you on how to succeed with this assignment. The prompt for the essay will be released in class on the day the essay is due. **The essay is scheduled for 9/16.**

**Golden Ass Essay:** You are expected to read *The Golden Ass* by Apuleius and then write an essay answering prompts that I provide. There is a rubric and explanation of this assignment on Blackboard, and we will talk about it during the Microhistory week. This assignment is due **10/11 at 11:59 pm.**

**Midterm and Final Exams:** You will have two exams. The **Midterm is on 10/21** and the Final Exam date will be announced as soon as I know when it is scheduled during Finals week. These exams will largely be multiple choice and short answer.

You have a **Final Research Essay** due on **11/22 at 11:59 pm**. This assignment is divided into three parts: the Bibliography and Thesis Review, the Rough Draft, and the Final Essay. You will submit your bibliography and thesis ideas and I will give you feedback. Then you will write a rough draft and you will get feedback from me and your classmates. Then you will turn in your final, revised essay at the end of the semester. Directions for all three

components of this assignment and rubrics are on Blackboard in a separate module just for this assignment. Rubrics are located with the specific components of the assignment.

## ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services, SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans Disability Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick at (830) 279—3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde Texas 78801. Kbiddick@sulross.edu

**SRSU Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based or distance education courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complain are located in the student handbook.

## Course Schedule:

### Week 1

Chapter 1 Understanding the Past

Chapter 2 Early Humans

8/25

8/27

### Primary sources:

Paleolithic Art

<https://smarthistory.org/paleolithic-art-an-introduction/>

<https://www.oerproject.com/OER-Materials/OER-Media/HTML-Articles/Origins/Unit2/Art-of-the-Paleolithic>

Quiz due 8/30 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 8/30 at 11:59 pm

## **Week 2**

Chapter 3 Early Civilizations and Urban Societies

9/1

9/3

### **Primary source:**

Epic of Gilgamesh

[https://archive.org/details/TheEpicofGilgamesh\\_201606/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/TheEpicofGilgamesh_201606/mode/2up)

Quiz due 9/6 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal 9/6 at 11:59 pm

## **Week 3**

Chapter 4 The Near East

9/8

9/10

### **Primary source:**

Hammurabi's Code

<https://avalon.law.yale.edu/ancient/hamframe.asp>

Quiz due 9/13 at 11:59 pm

Reading Journal due 9/13 at 11:59 pm

## **Week 4**

Chapter 5 Asia in Ancient Times

9/15

### **9/17 IN CLASS ESSAY**

#### **Primary sources:**

Art of War <https://archive.org/details/artofwaroldestmi00suntuoft/mode/2up>

Book of Poetry <https://ctext.org/book-of-poetry>

The Analects <https://ctext.org/analects>

Quiz due 9/20 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 9/20 at 11:59 pm

## **Week 5**

Chapter 6 Mediterranean Peoples

9/22

9/24

#### **Primary source:**

The History of the Peloponnesian War by Thucydides  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7142/7142-h/7142-h.htm>

Quiz due 9/27 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 9/27 at 11:59 pm

#### **Additional reading**

Plato <https://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>

Aristotle <https://classics.mit.edu/Browse/browse-Aristotle.html>

Galen <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/43383>

Ptolemy <https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Ptolemy/home.html>

Hippocrates <https://classics.mit.edu/Hippocrates/ancimed.html>

Homer (Odyssey) <https://classics.mit.edu/Homer/odyssey.html>

Herodotus <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/2707-h.htm>

## **Week 6**

Chapter 7 Experiencing the Roman Empire

9/29

10/1

### **Primary source:**

The Lives of the Twelve Caesars by Suetonius

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/6400/6400-h/6400-h.htm>

Quiz due 10/4 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 10/4 at 11:59 pm

### **Additional reading**

Virgil (Aeneid) <https://classics.mit.edu/Virgil/aeneid.html>

Ovid <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/21765/21765-h/21765-h.htm>

Horace <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14020/14020-h/14020-h.htm>

Cicero <https://oll.libertyfund.org/people/marcus-tullius-cicero>

Tacitus <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/59786/59786-h/59786-h.htm>

## **Week 7**

Chapter 8 The Americas in Ancient Times

10/6

10/8

### **Primary sources:**

Florentine Codex

<https://florentinecodex.getty.edu/>

Maya and Aztec Codices

<https://www.famsi.org/mayawriting/codices/>

Quiz due 10/11 at 11:59 pm

Reading Journal due 10/11 at 11:59 pm

## **GOLDEN ASS PAPER DUE 10/11**

### **Week 8**

Chapter 9 Africa in Ancient Times

10/13

10/15

#### **Primary sources:**

Accounts of Meroe, Kush, and Axum

<https://sourcebooks.web.fordham.edu/ancient/nubia1.asp>

The Book of the Dead

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/69566/69566-h/69566-h.htm>

Quiz due 10/18 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 10/18 at 11:59 pm

### **Week 9**

#### **10/20 REVIEW**

#### **10/22 MIDTERM**

### **Week 10**

Chapter 10 Empires of Faith

Chapter 11 The Rise of Islam and the Caliphates

10/27

10/29

**Primary sources:**

Late Antiquity

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/sbook1b.asp#Pagan%20Late%20Antiquity>

The Book of the Golden Meadows

<https://sourcebooks.web.fordham.edu/source/masoudi.asp>

Quiz due 11/1 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 11/1 at 11:59 pm

**Additional reading**

Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi (algebra) <https://legacy-www.math.harvard.edu/~knill/teaching/summer2019/exhibits/algebra/AlgebraMohammedBenMusa.pdf>

Ibn Sina/Avicenna [https://data.nur.nu/Kutub/English/Avicenna\\_Canon-of-Medicine\\_text.pdf](https://data.nur.nu/Kutub/English/Avicenna_Canon-of-Medicine_text.pdf)

Al-Biruni <https://archive.org/details/chronologyofanci00biru/page/n3/mode/2up>

Ibn al-Haytham / Alhazen [https://monoskop.org/images/f/ff/The\\_Optics\\_of\\_Ibn\\_Al-Haytham\\_Books\\_I-III\\_On\\_Direct\\_Vision\\_Sabra\\_1989.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/f/ff/The_Optics_of_Ibn_Al-Haytham_Books_I-III_On_Direct_Vision_Sabra_1989.pdf)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE 11/1**

**Week 11**

Chapter 12 India, the Indian Ocean Basin, and East Asia

11/3

11/5

**Primary sources**

The Harṣa-carita of Bāṇa

<https://archive.org/details/harsacaritaofban00banaiala/page/n11/mode/2up>

Vedic Heritage Portal (explore the four Vedas)

<https://vedicheritage.gov.in/>

Abu-Zayd al-Sirafi, Accounts of India and China

<https://archive.org/details/ancientaccountso00sira/page/n3/mode/2up>

Quiz due 11/8 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 11/8 at 11:59 pm

### **Additional Reading**

Shiji by Sima Qian, especially Ch. 29 on the construction of canals and waterways

<https://ctext.org/shiji>

## **Week 12**

Chapter 13 The Post-Roman West and the Crusading Movement

Chapter 14 Pax Mongolica: The Steppe Empire of the Mongols

11/10

11/12

### **Primary sources**

The Deeds of the Franks (*Gesta Francorum et aliorum Hierosolymitanorum*)

<https://sourcebooks.web.fordham.edu/source/gesta-cde.asp>

Ibn al-Qalanisi- History of Damascus

<https://archive.org/details/qalanisi-history-of-damascus/page/n1/mode/1up>

The Secret History of the Mongols

<https://archive.org/details/Cleaves1982SecretHistoryMongols/page/n7/mode/2up>

Quiz due 11/15 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 11/15 at 11:59 pm

### **Additional Reading**

Explore Rashid al-Din's *Jami' al-Tawarikh*

<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/khamseen/projects/hands-on/eul-collections/jami-al-tawarikh/>

History of the Yuan Dynasty (Yuanshi)

<https://ctext.org/wiki.pl?if=en&res=862257>

## **ROUGH DRAFT DUE 11/15**

### **Week 13**

Chapter 15 States and Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa

11/17

11/19 **Review drafts in class**

### **Primary sources**

Al-Bakri Masalik wa'l-Mamalik (Book of Roads and Kingdoms)

[https://archive.org/details/bim\\_eighteenth-century\\_kitab-masalik-wa-mamalik\\_istakhri-ibrahim-ibn-\\_1800/page/n5/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/bim_eighteenth-century_kitab-masalik-wa-mamalik_istakhri-ibrahim-ibn-_1800/page/n5/mode/2up)

Ibn Battuta writings, 14<sup>th</sup> century

<https://sourcebooks.web.fordham.edu/source/1354-ibnbattuta.asp>

Ibn Khaldun, The Muqaddimah

<https://www.kalamullah.com/the-muqaddimah.html>

Leo Africanus, A Geographical History of Africa

[https://archive.org/details/bim\\_early-english-books-1475-1640\\_a-geographical-historie-\\_leo-johannes\\_1600](https://archive.org/details/bim_early-english-books-1475-1640_a-geographical-historie-_leo-johannes_1600)

Quiz due 11/22 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 11/22 at 11:59 pm

## **Week 14**

Chapter 16 Climate Change and Plague in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century

11/24

11/26 **THANKSGIVING NO CLASS**

### **Primary sources**

Source collection about the Black Death

<https://www.oerproject.com/OER-Materials/OER-Media/HTML-Articles/AP-World-History/Unit2/Source-Collection-The-Black-Death#source1>

Boccaccio's Decameron

<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/23700/pg23700-images.html>

Quiz due 11/29 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 11/29 at 11:59 pm

## **RESEARCH PAPER DUE 11/22**

## **Week 15**

Chapter 17 The Ottomans, the Mamluks, and the Ming

Andrade, Tonio. *The Gunpowder Age: China, Military Innovation, and the Rise of the West in World History*. Princeton University Press, 2016, pp. 103-14.

12/1 **LAST DAY OF CLASS**

12/3 **DEAD (REVIEW) DAY**

### **Primary sources**

View translations and commentary on [A LETTER FROM RHODES Letter from the Grand Master of the Order of Saint John of the Hospital of Jerusalem \(Philippe des Villiers de l'Isle-Adam\) asking for help against the arrival of a large Turkish armada in Rhodes \(June 17, 1522\)](#)

Eyewitness to History on the Sack of Constantinople

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/constantinople.htm>

Poems by Petrarch

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Italian/Petrarchhome.php>

Memoirs of a Janissary by Konstantin Mihailović

<https://archive.org/details/memoirsofjanissa0000mich>

Quiz due 12/6 at 11:59 pm

Reading journal due 12/6 at 11:59 pm

### **Additional Reading**

Informative book about Johannes Kepler

<https://archive.org/details/johannes-kepler-and-the-new-astronomy-by-james-r.-voelkel-z-lib.org/mode/2up>

### **Week 16**

**FINAL EXAM TBA**

### **Grades:**

Graduating students' grades due noon December 10