



Fall 2014

HI 175: World History to 1500

Professor Eugenio Menegon

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 - 2:00

Location: CAS Building, room CAS B18-A

A Blackboard site for this course is available at:

<https://learn.bu.edu>

<p>Professor's Office: Department of History, 226 Bay State Road, room #409. Phone: 617 - 353-8308 emenegon@bu.edu</p> <p>Professor's Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:00 – 12:00 & 2:00-3:00 PM; Thursday, 11:00AM-12:00 PM; and by appointment</p>	<p>Grader: Dustin Thomas Department of Archeology</p> <p>Email: dathomas@bu.edu</p> <p>Office Hours by appointment.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys basic themes in world history from the origins of humanity until about the year 1500 A.D. Rather than attempting to cover all of world history in one semester we will focus on general themes, processes, trends and relationships in areas such as politics, economics, social life, and religion. Much of the material will be presented through the reading of primary historical sources, and the discussion of the textbook's narrative and secondary scholarship on specific themes.

Major themes include:

1. The rise of complex societies in Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas;
2. The role of environmental and technological change in human history;
3. The role of imperial states in the ancient world;
4. The development of major world religions;
5. The establishment of trade routes and other forms of contact between the main complex societies.

REQUIRED (Available at the BU B&N Bookstore):

Textbook (abbreviated as *World*): Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *The World. A History*, Vol. 1. Pearson - Prentice Hall, 2010 (2nd edition at B&N; any other edition is fine as well).

Sources (abbreviated as *Sources*): **DOCUMENTS posted on Blackboard.**

NB: Occasional required readings (posted on the website) will be announced in class and by email as appropriate.

RECOMMENDED: Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 5th edition. Boston: Bedford - St. Martin's, 2007. (*Any edition is fine; available from online vendors for a few dollars*).

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The course will be conducted through lectures, discussion in class, films, and the completion of a short-video project. Requirements for the course include, besides assigned readings:

Midterm exam: 20%

Written assignments, maps and quizzes: 40%

Final exam: 25%

Attendance & participation: 15%

Exams will consist of essays, short answers, identifications, and maps. Throughout the course students will be called upon to answer specific questions relating to the weekly readings or maps. Attendance in all classes (including film screenings) is expected and will be recorded.

If you cannot attend a specific class please make all efforts to notify the instructor beforehand. **Schedules, topics, and readings may be revised at times, in which case announcements will be made in class as appropriate.** No make-up or late exams (or extensions on the assignments) will be given, except in case of extreme emergencies, and then ONLY with adequate documentation and the instructor's agreement that it was an emergency.

Plagiarism in any form is never acceptable. You are advised to review the college's definitions of and policies regarding plagiarism and cheating which are available online and in print. See: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

Cell phones must be turned off during classes.

Use of computers and other portable devices is permitted only for class-related work.

MIDTERM: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014, in class

FINAL: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014, 12-2 pm

SYLLABUS OF READINGS

NOTE: Reading assignments are listed under the topics of class meetings to which they pertain; they must be completed in advance of the relevant class meetings. Page numbers refer to the Textbook's SECOND edition; in the FIRST edition, the pages are slightly different, but have the same contents. Either is fine.

❖ Week I: (September 2 & 4) PEOPLING THE EARTH

World: **Chapt. 1**, “So you think you are human,” pp. 5-16;
Chapt. 2, “The Spread of Agriculture” pp. 50-56

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 1:** Margaret Meade, “Warfare is only an invention”

Web resources: 1) [“The Cave of Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc”](#); 2) [Herzog’s Cave of Forgotten Dreams](#)

❖ Week II: (September 9 & 11) THE GREAT RIVER VALLEYS

World: **Chapt. 3**, entire chapter, pp. 63-91 (for this week read more carefully parts on Egypt and Mesopotamia)

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 3:** 1) “The Code of Hammurabi”; 2) “Praise of the Scribe’s Profession”

Web resources: 1) [Stele of Hammurabi at the Louvre](#); 2) [Papyrus Lansing](#)

❖ Week III (September 16 & 18): COMPARING RIVER VALLEYS. EARLY CHINA, GILGAMESH, AND DEATH

World: **Chapt. 3**, re-read parts on China, pp. 83-84; **Chapt. 4:** “Conflict on the Yellow River”, pp. 107-109; **Chapt. 5**, “The Zhou Decline” pp. 137-138.

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 3:** “Chinese Ancestor Worship”; selections from *Gilgamesh. A New English Version*, translated by S. Mitchell (Prologue; Books 1-2 & 9-11; pp. 69-90 & 159-199).

Web resources: [The Story of Gilgamesh \(Annenberg Foundation\)](#)

Written Assignment #1: due on Thursday in class

❖ Week IV (September 23 & 25): THE AXIAL AGE. THE GREAT SCHOOLS

World: **Chap. 6**, entire chapter, pp. 156-187

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 6:** 1) Siddharta Gauthama, “Sermons”; 2) Plato, “The Republic – On Shadows and Realities in Education”; 3) Confucius, “The Analects.”

❖ **Week V (September 30 & October 2): THE GREAT EMPIRES**

World: **Chapt. 7**, entire chapter, pp. 188-225

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt 7:** 1) Asoka, “Edicts of Asoka”; 2) Augustus, “The Deeds of the Divine August” 3) “Slaves in the Roman Countryside”

Written Assignment # 2: due on Thursday in class

❖ **Week VI (October 7 & 9): THE RISE OF WORLD RELIGIONS**

World: **Chapt. 9**, entire chapter, pp. 269-298

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 9:** 1) Buddhism, “Excerpts from the *Dhammapada*”; Paul, “*The Act of the Apostles – The Good News in Athens*”; 3) Ibn Wahab, “An Arab Merchant Visits Tang China”

Film selection: From Jesus to Christ. The First Christians

❖ **Week VII (NO CLASS ON TUESDAY = Monday schedule; only Thursday October 16): MIDTERM EXAM**

MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

❖ **Week VIII (October 21 & 23): EURASIAN CONNECTIONS ALONG THE SILK ROAD**

Reading: **Whitfield**, *Life along the Silk Road*, selections, TBA

Additional readings & group activity will be explained later

❖ **Week IX (October 28 & 30): ENVIRONMENTAL FRONTIERS: THE MAYAN CASE**

World: **Chapt. 8**, pp. 231-35 (Teotihuacan and early Maya); **Chapt. 10**, pp. 307-312 (later Maya).

Film selection: *Apocalypto*

Web Resources: [The myth of the Popul Vuh \(Annenberg Foundation\)](#)

Written Assignment # 3: due on Thursday in class

❖ **Week X (November 4 & 6): ISLAM, THE CRUSADES, BYZANTIUM AND THE SONG**

World: **Chapt. 12**, pp. 373-395

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 12:** 1) Al-Ghazzali, “On the Separation of Mathematics and Religion”; 2) Liutprand of Cremona, excerpt from *Report of his Mission to Constantinople*; 3) “A Muslim View of the Crusades: Beha-ed-Din, Richard I Massacres Prisoners after Taking Acre” 4) “The Markets and Attractions of Hangzhou”

Web Resources: [The Qingming Scroll \(Song dynasty\)](#)

❖ **Week XI (November 11 & 13): THE WORLD THE MONGOLS MADE**

World: **Chapt. 13**, pp. 411-429

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 13:** William of Rubruck, “Account of the Mongols”

Web Resources: [The Mongols in World History](#)

Written Assignment # 4: due on Thursday in class

❖ **Week XII (November 18 & 20): THE REVENGE OF NATURE**

World: **Chapt. 14**, pp. 443-462

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt 14:** 1) Marchione di Coppo Stefani, *The Florentine Chronicle*, “Concerning a Mortality in the City of Florence in which Many People Died”; 2) University of Paris Medical Faculty, “Writings on the Plague”

Film selection: Ingmar Bergman’s *The Seventh Seal*

❖ **Week XIII (November 25): = NO CLASS (Professor is attending international conference)**

NOVEMBER 26-30: THANKSGIVING RECESS

❖ **Week XIV (December 2 & 4): EXPANDING WORLDS AND OCEANIC CONTACTS**

World: **Chapt. 15**, pp. 481-524

Sources (Blackboard): **Chapt. 15:** 1) Ma Huan, *The Overall Survey of the Ocean's Shores*; 2) "Excerpt from the travel journal of Vasco da Gama"; 3) "Chronicles of the Incas"; 4) "Cortes's letter to Charles V"

❖ **Week XV (December 8): REVIEW**

FINAL EXAMINATION MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 12-2 PM