

HI175: World History to 1500
Fall 2015, Boston University
Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30-11.00, CAS 324

Professor Michael Holm
History Department
Office: 226 Bay State Road, # 506
Email: mholm@bu.edu Phone: (617) 353-8305
Office Hours: Monday 10.30-12.00; Wednesday 1.00-2.30



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

World History to 1500 is an introductory course to human history around the globe from the origins of humankind to approximately the year 1500 CE (Common Era). Throughout the semester students will become familiar with the development of, and interactions between, peoples, states, civilizations, and empires. Among the topics we will examine are the rise of cities, the evolution of technology and navigation, the development of means of communication, the importance of agriculture, the rise and fall of empires, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual thought and local and world religions.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Von Sivers, Desnoyers, and Stow, *Patterns of World History to 1600* Volume One w/sources
(**Second Edition**)
Available the Barnes and Noble Bookstore

Additional assigned readings will be uploaded to the course Blackboard site. On the syllabus these are designated “**.”

COURSE WEBSITE: The course’s Blackboard site is your location for readings, the course syllabus, and practical information regarding writing assignments and grading criteria.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

- First In-class midterm (10%), October 1
- Second In-class midterm (20%), November 3
- Analytical Paper, 8-10 pages (25%).
 - First draft **due** in class November 17 (10% of paper grade)
 - Paper **due** in class December 1
- Participation and attendance (15%)
- Final Examination, tentatively scheduled for December 15 (30%)
 - Confirm date and time via Student Link

The midterm and the final examination must be taken on the date specified on this syllabus. Make-up examinations will be given after the scheduled examination time only for a valid medical reason. Any student who misses the final examination for a valid medical reason must notify the professor prior to or immediately after the examination in order to receive an “Incomplete” grade and arrange for a makeup examination. In addition to the midterm and final examinations, you will be required to write an analytical paper. The nature of the paper assignment and the criteria for determining your grade for the course will be explained in greater detail in class. The analytical paper is due in lecture December 1. A first draft (**no less than 5-7 pages**) is due for an in-class assignment on November 17; no exceptions and no make-up. This first draft will constitute 10% of the final paper grade. Note that handing in the final paper after the December 1 due date will result in a penalty of three points per day.

The grading criteria for this course will be accordingly:

93-100	A	90-92	A-
88-89	B+	83-87	B
80-82	B-	78-79	C+
74-77	C	70-73	C-
50-69	D	0-49	F

NOTE ON WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: For a detailed description of the proper format for historical essays, students should consult the BU History Department Writing Guide.

<http://www.bu.edu/history/undergraduate-program/resources/writing-guide/>

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: **Remember that plagiarism is a serious offense.** The Boston University Code of Academic Conduct defines plagiarism as “any attempts by a student to represent the work of another as his or her own.” Plagiarism is subject to serious sanctions, including reprimand, suspension, and expulsion. For a detailed description of Boston University’s rules, consult the code of conduct at:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct/>

Schedule of Lectures and Weekly Assignments

- September 3** **Introduction to the course**
- September 8** **The African Origins of Humanity**
Patterns of World History, chapter 1, pp. 4-31
Sources for chapter 1: 1.1-1.4.
Watch: *The Cave of forgotten Dreams*” and complete answers to handout!
- September 10** **Agrarian-Urban Centers: From Hunter-Gatherers to Agriculture and Early Civilizations**
Patterns of World History, chapter 2, pp. 32-45, 49-56
For in-class discussion: Sources for chapter 2: 2.1-2.2
Gilgamesh (excepts)**
Watch: The Epic of Gilgamesh**
- September 15** **The Rise of Islam and its Early Impact**
Patterns of World History, chapter 10, pp. 274-288
For in-class discussion: Sources for chapter 10, 10.1
- September 17** **NOTE: No Class:**
Students should attend The 2nd Annual Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family College of Arts & Sciences Lecture by Dr. Kecia Ali entitled, “Contesting Muhammad: Contemporary Controversies in Historical Perspective.” The event takes places at the Tsai Performance Center from 6-7.30pm. More details to follow.
- September 22** **Ancient Egypt**
In-class discussion of Professor Ali’s September 17 Lecture
Patterns of World History, chapter 2, pp. 45-49
Sources for chapter 2, 2.3
- September 24** **Agrarian Centers in India and China**
Patterns of World History, chapters 3 and 4, pp. 66-117
For in-class discussion: Sources for chapters 3 and 4: 3.3-3.4 & 4.1, 4.4
- September 29** **The Americas and Oceania, 30,000-600**
Patterns of World History, chapter 5, pp. 120-147
For in-class discussion: “Against the Grain” and “Thinking Through Patterns.”
- October 1** **Visionaries in India & First in-class Midterm (40 minutes)**
Patterns of World History, chapter 8, pp. 216-243
First in-class Midterm (40 minutes)

- October 6** **The Age of Empire in Africa and the Americas 600 BCE- 600CE**
Patterns of World History, chapter 6, pp. 149-179
For in-class discussion Sources 6.2,6.4 & “Lost Cities” movie**
- October 8** **Persia, Sparta, and Greece**
Patterns of World History, chapter 7, pp. 180-190, 214
For in-class discussion: Sources for chapter 7: 7.2-7.3
- October 13** **BU on Monday schedule: Class cancelled**
- October 15** **Alexander the Great, Science, and War**
 Bosworth, “Alexander the Great and the Decline of Macedon”
 In-class Movie (45 minutes) on Alexander the Great
- October 20** **The Roman Empire and The Chinese Empires**
Patterns of World History, chapter 7, pp. 190-215 & chapter 9,
 pp. 244-271
For in-class discussion: Sources for chapter 9: 9.4-9.5
- October 22, 27** **The Formation of Christian Europe (600-1450) and the Crusades**
Patterns of World History, chapter 10, pp. 288-307; chapter 11,
 pp. 310-343.
For in-class discussion Sources for chapter 10 and 11: 10.2-10.5; 11.1-11.5
- October 29** **The Vikings**
 Readings on the Norsemen**
- November 3** **Second In-Class midterm exam (80 minutes)**
 Details to be provided in class
- November 5** **Disease and Death**
 The Plague**
- November 10** **The Mongols and Eurasia**
Patterns of World History, chapter 12, pp. 351-370.
 Sources for chapter 12: 12.4-12.5
- November 12** **Class Cancelled**
- November 17** **Patterns of State Formation in Africa**
Patterns of World History, Chapter 14, pp. 404-431
 Sources for chapter 14: 14.1, 14.3-14.4
First draft of paper due for in-class assignment

- November 19** **The Evolution of War in World History: From Marathon to Agincourt**
Readings on War**
- November 24** **The Rise of Empires in the Americas**
Patterns of World History, Chapter 15, pp. 432-459
For in-class discussion: Sources for chapter 15: 15.1-15.4
- December 1** **The Ottomans and the Habsburgs**
Patterns of World History, Chapter 16, pp. 462-493
Sources for chapter 16: 16.1-16.9
Analytical Paper due in class
- December 3** **The Maritime Revolution**
Bulliet Et. al., “The Maritime Revolution to 1550”**
- December 8** **The Coming of the Renaissance**
Patterns of World History, Chapter 16, pp. 494-508, 529
Final Exam Review
- December 10** **Discussion: What to Make of “World History”?**
- December 15** **Final Exam**
(tentative):