

Spring Semester 2026
HIST 2321 – World Civilizations I
Professor: Dr. Edward Tabri
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Office: CAS 121
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 4:30-6 pm or by appointment.

Course Overview and Learning Outcomes:

This course is an upper-level survey of world history from the beginnings of civilization to 1600. Our goal will be an understanding of regional and ultimately global networks of interaction beginning with the Bronze Age in the ancient Mediterranean and near East, the Silk Roads connecting Eurasia and Africa (300 BCE to 1300 CE), and the rise of the oceanic global empires of Spain and Portugal (1300 to 1600).

Course Requirements:

The course will consist of lectures and discussions; regular attendance is essential. There will be three exams. Each of these will be worth 1/3 of your course grade. The exams will consist of choices of terms from our lecture outlines (5 out of 10 for a total of 50% of the exam grade) and an essay (choice of 1 out of 2 for the remaining 50% of the exam grade).

Grading Policy:

Each exam is worth 100 points for a course total of 300 points. The grading scale is

A=270-300
B=240-269
C=210-239
D=180-209

Make up exams will not be given, the only exception being officially documented family or medical emergencies. Plagiarism of any sort will result in an F for the assignment.

Required Books:

I will provide you with free e-books of the following titles:

Eric Cline, *1177 BC: the Year Civilization Collapsed*

Geordie Torr, *Silk Roads*

Diane Zahler, *The Black Death*

Gabriel Paquette, *The First Seaborne Empires* (chapter 3 only)

Calendar of Readings and Assignments:

Week 1 (Jan. 12)

Course Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 19)

No Meeting – MLK Day

Reading: *1177 BC*, pages 1-40

Week 3 Jan. 26)

Egyptian Civilization

Reading: *1177 BC*, pages 41-97

Week 4 (Feb. 2)

The Hittite Empire

Reading: *1177 BC*, pages 98-133

Week 5 (Feb. 9)

Mycenaean Greece and the Bronze Age Collapse

Reading: *1177 BC*, pages 134-187

Week 6 (Feb. 16)

First Exam

Week 7 (Feb. 23)

Early Civilization in China and India

Reading: *Silk Roads*, Introduction and chapters 1-5

Week 8 (March 2)

The Persian and Roman Empires

Reading: *Silk Roads*, chapters 7-10

Week 9 (March 9)

No Meeting – Spring Break

Week 10 (March 16)

Islam and the Caliphate, Tang and Song China

Week 11 (March 23)

Second Exam

Week 12 (March 30)

The Mongols and the Silk Road

Reading: *Black Death*, chapters 1-4

Last Day to Withdraw from Course

Week 13 (April 6)

The Black Death

Reading: *Black Death*, chapters 5-7 and Epilogue

Week 14 (April 13)

From Medieval to Renaissance Europe

Week 15 (April 20)

Portugal and Spain: the First Trans-Oceanic Empires

Reading: Paquette, chapter 3

Week 16 (April 27)

Third Exam

UT Tyler Statement on AI

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For all other UT Tyler Policies, see the following link:

<https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/academic-affairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>