

This course approaches macrohistory by examining the paradigms of historians throughout the ages with an emphasis on the model advanced by William H. McNeill. It is divided into three parts. The first examines the rise of the four civilizations of the Old World prior to 500 BCE during which time the Middle East enjoys predominance. The second part focuses on the period 500 BCE to 1500 CE, during which there appears to be an equilibrium among the major civilizations of the world. The last part examines the rise to predominance by the West during the contemporary period that begins about 1500. **Please note:** announcements and class materials are posted electronically in Blackboard. Be sure to “enroll” in Blackboard by September 1.

Required Textbook: McNeill, William. H. *A World History*. (fourth edition, but third edition is acceptable)

Optional Books: Ponting, Clive. *A Green History of the World* (1991) or *A New Green History of the World: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations*. (2007)  
Miles, Rosalind. *The Women’s History of the World* (1988) later reissued under the title *Who Cooked the Last Supper? The Women’s History of the World*

<u>Grading the Course:</u>	<u>Plan I</u>		<u>Plan II</u>	
	Exam #1	25%	Exam #1	33a%
	Exam #2	25%	Exam #2	33a%
	Exam #3	25%	Exam #3	33a%
	Written Assignment	25%		

Course Outline:

<u>Subject of the Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
<b>UNIT I: PREDOMINANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST, CIVILIZATION BEFORE 500 BCE</b>	
Orientation: Paradigms of World History Genesis of Civilization before 1700 BCE	Chaps. 1-2
Predominance of the Middle East, 1700-500 BCE Development of Peripheral Civilizations: India	Chaps. 3-4
Development of Peripheral Civilizations: India (continued) Development of Peripheral Civilizations: The Hellenic World	Chaps. 4-5
Development of Peripheral Civilizations: The Hellenic World (continued) Development of Peripheral Civilizations: China	Chaps. 6-7
<b>EXAM #1</b> (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)	
<b>UNIT II: CIVILIZATIONS IN EQUILIBRIUM, 500 BCE to 1500 CE</b>	
The Hellenic Threat to Equilibrium, 500 BCE to 200 CE Development of Asian Cultures, 500 BCE to 200 CE	Chaps. 8-9 Chap. 10
Indians, Barbarians, and Civilization, 200-600 CE	Chaps. 11-12
Resurgence of the Middle East, 600 to 1000	Chap. 13-14
New Pressures on East and West, 1000 to 1500	Chaps. 15-17

**EXAM #2** (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

**UNIT III: THE RISE OF THE WEST SINCE 1500**

European Challenges and the World's Response, 1500-1700 Chaps. 18-22

European Challenges and the World's Response, 1500-1700 (conclusion)  
Nearly Tipping the Scales, 1700-1850 Chaps. 23-25

Nearly Tipping the Scales, 1700-1850 (conclusion) Chap. 26

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS**

The Rise of the West, 1850 to the Present Chaps. 27-28

**PLAN I: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE**

The Rise of the West, 1850 to the Present (conclusion)

**EXAM #3** (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

**Description of Assignments**

**Study Guides.** The professor has prepared three study guides that help students in various ways. They familiarize students with historical geography, provide practice in writing precise and substantive identification items, help students discern the author's main line of argument, and provide opportunities to construct solid answers to essay questions while preparing for the three written examinations. These are designed to be used weekly, not only prior to scheduled exams. Students are encouraged to complete these even though the guides are not submitted as formal assignments.

**Written Assignment.** The Plan I grading system requires the completion of one written assignment. Select either a modified research paper or a précis. Full details appear in a two-part document entitled "**Descriptions and Deadlines for Written Assignments in HIST 3301,**" which you received at the first class session with your syllabus. You will also find it posted in Blackboard under Assignments. **Part I** deals with the Modified Research Paper. It provides details concerning the topic selection, required format, and intermediate deadlines. **Part II** deals with the Book Précis. It provides details concerning the nature of a précis, required format (along with a sample page), and intermediate deadlines. Select one of the books listed in the syllabus under "Optional Books" for the précis.

**Class Policies**

- (1) **Attendance.** Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Missing more than the equivalent of two weeks of class will affect the grade. For each absence after the second one, 2% (1% if only half of the weekly class session is missed) will be deducted from the final course grade. If special circumstances apply, immediately discuss them with the professor. Guests may attend class with prior approval. Children may not attend class.
- (2) **Courtesy.** Tardiness is not acceptable. It is disruptive to the class and discourteous to both professor and students. Habitual tardiness will affect the final course grade and is cause for withdrawal. Students should remove caps and hats in class. Pagers and telephones must be turned off in class. University regulations do not allow food in the classroom. When corresponding with the professor via e-mail, please always identify yourself (unless your real name is already part of your e-mail address) and identify the course number in the subject line of your message. Although a break will be provided at about 7:15 p.m., an emergency may require you to leave the classroom while class is still in session. If such a rare instance should occur, be considerate; do not disturb others and do not slam the door either upon exiting or returning.

- (3) **Make-Up Exams.** Ordinarily there are no make-up exams. In the unlikely event that you must miss an exam because of illness or emergency, notify the professor immediately to seek authorization for a make-up exam. Provide documentation immediately upon your return to classes. If authorized to do so, you will take the exam at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Meet in BUS 205 unless another classroom has been booked and announced. Absolutely no more than one make-up exam will be authorized. Make-up exams cover the same material as the original exams, but their format may be different.
- (4) **Reporting of Grades.** As soon as exams are graded, you will receive an e-mail message alerting you that the grades have been posted in Blackboard and (at the end of the semester) Campus Connect.

## Descriptions and Deadlines for Written Assignments in HIST 3301

### Part I: Modified Research Paper

**Modified Research Paper.** The modified research paper is a study of selected facets of one broad theme that can be seen in the history of the world's main civilizations. Select the theme from the list provided. The paper must contain examples of this broad theme from each of the four civilizations studied in this course: Middle East, India, China, and the West. The examples should come from different periods of time. Avoid writing about the twentieth century.

**Format of the Paper.** The paper must be typed and double-spaced. Font to be used for all assignments is Times New Roman 12 pt. The paper's minimum length is 10 full pages of text and maximum 12 full pages of text. Pages should be numbered at the top center (beginning on p. 2) and have one-inch margins on all four sides. Please place your name (last name, first name) at the top right of only the first page and staple the paper once at the upper left. No clip. No folder. No added information such as date, course number, course title, or professor's name. No separate title page; place the title at the top of page 1 only. The paper requires endnotes and a bibliography, which follow the pages of text. The bibliography will include those sources (books and journal articles only, no Internet sites) used in the paper. Articles from the *Journal of World History* accessed from Project Muse or JSTOR are not merely Internet sites and count as regular journal articles. Use Turabian for correct format of endnotes and bibliography. All written assignments are graded not only for accuracy and completeness of historical content but also for precise writing, correct spelling, clarity of expression, and adherence to the appropriate format as explained above..

**Interim Assignments and Deadlines Related to the Paper.** If you are choosing to be graded on Plan I, you must observe several deadlines.

- ! First, by **noon of September 17**, submit **E-mail Interim Report #1** identifying the topic or overall theme you propose to work on. Then list four examples of this theme that you will work on, one for each of the four civilizations. The example may be a time period, dynasty, century, etc., that you wish to study. You will receive a prompt reply with approval or additional suggestions for improvement. Need help? Do some reading in the textbook to locate ideas or consult the professor in advance of this deadline.
- ! Second, by **noon of October 1**, submit **E-mail Interim Report #2**. This report is a draft of one or two pages of your paper. It will not be graded, but it will be used to determine whether you are on the right track in your work. You will receive a prompt reply and are, of course, welcome to come in for a conference if you wish.
- ! Third, observe the deadline. Papers are due **December 3**. No late papers will be accepted.

**Please Note:** Missing an interim assignment/deadline will automatically drop you from Plan I. No penalty results, but you will lose the opportunity to participate in Plan I. If you change your mind and decide not to write a paper, you may do so—without penalty—by informing me in writing (e-mail is OK) by **October 15**. After that date, you are locked in to Plan I and the paper is required.

## Descriptions and Deadlines for Written Assignments in HIST 3301

### Part II: Book Précis

**Précis/Oral Presentation.** The précis is a paper that concisely summarizes each chapter of the book, being careful to reflect not only the content but also the author's emphasis and attitudes. The objectives of this assignment are several: (1) to promote thoughtful reading; (2) to develop the skill of determining what is of major importance and what is of lesser importance; (3) to express ideas clearly, precisely, and concisely. While the paper summarizes the author's work, it should generally avoid using the author's wording, whether in direct quotation or otherwise. A précis does not intrude into the narrative or include the student's opinions; an optional and ungraded addendum is the appropriate place for these. Students selecting this assignment may also be asked to make an oral presentation on part of the book.

**Format of the Précis.** The précis must be typed and double-spaced. Font to be used for all assignments is Times New Roman 12 pt. The paper's minimum length is 10 full pages of text with no set maximum number of pages. It is likely the précis will be longer than the minimum pages stated because you will probably need at least one full page of text per chapter. Pages should be numbered at the top center (beginning on p. 2) and have one-inch margins on all four sides. Please place your name (last name, first name) at the top right of only the first page and staple the paper once at the upper left. No clip. No folder. No added information such as date, course number, course title, or professor's name. No separate title page. Begin page 1 with a bibliographic entry as shown in the sample on the next page. All written assignments are graded not only for accuracy and completeness of historical content but also for precise writing, correct spelling, clarity of expression, and adherence to the appropriate format as explained above.

**Interim Assignments and Deadlines Related to the Précis.** If you are choosing to be graded on Plan I, you must observe several deadlines.

- ! First, by **noon of September 17**, submit **E-mail Interim Report #1** identifying which book you have selected.
- ! Second, by **noon of October 1**, submit **E-mail Interim Report #2**. This report is a draft of one or two pages of your précis. It will not be graded, but it will be used to determine whether you are on the right track in your work. You will receive a prompt reply and are, of course, welcome to come in for a conference if you wish.
- ! Third, observe the deadline. The précis is due **December 3**. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Please Note:** Missing an interim assignment/deadline will automatically drop you from Plan I. No penalty results, but you will lose the opportunity to participate in Plan I. If you change your mind and decide not to write a précis, you may do so—without penalty—by informing me in writing (e-mail is OK) by **October 15**. After that date, you are locked in to Plan I and the précis is required.

### Selecting the Broad Theme of the Paper

Some broad themes suitable for modified research papers follow. It is acceptable to select some facet instead of the entire theme. For example, if you select cities, you make decide to work on only the layout of several important imperial capital cities. If you study the family, you may choose to examine only marriage customs or children. Please note that the topic religion/deities does not appear on this list. This is so because the topic is so important that much of it is already covered in lectures, discussions, and readings. Have a different topic in mind? Ask whether it is suitable.

agr. methods/ produce	economy	writing/script	sports
amusements/games	education	literature	technology
architecture	family	military	transportation
children	food/drink	music	virtues/values
cities	government	professions	women
clothing	health/disease	sex	
commerce/trade	homes	slavery/serfdom	

### Selecting Examples from the Four Major Civilizations

Four columns below represent the four major civilizations studied in this course. Several examples appear below the name of each civilization. Each of these is a time period in that civilization about which you will be able to find information, but you are not restricted to these. You are responsible for writing a paper on the broad theme you have selected; use one example per civilization. The examples should come from different periods of time. Avoid writing about the twentieth century. If you do not find the particular example that interests you on this list, please consult the professor in advance to see whether it is acceptable for this paper.

Middle East/ Egypt	India	China	Hellenic/Roman/Western
Sumer	Harappan Civ	Ch'in or Qin Dynasty	Ancient Greece
Persian Empire (Achaemenid )	Mauryan Empire	Han Dynasty	Roman Empire
Abbasid Caliphate	Gupta Empire	Tang Dynasty	Era of French Revolution and the Enlightenment
Ancient Egypt	Mughal Empire	Sung Dynasty	Peter the Great's Russia
Ottoman Empire	India under British Rule (the "Raj")	Ming Dynasty	Europe in the Renaissance

### Giving the Research Paper a Title

Your paper needs a title that announces the theme you have selected. It will need to make clear that you are following your theme through all four major civilizations. Do this by forming the title by combining two things: (1) your broad theme and (2) the words "in World History." (You do not, however, use quotation marks in your title.)

Examples: Women in World History  
 Food in World History  
 Music in World History  
 Education in World History

Ponting, Clive. A Green History of the World: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations. New York: Penguin Books, 1991.

1. The Lesson of Easter Island. In the eighteenth century, European visitors to this remote Pacific island found a primitive and decaying civilization. In its midst stood huge stone statues that scholars agreed had come from a more advanced society than the one that now occupied the island. Such a mystery invited much speculation about lost civilizations. But there was no mystery. Easter Islanders themselves had long ago developed an advanced civilization that placed impossibly high demands on the environment, which then collapsed and brought the society down with it.

Polynesian colonists first settled here in the fifth century. On this island of few resources, they subsisted on sweet potatoes and chickens that were easy to obtain, leaving a good deal of leisure time for ceremonial activities. They constructed monumental stone statues, intended for ceremonial centers, and used tree trunks as rollers to move them overland to the correct locations, thereby contributing significantly to the deforestation of the island, a process that was largely complete by 1600. Long before this, timber shortages had changed society. Cave or reed dwellings replaced wood huts. Short-distance reed boats replaced long-distance canoes and trapped the people on this island. Society degenerated into a competition for few resources that took various forms: warfare among clans, slavery, and cannibalism. The Easter Island experience has implications for the entire human population of the planet.

2. The Foundations of History. Here continue with the next chapter. Note the format used in this example. Underline the number and title of each chapter. Disregard any sections of the book that begin with roman numerals. Write your draft and edit it carefully. Observe one-inch margins. Use no quotations, footnotes, or endnotes. Staple once at upper left. No folders or cover sheets, please.