

Lincoln University
World History (Hist 10) Fall 2023
Prof. Eric Bergerud rickt2@prodigy.net
3 Credits Thursday 12:30 – 3:15 PM
Level: Introductory (I)

PURPOSE: To understand the world's present it is necessary to understand its historical foundation. This is more true than ever at present because of the growing connections between once distant cultures. A basic knowledge of the social, political, and economic background of different and unfamiliar cultures will prepare students to act in today's global society. In addition, this course, in common with all history courses, will help the students improve their analytical skills. Also, because the lectures are very important and the exams essay, students will improve their English language skills.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of the development of the world's largest and most influential cultures. While many civilizations will appear, the major emphasis will be on China, Islamic Middle East, India, and Europe. The first half of the course will cover the formative stages of the great civilizations. The second half will survey the enormous economic, political, and social impact of industrialization. Throughout the course, a comparative approach will be used to illustrate the degree of continuity and change in cultures. (3 units)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: There are no prerequisites for this class. Attendance is mandatory. Students are urged to complete the appropriate reading assignments before the lectures. It is very important that students be attentive in lecture and take notes as the lectures will have a different emphasis than the readings. Questions and discussions in class are strongly encouraged. It is very important to have an orderly atmosphere during lectures. Therefore, cell phones should be turned off and conversation between students is discouraged.

The text is *A World History* by William H. McNeil. I will show students where to buy an inexpensive used copy of this book. There will also be several copies on reserve in the library. Text assignments are listed below. I shall also make available an open source textbook *Modern World History* written by Dan Alosso and Tom Williford. It provides basic information but is much inferior to MacNeil.

In addition to readings and exams students will participate in creating and presenting group reports on a wide range of topics. I urge groups to choose their own topic, but I will provide suggestions if helpful.

FORMAT AND GRADES: This course will be based on a standard lecture format. The grades will be based on the outcome of one midterm and a final exam, the group report and class attendance. Both exams are based on a choice of essay questions. The essays will be very broad, and I will discuss their scope prior to exams. We shall also discuss the basic techniques of building a historical argument. The Standard A-F

grades will be given. Approximately 1/3 of the grade is based on the midterm and 2/3 on the final. However, I do take into consideration a favorable trajectory between the midterm and final when deciding the course grade. Bad attendance results in a grade penalty. Grading essays is necessarily subjective, but the grades will be put into a numerical format:

Point/Grade Conversion

100-95	A	76-74	C
94-90	A-	73-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-84	B	66-60	D
83-80	B-	59 or <	F
79-77	C+		

CONTACT BETWEEN INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS: I will have office hours between 3:15 and 4:15 on Tuesday at a room to be arranged. If you would like to meet at a different time, we will arrange it. At the top of the page is my home office phone number: if something comes up you are welcome to give me a call. If I am not in, leave your name and phone number (please speak clearly) on the answering machine and I will reach you as soon as possible. I ask that you use my home email address (rickt2@prodigy.net) My school email is bergerud@lincolnuca.edu but this will be forwarded and it is easier to go direct.

SCHEDULE: (Chapter assignments given in [] Text: *World History*, William McNeill)

August 24	Introduction & Assessment: Prehistory
August 31	Early Civilization, Greece [Ch 2, Ch 3, Ch5]
September 7	Rome and Feudal Europe [Ch 7, Ch 9, Ch 12, Ch 16]
September 14	Classical China and East Asia [Ch 6, Ch 10, Ch14]
September 21	Hindu Civilization; Buddhism [Ch 4, Ch 11]
September 28	Rise of Islam [Ch 13]
October 5	Traditional Islamic World; Midterm [Ch 15]
October 12	Renaissance and Early Modern Europe [Ch 18, 19]
October 19	European Imperialism: Phase I [Ch 25]
October 26	Scientific & Industrial Revolution [Ch 23]
November 2	Western Political Revolution & Imperialism [Ch 24, 26]
November 9	West and 20th Century
November 16	Western Civil Wars [Ch 28]
November 23	Fall Recess
November 30	End of Imperialism & New Nations [Ch 29]
December 7	Final Exam [30]

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES¹

	Course LO	Program LO	Assessment Activities
1	Understand the general development vectors and evolution patterns of human civilization.	PLO 1	Class discussion, Midterm and Final exams
2	Critically analyze modern social, political, economic, and cultural dilemmas using a broad understanding of historical trends.	PLO 4	Class discussion, Final exam
3	Demonstrate an ability to effectively and efficiently process information and work with primary sources.	PLO 5	Homework, class discussions

Syllabus revised: August 2023.

¹ Detailed description of learning outcomes and information about the assessment procedure are available at the [Learning Outcomes Assessment](#) section of LU website.