

Lincoln University
World History (Hist 10) Spring 2026
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. <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/949> It provides basic information but is much inferior to MacNeil.

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. Good class attendance can be a plus: bad attendance a minus. 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.

CONTACT BETWEEN INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS: I will have office hours Thursday at a room to be arranged. If you would like to meet at a different time, we will arrange it. You can also send me an email - I check them frequently. I ask that you use my home email address (rickt2@prodigy.net) My school email is bergerud@lincolnua.edu but this will be forwarded and it is easier to go direct.

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

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

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

Syllabus Updated 1-11-2026