

Course Syllabus

HISTORY 101: SYLLABUS (5 CR) HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION:

THE GREAT CULTURAL TRADITIONS

INSTRUCTOR: ISAAC MEYER (isaac.meyer@bellevuecollege.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: M/W 9:30-11:20 and by appointment, B-106

PRESCRIBED TEXTS:

Based on student feedback, this course no longer has required textbooks. All readings are posted online.

COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES:

History 101 is a survey of world civilizations from pre-historic origins to the end of the early middle ages i.e. c. 1000 AD/CE .The course examines developments during pre-historic times and then the emergence of the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China and their diffusion across Eurasia. The achievements of Western Classical civilizations such as the Greek, Roman, Indian, Chinese and early Byzantine Empires are also considered. Students will show that they have a clear understanding of the meaning of classical civilization by the end of the course. The course is designed to make students aware of the totality of the human experience and hence attention is focused on economic, social, governmental, religious, cultural, intellectual and technological developments. The course seeks to provide students with an understanding of the comparative features of early and classical civilizations; and appreciation of the role of personalities as well as broad trends in shaping the past, as well as an understanding of the impact of historical developments on the lives of ordinary men and women. The course will help students to appraise the nature of the problems facing ancient and classical civilizations and to assess these from a balanced perspective.

One of the major objectives (through reading, discussion and writing assignments) is to develop critical thinking skills. History (from the Greek) means learning through inquiry and a key objective is to promote inquiry and discussion. Students will demonstrate a capacity to make inferences, handle complexity of cause and consequence; understand divergent interpretations and the nature of historical evidence and the debates to which it gives rise in relation to the history of global societies during ancient and classical times. These will be specific elements of assessment in this class. The discipline is more than knowing lists of facts and dates (though these are important) and students will need to demonstrate that they have developed thinking/ analytical skills by the end of this course. History 101 is intended also to develop General Education skills in areas such as reasoning skills (critical thinking; research & information); communication (writing); cultural traditions (historical & intellectual Perspectives; cultural diversity).

Students are advised to make careful notes leaving space for the incorporation of supplementary materials from the readings or for the creation of independent questions about the topics under review. All questions concerning discussion or text assignments are welcome at any time. Please contact me via email at my email address (isaac.meyer@bellevuecollege.edu) with them. Note that I generally do not check email after 7 PM, so any email sent after that time will not be answered until the next day.

It is important for students to gain a reasonable geographical sense of places under discussion. Also, it is crucial that each student develop a chronology of events that will serve as a scaffold upon which to build arguments and interpretations of data. Timelines of all the civilizations we will be covering as well as atlases and maps are available online – these resources will be a tremendous help. In particular, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's [Timeline of Art History](#) is a tremendously valuable resource.

The use of electronic devices for notetaking is permitted in class. However, use of said devices for non-academic purposes is *extremely* obvious to the instructor and will not be tolerated.

The course is divided into approximately ten thematic/historical topics. To locate the materials/assignments for each topic access the "Pages" section of the course. (left hand margin menu). These will be labeled by week and date (e.g. "**Week 1, 4/6-4/10**", "**Week 2, 4/13-4/17**", etc.) There you will find both the week's assignments and the readings. Readings listed as due on a specific day (e.g. April 7th) should be done *before class* on that day.

It is critically important that students follow the weekly assigned readings and avoid falling behind. Students are entirely responsible for reading and knowing the relevant material in the prescribed texts as well as any other assigned material. Late submissions for quizzes and exams will generally not be accepted without a good excuse as you are given fairly broad leeway in submission times. Late papers *are* accepted but at a substantial penalty.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) QUIZZES:

Students will complete four quizzes. The material for the quizzes will be drawn from the prescribed readings and documents, lecture comments and discussions as well as the data in the reading guides or lectures. Quizzes will be done electronically on your own time. Because they are typed, spelling does count – use spellcheck to ensure you don't lose points for no reason.

Each quiz comprises a series of multiple-choice questions and may also include match-ups and time-line questions. A brief overview for each quiz will be posted. Quizzes cumulatively will represent 20% of the final grade (thus each quiz is 5% of the final grade).

Quiz dates are: October 2, October 23, November 13, November 26

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY: Once a quiz has been accessed it will close after the prescribed time allotted.

(2) DISCUSSIONS/ OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Twenty percent of your final grade will be based on participation in discussions in class. There will be discussions after lecture for 10-15 minutes almost every day of class (sometimes we will skip discussion for other reasons, such as when we discuss your papers).

I will break you into smaller groups to discuss readings and lecture based on both your own questions and ones that I will provide to guide you. I will be noting who does or does not participate in those discussions. Be sure that you do – these should be twenty very easy points to get as long as you are doing the reading.

Please note that attendance is *mandatory* as without it you will not receive credit for in class discussions. If for some reason you feel you will be late on a particular day you must let me know. You will receive two “free” absences if you notify me of the absence ahead of time.

(3) EXAMINATIONS:

There will be a midterm and a final examination. The midterm will be released on October 30, the final on December 7. In both cases you will have multiple days to complete the exam (until November 1st for the Midterm and until the 11th of December for the final). Both the midterm and final exam will be handled electronically through Canvas. See the course canvas page for more details. Each will be worth 20% of your final grade.

(4) TERM PAPER:

Students will submit a term paper that will be drafted and edited before final submission. The topic must be selected in consultation with the instructor and it must relate directly to the subject material of this course. You will be given a choice of three broad potential topics to write a paper on – the way in which you choose to answer the question is up to you. On May 16, a 100 word summary of your planned topic (including which question you are planning to answer) as well as a short list of potential sources is due on Canvas. This is to help you plan for writing the paper and to ensure that you don't leave the entire assignment to the last minute.

GRADING:

All results will be reduced to an overall average to decide the final grade. The midterm, (20%) final examinations (20%) and term paper (20%) will count 60% towards the final grade. Quizzes make up 20% of the grade. The discussions and assignments will be worth the remaining 20% of the final grade.

It is important to remember that at one level history is the narrative of things done, and so students are expected to know an accurate body of facts about the past. However the study of history also involves thinking about the changes that have taken place across historic time, why and how these changes came about. Superior grades will be earned by students who move beyond simply narrating history and begin to analyze it. The key to this course is to consider the broader themes that unite each of the disparate cultures we will deal with, both with each other and with the modern world.

There are no courtesy grades for this class. Grading is designed to maintain the highest college level standards and to measure as accurately as possible the individual student level of performance against this standard. In order to achieve a passing grade students must demonstrate that they have met the requirements of the course and achieved competency in the course objectives. It is imperative that students make use of consultation with the instructor. It is pointless to make known difficulties at the last moment when the situation may be beyond salvage. Students have the responsibility of seeking assistance in a timely manner.

GRADES:

Are achieved on a straightforward percentage basis. There is no curve grading. The grading scheme is as follows:

A = 90-100% A- = 85-89%

B+ = 80-84% B = 75-79% B- = 70-74%

C+ = 65-69% C = 60-64% C- = 55-59% D = 50-54%

F = Below 50%

Students who find that they need to withdraw from the course need to make a responsible decision by the final date for withdrawal (in person). Students who remain on the roster after that date will be assigned a final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Note: Reading assignments for an individual week are given on Canvas under the corresponding page (ex. "Week 1 – September 21-25").

Week 1: Human ancestors, the Stone Age, Ancient Mesopotamia

Week 2: Ancient Israel, Ancient Egypt, the Persian Empire

Week 3: Early China

Week 4: The Birth of Imperial China

Week 5: The Golden Age of Classical China

Week 6: The Golden Age of Greece

Week 7: The rise of Alexander and the Diadochi, the rise of Rome

Week 8: The Fall of the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire

Week 9: The Decline and Fall of the Western Roman Empire

Week 10: The survival of Eastern Rome, Islam, and the Post-Roman West

Week 11: Hegemon game, Paper discussions (more info forthcoming)

Resources for Students

Academic Success Center – Get free (!) tutoring (in virtually any subject), writing help, or math assistance at this great campus resource! Students who visit the Academic Success Center, we believe, do better in their classes. Stop by the Center in D204, or visit them [online](#).

Counseling Center– Did you know that BC offers free, short-term counseling for students? If you're having a problem in your life and you'd like to talk to someone about it, consider seeing a BC Counselor. We have referred our students to the Counseling Center for a very wide range of issues, ranging from stress and depression to relationship problems to sexual assault and other forms of abuse. BC's Counselors are sensitive, understanding, and trained. To make an appointment with a counselor, call (425) 564-2212. If you have a crisis and cannot reach the Counseling Center, call the 24 hour Crisis Clinic Hotline at (206) 461-3222 or 1-800-244-5767.

DRC (Disability Resource Center)– Although many BC students already know about the great people at the Disability Resource Center, there are some students with disabilities who haven't yet gone by the DRC for assistance. If you have any kind of disability whatsoever, we strongly encourage you to visit the DRC in B132 or [online](#).

LGBTQ Resource Center – The LGBTQ Resource Center is a place on campus where students can feel safe to be themselves, free from harassment, prejudice, or ridicule. Hang out, meet new people, use the computers to get some work done, or check out the books on a variety of LGBTQ-related themes. For more information, stop by their office in C225 or call them at (425)564-6041.

MCS (Multicultural Student Services) – MCS specializes in assisting students of color, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender students, and refugee and immigrant students. MCS aims to help all students reach their academic goals, so all BC students are welcome to use MCS's services free of charge. MCS is really wonderful at helping all students feel comfortable and welcome at Bellevue College. They will help integrate you into the life of our College. MCS has been a shoulder our students have leaned upon and a network of friends to turn to. We have seen MCS help with a wide variety of personal and professional challenges, from figuring out how to pay for college and secure childcare for kids, to personal counseling and advising. MCS pretty much can do it all – and if they can't, they can DEFINITELY connect you with the right people who can! For more information, visit them [online](#), stop by their office in B233, or call them at (425) 564-2208

TRiO – This department provides excellent academic support for students who have limited incomes, documented disabilities, OR who are the first in their families to attend college. Students tell us that their experiences with TRiO are amazing, and we have personally witnessed our students THRIVE (!) with TRiO's assistance and guidance. Students who join TRiO are given close and intensive academic advising, lessons in study skills, tutoring, and overall support not only as students but as human beings. For more information, visit them [online](#), stop by their office in B233, or call them at (425) 564-5475.

Veterans Office – If you are a veteran of the United States Military, BC's Veterans Office can help you with a variety of issues, most notably financial assistance. They will guide you along the GI Bill benefits, and they can help you activate your Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits. For more information about your options, visit their [website](#) or call (425) 564-2220.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available both in the office of the Dean of Student Services and [here](#).

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (“I”). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and

students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. For more information, visit <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>