

HIST 1511 - World Civilization to 1500

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 40099,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Joseph Alessi

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. or Professor Alessi

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Course Description

1511. World Civilization to 1500. Origins and growth of the major civilizations of the world from earliest times to about 1500. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required			

The required textbook, co-authored by J. Edelman, E. Pollard, C. Rosenberg, and R. Tignor, is an **ebook *Worlds Together Worlds Apart, vol. one Beginnings to the fifteenth century***, Concise 4th Edition (W.W. Norton & Company)

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Jared Diamond Article	Why Did Human History Unfold Differently	28 August
8/31	Chapter 2 of Text	Rivers, Cities and First States	4 September
9/7	The Civilization of the Greeks MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETY: THE GREEK PHASE Readings for the Aegean world, the Greek City-States, Africa & the Americas	Mediterranean World, Africa & Americas: Centers of Civilization Mediterranean & Western Afro-Asia (South-West Asia) India-Pakistan China's Zhou Empire	11 September
9/14	New Ideas in Eurasia & the Mediterranean Centers, Africa & Americas	CHAPTERS FIVE & SIX Readings on Innovations in Thought, State Administration, Warfare & Economy, The Greek & the Roman World The American and Sub-Saharan Africa Alexander & the Emergence of the Hellenistic World The Mauryan Empire and the Greeks The Silk Road: Connecting the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean	18 September
9/21	Exam 1		25 September

9/28	Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas	CHAPTER FIVE Readings: Sub-Saharan Africa and Meso-America Bantu Migrations, Nubia & Kush Meso-Americans Teotihuacan The Maya, Writing, Mathematics, & Architecture	2 October
10/5	Han China and Imperial Rome	Chapter 10: Globalizing Empires : Han China & Imperial Rome China under the Han Dynasty:changes, Reforms, Decline The Roman Empire, population movement, Republican constitution, Emperors The Rise of Christianity The Limits of Empire Persia, the Silk Roads & Buddhism The Transformation of Hindu Taoism	9 October
10/12	Universalizing Religions	Religious Change and Empires The Appeal of Christianity The Fall of Rome in the West & continuity of Rome in the East: Byzantium The Silk Roads, Buddhism, Hinduism and Taoism	16 October
10/19	Theocracy	New Empires, Common Cultures & Religious Pluralism New Islamic Empire,The five pillars of Islam The Abbasid, the Caliphate, the Army, Sharia Law, Islam in a wider world & the Green Revolution Conflict: Sunnis and Shiites	23 October
10/26	The Emergence of European Christendom	The Emergence of European Christendom pp.452-461 Charlemagne's Empire Vikings and Christendom The Roman Catholic Church & Greek Orthodox Christianity	30 October
11/2	Exam 2		6 November
11/9	China Under the Tang and Song Dynasties	China under the Tang Dynasty Territorial Expansion,Reforms China's Contact with Asian Neighbors, Korea & Japan Commercial Innovations under the Song dynasty	13 November
11/16	Crisis, Recovery and the World Coming Together	Becoming the World New Maritime Trade Islamic world & S.E.Asia China and its Neighbors Christian Europe & the Localization of Power & Crusading Sub-Saharan African States & Indian Ocean Trade The Americas Mongolian Empire & Linking Afro-Eurasia The Black Death: Plague in China & Europe The Rise of the Ottoman Empire The Catholic Church state building in Europe & Renaissance in Europe Ming China & the Explorations of Zheng He	20 November
11/23	Thanksgiving Break		
11/30	Final Exam Prep		
12/7	Final Exam		11 December

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