

HST 149 - EMPIRES AND GLOBALIZATION IN WORLD HISTORY I (4 credits)

Course Description

A survey of the most transcendental developments in World History, focusing on events or themes that have been moved by global forces, or that have had great impact on the collective history of mankind. Emphasis will be given to the birth and maturity of the world's great empires and civilizations and the relationships between empire-building, the interaction between the world's diverse peoples and societies and the early manifestations of the process of globalization, from the Dawn of Civilization to the Late Middle Ages.

Course Objectives

The principal objective of this course is to provide students with a general knowledge and understanding of early world geography, history and civilization, as a foundation for the further study of history and other fields which require an understanding of the broad development of humanity and global history. The student will learn to identify and comprehend the origins and causes of the rise and demise of the world's great civilizations, the historical interaction between these, and the far-reaching effects of these on other civilizations and on contemporary social, political and economic issues. Furthermore, the student will learn and apply basic methods of research, critical analysis and interpretation, and will develop his/her communication and writing skills. The student should leave the course with a better understanding – and a capacity to form his/her own opinions – of the situation of the world, today.

Course Overview and Requirements

Class format: Class sessions will consist of a combination of lectures, open discussions, optional audiovisuals and student presentations.

The following domains and skills will be developed during the course:

- (i) narration
- (ii) chronological reasoning
- (iii) causation
- (iv) comparison/contextualization
- (v) interpretation
- (vi) empathy

Required Readings: Students are required to complete the compulsory readings for each session *prior* to the date provided in the outline, and must be prepared to discuss the subject matter in class with the professor and fellow students.

Term papers: Students will be required to submit one 15-page research paper, to be submitted in two progressive, cumulative phases. During the first month, each student will have performed background research on a topic which he/she shall select in consultation with the professor. For the first submittal, each student shall prepare a 5-page (1000-1250 words), thoroughly documented **Research Paper Proposal and Progress Report**. Toward the end of the semester, each student will

submit a comprehensive 15-page (approximately 3500-4500 words) *Final Research Paper*, objectively analyzing the chosen subject from various viewpoints and historical interpretations.

Presentations: Each student shall also prepare two brief oral presentations: the first shall be a defense of the student's research proposal; the second shall be a rational and concise summary of findings regarding the Research Paper.

Mid-term and Final exams: The mid-term exam will cover all material discussed in-class up to the mid-term date, and will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and essay questions. The final exam will have a similar format and will cover material discussed in-class during the second half of the semester.

Grading Scheme:

Attendance is mandatory. Any planned or unavoidable absences must be informed to the professor and suitably justified in writing (e.g., a doctor's note). After two unjustified absences, your final grade will suffer a reduction of one-step of a letter grade (i.e., from "A-" to "B+") for each additional unjustified absence.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following % values:

<i>Class participation:</i>	10%
<i>Oral presentations:</i>	10%
<i>Term papers:</i>	30% (<i>Research proposal, 10%; Final paper, 20%</i>)
<i>Mid-term exam:</i>	20%
<i>Final exam:</i>	30%

Active and uninhibited in-class participation (answering and posing questions, participation in class debates, etc.) is highly encouraged. All assignments must be handed in on-time. Unjustified late submittals may be rejected at the discretion of the professor, and if accepted, will suffer a reduction of one step of a letter-grade for each day of tardiness.

Required Text:

Peter N. Stearns, Michael Adas, Stuart Schwartz and Marc Gilbert: World Civilization: The Global Experience, 5th Edition (Pearson-Longman, 2007), Parts I, II and III.