California State University, Chico
HFA / History
HIST 101-01
Ancient Civilizations, Spring 2013

Instructor: Prof. Jessica Clark
Office location: 202 Trinity Hall
Telephone: (530) 898-6302
Email: jhclark@csuchico.edu
Office hours: TR 12:30-3:00 p.m.
Class days/time: TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Classroom: Langdon 302
Prerequisites: None

Course Description and Goals

In this course, we will examine the political, economic, social and religious structures of some of the ancient civilizations that are the focus of the sixth-grade social studies curriculum in California public schools (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, India, China and Rome). We will also approach “world history” in global terms.

Over the semester, we will focus on methods of understanding the ancient world in its own terms and contexts, and so we will pay particular attention to cross-cultural contacts and conflicts. We will look for similarities and differences in the material worlds and lived experiences of these cultures – which means carefully considering not only historical texts and documents, but also city and town plans, art and everyday objects, literature, philosophy and religion.

We are starting at the very beginning of humans’ social organization, so we will also start with some of the most basic questions. For starters, what is a “culture”? and what defines the experience of it?

This is a “Global Cultures” class. It is a General Education course in the “Great Books & Ideas” Pathway, and meets the Lower Division, Area D/Social Science: Individuals & Society requirement.
Student Learning Objectives

Course Content Learning Outcomes

1: Characterize the cultures of the ancient world, distinguish their key political, social, artistic and religious elements, and discuss them in their own words.
2: Examine critically the types of evidence used for studying ancient cultures, assess where we know more or less, and how that affects historical reconstructions.

General Education Learning Outcomes

*Sustainability:* We will discuss the environmental dynamics associated with human activities, and the different ways ancient cultures balanced social and economic demands with the Earth’s ability to sustain physical and biological resources.

*Diversity:* One aim of this course is to foster an understanding of and facility with different intellectual viewpoints as well as the unique perspectives of others based on varied experiences, identities and social attributes.

*Global Engagement:* Course assignments ideally allow you to demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary to engage global cultures and peoples (particularly in terms of cultural heritage).

Liberal Studies Learning Outcomes

1a. Students demonstrate foundational understandings of concepts in ... history and social sciences;
1b. Students synthesize information from multiple sources.
5a. Students critically examine evidence as a means to solve problems.
6a. Students demonstrate an understanding of various concepts of beauty and their influence on human thought, behavior, and action.

Course Usage of Blackboard Learn

Copies of the course syllabus and other materials are available on Blackboard Learn. Also, some class meetings will be replaced by online activities. You will need regular, reliable internet access in order to complete this work; if this is an issue, please speak with me as soon as possible. Use my regular email address (jclark@csuchico.edu) to contact me, or call (898-6302).
Required Texts/Readings

*Meridians, Sources in World History*, Pearson Custom for History 101/Clark.
At the AS Bookstore; copies on Reserve at Meriam Library (“Clark J 1-PB”).

*Because this is a custom reader you will not be able to find used copies online* (if you try to order “Meridians,” you’ll get a custom reader some other professor created for some other course).

OR

Print ISBN: 978-0205835447

Classroom Protocol

Attendance and participation are expected, and I will occasionally give a little pop quiz in class. Do not come late to class or ask to leave early, unless you speak to me about the reason ahead of time. No cell phone use (obviously!); no recording unless authorized through DSS. You are welcome to use a laptop to take notes, but not if what is on your screen looks like it’s distracting your neighbors. On that note: the way sound travels in our classroom means that even what you think are quiet whispers are not quiet at all…so please respect your colleagues and save the socializing for later. If you have a question about something in class, don’t hesitate to raise your hand and ask it! The odds are you aren’t the only one.

Dropping and Adding

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found [http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/](http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/).

University Policies and Campus Resources

Academic integrity
Students are expected to be familiar with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. [http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/sja.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/sja.shtml).

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please see me during office hours. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DSS Office to establish a record of their disability.
Assignments and Grading Policy

Online Activities and Quizzes: 300 points
First Exam: 200 points
Second Exam: 200 points
Final Exam: 300 points
TOTAL possible: 1000 points

Grades:
925-1000 points = A
900-924 = A-
825-874 = B
800-824 = B-
725-774 = C
700-724 = C-
under 600 = F

Online Activities and Quizzes: Since we will not meet in class for four of our regularly scheduled days, you will have an online activity to complete to compensate. All the information you need to complete these online assignments is available in the folder on Blackboard Learn for the appropriate week. Due by midnight Thursday Feb. 7, Tuesday Feb. 12 & Thursday Feb. 21. These three assignments are worth 50 points each. You can receive up to half credit by submitting the assignment up to one week late. No make-ups after that time. Answers that appear rushed or incomplete will lose points. Do not simply copy from the textbook or share each other’s answers – use your own words. Answers that too closely copy the textbook or cut and paste from websites will receive no credit.

In addition, there may be other online assignments or quizzes in the second half of the semester.

Exams (2): These are not cumulative. The questions will be based on readings and lectures. Your “Reading Guide Worksheets” are your study guide.
Note that you will only be able to make up a missed exam if you have documentation of a medical or family emergency. If you aren’t feeling well enough to come to class for an exam, do be sure to see a nurse or doctor.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will follow the same format as the in-class exams, but take longer. Part of it will be cumulative.
Hist 101: History of Ancient Civilizations
(Note: subject to change with fair notice.)

There are no make-ups for exams without documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>T Jan. 29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th Jan. 31</td>
<td>Overview of the syllabus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNIT 1: Religion & Government in (the most) Ancient Civilizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>T Feb. 5</td>
<td>Families, Farming and the First Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read <em>Meridians</em> pp. 1-22 (<em>Connections</em> Ch. 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th Feb. 7 = no class; online activity</td>
<td>Follow instructions in “Week 2” folder on Blackboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>T Feb. 12 = no class; online activity</td>
<td>Mesopotamia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th Feb. 14</td>
<td>Read <em>Meridians</em> pp. 23-36, 55-60 (<em>Hammurabi’s Code</em> excerpt) (= first half of <em>Connections</em> Ch. 2). Follow instructions in “Week 3” folder on Blackboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>We will meet in class Thursday (likely pop quiz day!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>T Feb. 19 &amp; Th Feb. 21 = No class; online activity</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read <em>Meridians</em> pp. 36-53 (= rest of <em>Connections</em> Ch. 2). We will not meet in class this week. Follow the instructions in “Week 4” folder on Blackboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>T Feb. 26</td>
<td>Early China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | Th Feb. 28    | Read *Meridians* pp. 102-116 (= 1/2 of *Connections* Ch. 4)
|      |               | **First Exam (Thursday)**                 |

**UNIT 2: Citizens & Outsiders in “Classical” (Mediterranean) Civilizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>T March 5</td>
<td>Assyria and Persia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th March 7</td>
<td>Read <em>Meridians</em> pp. 169-191 (<em>Connections</em> Ch. 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>T March 12</td>
<td>Early Greece &amp; Sparta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th March 14</td>
<td>Read <em>Meridians</em> pp. 194-204 (<em>Connections</em> Ch. 7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 18-22: Spring Break — no class

**Schedule for Weeks 8-15 To be determined**
(Second Exam will be Thursday, April 11)