



Bridgewater State University

Syllabus Summer 2021, 3 Credits

HIST 131 World History To 1500

May 31 – June 25

Professor: TBA

BOOKS:

Strayer. *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*. 3rd ed. Vol. 1 (ISBN 978-1319018412) = **Strayer in the syllabus**

Strayer/Nelson. *Thinking through Sources*. 3rd ed. vol 1 (ISBN 978-1319074647) = **Sources in Syllabus**

The two books can be ordered as a package with the ISBN (978-1319083861)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will survey the history of World Civilization from human origins up through the end of the 15th century. We will explore the economic, social, political, religious, and cultural dimensions of the diffusion of civilization around the globe.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 5% Class participation and attendance
- 5% Outline assignment – 2 pages.
- 15% Paper 1: Document Analysis 3-4 pages.
- 20% Paper 2: Document Analysis 4-5 pages.
- 25% Paper 3: Document Analysis 5-6 pages
- 30% Final exam: combination essay and short answer exam.

Grade	Quality Points
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3

B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Reading assignments should be completed by the date given in the syllabus.

Although the class is primarily a lecture, I invite questions and try to convert my lectures into conversations. Feel free to ask questions, especially about parts of the readings that are difficult. I will also pose questions to the class to stimulate class discussion.

This class will focus on the connection between primary source materials and the textbook. At times, you will be challenged by the original sources that are sometimes difficult to read, but at the same time your intellect and creativity will be stimulated to real historical insight from the documents we are reading together. Class participation on the part of every student will help us realize this goal. All three paper assignments will analyze primary source materials. Your task will be to show how a given document contains ideas, facts, details that reflect on the general nature of the period during which it was written as described in the textbook. Your papers should cite passages from the document directly, showing how a given passage relates to its historical time period. You should not write a book report, or try to evaluate the work as a whole from a literary point of view. Because of this methodology, primary source documents will often form the basis of class discussion.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Please send me an e-mail if you miss class. More than 5 unexcused absences will lower one's class participation grade and excessive absences will make it difficult to pass the course.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- May 31 Class 1 First Peoples; First Farmers to 4000 B.C.E
Strayer Part 1 Intro and c. 1 (pp. 2-57)
Sources: pp. 1-15
- June 1 Class 2 First Civilizations 3500 B.C.E. – 500 B.C.E.
Strayer c. 2 (pp. 59-95)
Sources: pp. 16-29
- June 2 Class 3 Review and Discussion
- June 3 Class 4 State and Empire in Eurasia/North Africa 500 B.C.E – 500 C.E

Strayer c. 3 (pp. 96-145)
Sources: pp. 30-46

June 4: Class 5 Culture and Religion in Eurasia/North Africa 500 B.C.E.-500 C.E.
Strayer c. 4 (pp. 147-189)
Sources: pp. 47-59
Outline assignment due

June 7 Class 6 Review and Discussion

June 8 Class 7 Society and Inequality in Eurasia/North Africa 500 B.C.E.-500 C.E.
Strayer c. 5 (191-227)
Sources: pp. 60-71

June 9 Class 8 Commonalities and Variations Africa and the Americas 500 B.C.E. – 1200 C.E.
Strayer c. 6 (pp. 229-271)
Sources: pp. 72-80

June 10 Class 9 Commerce and Culture 500-1500
Strayer c. 7 (pp. 272-321)
Sources: 81-92
First document analysis due

June 11 Class 10 Review and Discussion

June 14 Class 11 China and the World: East Asian Connections 500-1300
Strayer c. 8 (pp. 323-361)
Sources: pp. 93-105

June 15 Class 12 Review and Discussion

June 16 Class 13 The Worlds of Islam, Afro-Eurasian Connections 600-1500
Strayer c. 9 (pp. 363-407)
Sources: pp. 106-119
Second document analysis due

June 17 Class 14 Review and Discussion

June 18 Class 15 The Worlds of Christendom: Contraction, Expansion, and Division 500-1300
Strayer c. 10 (pp. 409-455)
Sources: pp. 120-133

June 21 Class 16 Review and Discussion

June 22 Class 17 Pastoral Peoples on the Global Stage: The Mongol Moment 1200-1500
Strayer c. 11 (pp. 457-497)
Sources: pp. 134-146

June 23 Class 18 The Worlds of the Fifteenth Century
Strayer c. 12 (pp. 559-609)
Sources: pp. 147-159

June 24 Class 19 Review and Discussion
Third Document Analysis due

June 25 Class 20 **Final Exam**