THE PREMODERN WORLD

HIS 301F (#39095)/ AHC 310 (# 32885)

MWF 11-12 UTC 3.112

Description:

This lower-division, lecture course provides an overview of global development from roughly 30,000 BCE to 1500 CE. It introduces students to the main political, social, and cultural trends in a variety of societies while at the same time stressing the global perspective. Considerable emphasis is paid to comparative history and the study of cross-cultural encounters. "The Premodern World" aims to teach historical thinking as well as historical content, impart a basic grasp of the premodern past, and stimulate the development of large-scale frameworks for historical analysis. Although this course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of the subject, students are presumed to be capable of critical reflection upon both lectures and readings.

This course carries a Global Cultures flag.

Teaching Staff:

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TA Hadi Hosainy

Assigned Readings:

1) Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World, A Brief Global History with Sources Vol.1: To 1500,* Bedford/ St. Martins.
2) Neil MacGregor, *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, Viking Press.
3) Sima Qian, *The First Emperor,* Oxford University Press.
4) selections from Ross Dunn, *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta*, Univ. of California Press.
5) Ashoka's Rock Edict XIII.
6) Wikipedia entries on Pillars of Ashoka, Trajan's Column, and Bayeux Tapestry.

Note: The first three items can be purchased from the University Coop or borrowed from Perry-Castañeda Library Course Reserves. The remaining items are provided on the course Blackboard site or can be found online. The contents of *A History of the World in 100 Objects* are also available as podcasts at < http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow/all>, with accompanying images at < http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/about/british-museum-objects/>.

Requirements: Students are expected:

*to attend all lectures

*to prepare all reading assignments thoughtfully by beginning of the week
*to complete at least four of the six worksheets and submit them in class
*to participate regularly and responsibly in worksheet-based discussions
*to complete at least four of the six quizzes
*to complete the two exams (midterm and final)

Grading procedure. The two exams will consist of both short answer and essay questions, and will together comprise 55% of the course grade. Six short, factual, multiple-choice quizzes based on the assigned readings from the Strayer textbook will be administered – *four* of these will count toward the course grade. A series of six worksheets will accompany our non-Strayer readings; *four* will count towards the course grade. The various aspects of student performance are weighted as follows:

midterm (Oct. 19)	= 25%
final exam (Dec. 12)	= 30%
4 quizzes	= 20% (cannot be made up)
4 worksheets	= 20% (must be turned in during class)
attendance & participation	= 5%

We will NOT be using pluses and minuses for the course grade this semester.

Attendance policy.
Quizzes and worksheets cannot be made up, NO EXCEPTIONS. Hard copies of worksheets must be submitted personally at the beginning of class – emailed or late worksheets will not be accepted. Make-up exams will be administered *only* with the consent of the professor and at her convenience.

Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. It is the policy of UT-Austin that you must notify each of your instructors at least *fourteen days* prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent to observe a religious holy day.

Policy on special accommodations. At the beginning of the semester, students who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities (SDD) Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

Read more at: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Academic integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Read details at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php

Blackboard and laptop/messaging device policy. We will use the course web site on Blackboard to post assignments and make announcements relating to the course – check the site regularly for new information. It is your responsibility to maintain a functioning email account linked to Blackboard.

Read university policy at: http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify/html

All students have the right to learn in a supportive environment: don't let your use of a laptop or mobile device distract others. *All laptops and mobile messaging devices must be turned off and stored away during quizzes and examinations*. Their use, WITHOUT ANY SOUND, is acceptable during lectures or class discussions for note-taking or instructor-directed web-surfing.

To record audio or visuals of lectures you must have a written consent from the lecturer.

Keep in touch! If you are having difficulty with the course or must be absent for a period due to personal issues, stop by during office hours or be in touch by email. Don't wait until weeks have passed and it's too late to catch up.

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Schedule of Class Meetings & Readings

PT. I: THE WORLD TO 500 CE

Wk 1. INTRODUCTION

W Aug. 29 Introduction to Course

F Aug. 31 The British Musem & Its 100 Objects

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch1. "First Peoples, To 10,000 BCE;" & *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pt. One.*

Wk 2. AGRICULTURE & ITS IMPACTS

W Sept. 5 From Foraging to Farming

F Sept. 7 Spread of Agriculture

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch2. "First Farmers, 10,000 BCE-3000 BCE;" & *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pt. Two.*

Wk 3. THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

M Sept. 10 Cities & Civilizations: An Overview

W Sept. 12 Urban Revolution in Mesopotamia

F Sept. 14 Indus Valley Civilization // **quiz 1**: Strayer chs. 2-3

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch3. "First Civilizations, 3500 BCE-500 BCE;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pts. Three & Four.*

Wk 4. CLASSICAL AGE IN ASIA, PT. 1

M Sept. 17 Discussion // **worksheet 1** due

W Sept. 19 The Teachings of Buddha & Confucius

F Sept. 21 Emperor Asoka's Message of Dharma

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch4. "Eurasian Empires, 500 BCE-500 CE;":
& Ch5. "Eurasian Cultural Traditions, 500 BCE-500 CE;
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pt. Five* & Objects #30, 32 & 41;
& Asoka's Rock Edict XIII & Pillars of Ashoka (Wikipedia).

Wk 5. CLASSICAL AGE IN ASIA, PT. 2

M Sept. 24 Historian Sima Qian & China's Qin-Han Empires

W Sept. 26 *video*, "The First Emperor: The Man Who Made China"
// **quiz 2**: Strayer chs. 4-5

F Sept. 28 *video*, "The First Emperor: The Man Who Made China" continued

reading: Sima Qian, *First Emperor,* pp. xxii-xxxiv, 23-52 & 61-94;
Strayer, *Ways*, pp. 180-87.

Wk 6. CLASSICAL AGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

M Oct. 1 Discussion // **worksheet 2** due

W Oct. 3 Greeks and Persians

F Oct. 5 Rome & the Roman Empire

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch6. "Eurasian Social Hierarchies;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pts. Six, Seven &* Objects #36, 39, 40.

Wk 7. DIFFERING TRAJECTORIES: AMERICAS & AFRICA

M Oct. 8 Comparing Empires: Han & Rome // **quiz 3** Strayer ch. 6-7

W Oct. 10 The Classical Maya in an American Context

F Oct. 12 Discussion // **worksheet 3** due

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch7. "Classical Era Variations: Africa & Americas;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, Objects # 22, 24, 29, 37, 38, 48, 51;
& Trajan's Column (Wikipedia).

Wk. 8. SUMMING UP: THE WORLD TO 500 CE

M Oct. 15 Africa & the Bantu Migration

W Oct. 17 Exam review

F Oct. 19 **MIDTERM**

PT. II: THE POST-CLASSICAL WORLD, 500-1500

Wk 9. EXPANDING ECONOMIC & CULTURAL SPHERES

M Oct. 22 Aftermath of Empire: The Making of Europe

W Oct. 24 Sea, Silk, and Sand Roads in Eurasia, 500-1500

F Oct. 26 Expansion of European Culture: View from England

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch8. "Commerce and Culture, 500-1500;"
& *Ways*, Ch10. "Worlds of European Christendom, 500-1300;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pts. Nine & Ten;*
& Bayeux Tapestry (Wikipedia).

Wk 10. CHINA & ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

M Oct. 29 Prosperity of Postclassical China// **quiz 4:** Strayer chs. 8 & 10

W Oct. 31 Expansion of Chinese Culture: View from Japan

F Nov. 2 Discussion // **worksheet 4** due

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch9. "China & World: East Asian Connections;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pt. Eleven* & #56, 58, 59 of *Pt. Twelve.*

Wk 11. GROWTH OF ISLAMIC WORLD(S)

M Nov. 5 Rise of Islamic Culture & Peoples

W Nov. 7 Expansion of Islamic Civilization

F Nov. 9 Encounters: Muslims & Christians// **quiz 5**: Strayer ch. 9 & 11

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch11. "Worlds of Islam: Afro-Eurasia, 600-1500;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Objects* #57, 60, 62.

Wk 12. CONNECTING THE OLD WORLD, 1250-1350

M Nov. 12 Mongol Conquests

W Nov. 14 Marco Polo and the Pax Mongolica

F Nov. 16 Discussion // **worksheet 5** due

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch12. "Pastoral Peoples on the Global Stage: The Mongol Moment, 1200-1500;
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, *Pts. Thirteen & Fourteen.*

Wk 13. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF IBN BATTUTA, PT. 1

M Nov. 19 Ibn Battuta, the Gentleman-Scholar

W Nov. 21 *video* (to be announced)

reading: Dunn, *Adventures of Ibn Battuta*, pp. 1-12.

Wk 14. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF IBN BATTUTA, PT. 2

M Nov. 26 India under the Delhi Sultanate

W Nov. 28 Cultures in Contact in Africa // **quiz 6**: Strayer chs. 12-13

F Nov. 30 The Black Death & Aftermath

reading: Dunn, *Adventures of Ibn Battuta*, pp.183-212 & 290-320.

Wk 15. SUMMING UP: CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS, 500-1500

M Dec. 3 Discussion // **worksheet 6** due

W Dec. 5 Global Connections: The Ming Voyages

F Dec. 7 Exam Review

reading: Strayer, *Ways*, Ch13. "The Worlds of the Fifteenth Century;"
& *Hist. of World in 100 Objects*, Objects #72, 73, 74.

Final Exam = Wednesday, Dec. 12th, 2-5 pm