

HISTORY 305.01E

Course Syllabus, Fall 2022

Tuesday, Thursday, 12:30-1:45 PM

McDowell Administration Building (BA) 346

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information,
<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

I am: Andrew Donnelly, PhD

Office Location:

Office Hours: TBD

University Email Address: andrew.donnelly@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: as soon as I can (usually within 24 hours)

COURSE INFORMATION

All course readings will be distributed electronically.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Canonically, this course “differs from traditional Western Civilization not only in its greater geographic scale but also its longer chronological scope. This course begins with the earliest human tribal organizations. Consideration of the ancient period will also include the development of cradles of civilization, the growth and decline of classical cultures, interactions among classical and nomadic peoples, and the establishment of great world religions. The study of the medieval period will include varieties of rebuilding after the collapse of classical empires, the roles played by great world religions in medieval cultures, and the development of technologies of communication and transportation.”

In reality, however, the notion that we can cover the entirety of human history from the first fishes to, say, the 16th century is an impossibility. What this class will do instead is focus on the contact between specific civilizations at certain distinct points in history. This will allow students the opportunity to learn more about a myriad of civilizations and peoples, build a basis of knowledge upon which to teach courses of their own, and have a focal point with which to examine human history.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be comfortable contextualizing primary sources
- Students can recognize and summarize a secondary source; students can also identify, construct, and support an argument using secondary source
- Students will be able to produce a quality book review
- Develop a solid understanding of world geography
- Students will be comfortable using Turabian/Chicago formatting

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Students will develop a broad knowledge of some of the great civilizations of our world

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This course is based on lectures, presentations, and discussion of the reading you have done and the material we are examining. Active participation, therefore, is important! You will learn a great deal by reading and participating in our discussions of the material; this in turn will make our time in our weekly meetings a good deal more fun. I love discussion and learning what you think, and believe that reading, thinking, and talking about material culture helps one lead a fulfilling adult life.

I encourage an open exchange of ideas between the class and myself. Please do not hesitate to ask questions. The only silly question is the one left unasked.

Grading and assignments

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown.

Class participation:	20%
Midterm examination:	15%
Final exam:	20%
Map Assignments (6):	5%
Group Project Presentation:	10%
Book review:	20%
Reading quizzes	10%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A: Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean; proper citation format
- B: Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement; proper citation format
- C: Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned; some errors in citation format
- D: Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning; poor citation format

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 or less

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I am available, whether in person or via email, to help you with your work. Please seek me out. Students are often not aware that faculty members are here to help. My door is open. I very much enjoy getting to know and helping my students.

Assignment breakdown

We will spend a significant amount of each Thursday class involved in the **discussion** of historical material and reading. This course only works when there is free-flowing discussion of the material that you have read. Thus please come to class **ON TIME** having prepared this reading for our discussion. I will distribute this reading electronically well in advance of our meeting. The bulk of your class participation grade will come from your performance. This **participation** grade is calculated on your willingness and ability to contribute to our class discussion. Asking questions; contributing to the conversation; helping to discuss or explain the workings of a particular passage or source—all of these are what I hope to see from each of you over the course of this semester, and doing these is vital for your success in this portion of the course. Please note that discussion is more than a requirement: it makes the class enjoyable. No one likes a silent classroom. Many doubt, however, that their voice or contributions are the solution. I assure you this is not the case: your contributions will be an invaluable part of our experience this semester. Not only will your peers thank you, they will learn from you. So will I.

The **midterm examination** will include a discussion of a reading passage and a choice from among several general short answer questions. The **final exam** will also include a longer essay. You will not be examined on material not yet covered in lecture or the readings. You will be graded on your command of the material. While you are not graded on their writing for examinations, answers must be in essay form with complete paragraphs and sentences. Students who find themselves running out of time towards the end of an examination period may begin to outline the remainder of their answer.

The **map assignments** involves completing several map that I will provide. We will look at six geographic units over the course of the semester, and you will fill out a map for each unit. I realize this may seem mundane, but I will refer to a great number of places, rivers, cities, and geographic areas over the course of this semester. You will need to know them, and this assignment is designed to facilitate that. A knowledge of geography is required for this course and is a terrific thing to have in general. The maps will be posted to our class website.

Group Presentations will occur almost every Thursday. These will consist of groups of 2-3 students and will involve a 15 (at minimum) minute presentation on a significant historical figure, event, textual source, or artistic achievement relevant to the material of the week. Presenters will provide an overview of the topic, pertinent information about the material, and ask questions of the class about it. We will then discuss these presentations in class. Presenters should also be prepared to answer questions about the material, and I expect audience members to ask questions (this is an excellent way to earn participation points); I will also ask questions of the presenters myself. We will form our groups in the first week of the semester. Each group will present once over the course of the semester.

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One of the great skills required for historians is the ability to write a **book review**. These are opportunities for experts to offer their commentary on the strengths and weaknesses of a volume, and further enhance the scholarly community's understanding of a historical topic. This ability to critique based on your own knowledge is an important skill for all to have, and you will work on developing it in this assignment. You will select your book from a list that I will provide; I will also provide a guideline to writing a successful book review.

There will be several **quizzes** throughout the semester. They will be held on Thursdays, just before the presentations, and will consist of a short questions on the primary source readings I will assign. There will be 5 in total. There are NO make-up quizzes.

Attendance and Participation

For all class meetings, students are expected to come prepared having done all the reading. I expect all students to participate actively in our class and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

- A: Always prepared, frequently participates, not absent
- B: Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C: Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D: Often unprepared, several absences
- F: Usually unprepared, frequent absences

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week one: Introduction and Explanation of Class

We meet: August 30, September 1

First Map assignment posted

Book review book list posted

Week two: Egypt and Nubia

We meet: September 6, 8

Presentation 1: September 8

First map assignment due 9/6

Week three: Egypt and Nubia continued

We meet: September 13, 15

Quiz 1: September 15

Presentation 2: September 15

Week four: Greece and Persia

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

We meet: September 20, 22

Note: I will be in Bodrum, Turkey this week. I will record lectures for this week and next.

Second map assignment due 9/20

Week five: Greece and Persia continued

We meet: September 27, 29

Note: I will be in Athens, Greece this week. Part of your assignment in my absence is to turn in to me an email indicating which book you are thinking of writing your **review** on.

This means you have to investigate the book, read about the book, and know a fair amount about this book. We will discuss this before I leave the country.

Week six: Normans in Sicily

We meet: October 4, 6

Third map assignment due 10/4

Presentation 3: October 6

Week seven: Normans in Sicily continued

We meet: October 11, 13

Quiz 2: October 13

Presentation 4: October 13

Week eight: Midterm week

We meet: October 18, 20

Midterm exam: 10/20

Week nine: China and Mongols

We meet: October 19, 27

Fourth map assignment due 10/19

Presentation 5: October 27

Week ten: China and Mongols continued

We meet: November 1, 3

Quiz 3: November 3

Presentation 6: November 3

Week eleven: Spain and the Aztecs

We meet: November 8, 10

Fifth map assignment due 11/8

Week twelve: Spain and the Aztecs continued

We meet: November 15, 17

Quiz 4: November 17

Presentation 7: November 17

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Week thirteen: Thanksgiving break/catch-up day
We meet: November 22

Week fourteen: Korea and Japan
We meet: November 29, 31
Sixth map assignment due 11/29
Presentation 8: November 31

Week fifteen: Korea and Japan continued
We meet: December 6, 8
Quiz 5: December 8
Presentation 9: December 8
Book review due December 8

Final exam: Thursday, 12/15, 10:30 AM -12:30 PM, our classroom

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Course communications will come through your university email account. Be sure to check it regularly. You should contact me through my email address (andrew.donnelly@tamuc.edu).

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due as indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of F.

Your Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide, not a contract. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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