



**HIST 305.01E WORLD HISTORY TO 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012**



*Angkor Wat temple complex, 12<sup>th</sup> century, Cambodia*

Instructor: Cynthia Wiecko, PhD  
Adjunct Faculty  
Class Time: Monday, Wednesday 11:00am – 12:15pm  
Class Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 150  
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 119  
Office Hours: M-F 9:30am to 10:30am; by appointment; email  
Instructor Email: [Cynthia.wiecko@tamuc.edu](mailto:Cynthia.wiecko@tamuc.edu)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials:**

Reilly, Kevin. *Worlds of History, Volume 1: To 1550 A Comparative Reader*. Bedford/St. Martin's. 2010. ISBN: 978-0312157890

Bentley, Ziegler, and Streets-Salter. *Traditions & Encounters A Brief Global History, Volume 1*. Second edition. McGraw-Hill. 2010. ISBN: 978-0077286422

McNeill, William. *Plagues and Peoples*. Anchor. 1998 (original publication, 1976).

ISBN: 0-385-12122-9

Turner, Jack. *Spice: The History of a Temptation*. Vintage. 2005. ISBN: 978-0-375-70705-6

*A Note about the Course Texts:*

*Students are expected to acquire the course texts prior to the start of class.* Failure to do so will hinder a student's ability to keep up with the course, and the Instructor is in no way responsible for such an eventuality. Allowances will not be made for students who lack possession of any one or both of the textbooks.

**Course Description:**

This course begins with the earliest complex societies. Consideration of the ancient period will include the formation of classical societies, the post classical era, cross cultural interaction, and the origins of global interdependence. Particular emphasis is given to the role of disease, trade, and warfare in shaping world history to the seventeenth century.

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite Majors: Hist 253.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to identify major events in world history and understand their significance in human history.

Students will be able to understand primary and secondary sources as exhibited through discussion and writing assignments.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

This is a course that includes face to face instruction and extensive use of the internet to access eCollege. The course space in eCollege will include the syllabus, gradebook, reading assignments, quizzes, and writing assignments. **Note: All student work will be submitted electronically into eCollege.** Students must have an email address listed on file for Instructor, access to a computer with word processing capability, and internet connectivity.

Before any assignments are due, students should familiarize themselves with eCollege and the course space. To access this course, go to [MyLeo](#), login, click eCollege on the right side of the screen, then click My Courses on the left side of the next screen and look for this course.

This class consists of in class lecture and substantial discussion. Note taking and engagement are essential to doing well in this class. Readings give students a broad overview of major issues while lecture and discussion delves more deeply into a few of those topics. Writing assignments allow students to develop better communication skills and demonstrate an understanding of course material.

**Assignment Explanations:**

## **Weekly Reading Quizzes:**

Each week students will complete a short reading quiz on eCollege over the assigned reading in *Traditions & Encounters*. Students should expect no more than 10 questions per chapter that may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, or maps. Each quiz will be open all week but students only have a one hour time limit to complete it. The quiz will be due @ 11:59pm the day before class. Multiple choice questions will be scored immediately in eCollege. Your quiz score will be finalized in the Gradebook within 7 days. Students are free to use the textbook, notes, and information in eCollege to complete the quiz but no outside sources are allowed. **Quizzes cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

## **Discussion Posts:**

A total of seven prompts related to *Worlds of History* will be posted in eCollege under Discussion. Students must answer each prompt in at least two paragraphs using the primary sources and any relevant information from other class texts. Posts must contain evidence cited from at least 50% of the assigned sources for the week (8 selections = at least 4 used). Students will submit their discussion post to the Discussion Thread by 11:59pm on Friday of the week indicated. Spelling and grammar must be accurate. **Discussion Posts cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

Students can earn from 1 to 5 additional points (up to the maximum 50 points for the assignment) by responding to a fellow classmate's post. Your response must elaborate on a point or pose a related idea/question. Simply writing something like, "Good work, Joe! I completely agree" is insufficient.

*Please note: Students will be reading 14 chapters from Worlds of History and are expected to engage in classroom discussion, regardless of chapter based writing assignments.*

## **Research Project:**

The research project is an 8-10 page paper (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced, with one inch margins, numbered) on a topic of your choice from either *Plagues and Peoples* or *Spice: The History of a Temptation*. Title page and bibliography do not count in the number of pages. McNeill's and Turner's books will provide a launch point for your research topic. The topic you choose should be narrowly defined for a reasonably detailed paper. Throughout the semester preliminary assignments are due to keep you on track and encourage a more thoughtfully constructed paper.

Any specific evidence such as quotations, statistics, or paraphrasing someone else's ideas in your own words must be cited using footnotes in the Chicago citation style. Chicago style is the standard in History and should be used by all majors in the program. Significant latitude is given for style but spelling and grammar must be accurate. For any questions on spelling, grammar, or Chicago style meet with me or visit the Writing Center. The research project will be discussed throughout the semester and questions are encouraged. See the schedule for all due dates.

### *Research Paper Elements:*

Title page: student's name, title for the assignment, course title, date. Please note, the title should tell the reader something about what he or she is about to read. Use the content of your writing to compose your title. If a paper does not have a title or has a generic title like "History Paper,"

expect a grade penalty. The title page is not to be numbered, nor does it count towards the total page requirements.

Body of text: The body should meet the requirements noted above. The most important aspect of a student's work is accuracy and the quality of analysis, but grammar and mechanics matter. Sources must be in Chicago style with footnotes.<sup>1</sup>

Bibliography: This must include only peer-reviewed articles, scholarly books, and reputable websites. The bibliography must include a minimum of eight sources, of which at least one must be primary and one must be McNeill or Turner. No more than two sources may be reference works (for example, textbooks or encyclopedias); and no more than two may be websites. (By way of clarification, a journal article that appears in print and is later reproduced full-text on the Internet does not count as a website; by "website" I mean material written for an internet site, not merely reproduced there.) The bibliography is paginated, but it does not count towards the total number of pages required.

### **Participation:**

This course moves at a fast pace and focuses on a variety of complex events and ideas, sometimes spending only one day on a particular large topic. For this reason, attendance is just as important as keeping up with the readings and writing assignments and will be recorded. University policy does allow excused absences in certain situations such as school sponsored events, jury duty, and military service. All of these excuses require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, flat tires, incarceration (student or family members) or other events and calamities are **NOT** excused absences.

As this is an upper-division university course, discussion is also an expected part of the class. Students are encouraged to ask questions and answer those questions asked to the class. There will also be opportunities to voice your informed opinions and debate certain issues. I do not grade on opinion but rather on engagement, participation, and ability to support your arguments. At the end of the semester, I will award points based on participation in class.

### **Grading**

Quizzes (14 @ 20 points each)	280
Discussion Posts (7 @ 50 points each)	350
Research Project	300
Tentative Topic (25)	
Tentative Bibliography (25)	
Final Topic and Thesis Statement (25)	
Outline (25)	
Final Paper (200)	
Participation	70
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

Semester Grades: A: 100-90%; B: 89-80%; C: 79-70%; D: 69-60%; F: 59% and below.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a footnote. The appropriate citation will be placed here. See the Chicago Style Guide available in the course space for precise citing instructions.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed required (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to:

<https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

This course will use most of the features in eCollege including email, announcements, threaded discussion, assignment drop boxes, and the grade book. Students can also find the syllabus and other necessary materials posted in the course space.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

Students should take advantage of the office hours listed at the top of the syllabus to meet with the instructor. Other times can be arranged by appointment. Email is always welcome. Unless otherwise announced, students will receive a response within 24 hours.

### **eCollege Student Technical Support:**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Chat Support:** Click on *'Live Support'* on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

**Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Help:** Click on the *'Help'* button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Additional Resources:**

Depending on student familiarity with history courses, university classes, and the quality of work expected in assignments the following links may be helpful:

[Doing Research](#)

[Evaluating Scholarly Content Online](#)

[A Tutorial on Plagiarism](#)

[Assessing Online Resources](#)

[How To Use the Library Catalog](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide – see far right column labeled 'CMS'](#)

### **Late Assignments:**

Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates. Late work will not be accepted.

### **Extra Credit:**

There is no extra credit in this course.

### **Class Conduct:**

I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Please exercise common classroom courtesy which includes: being on time, not interrupting me or fellow students during discussion, turning off all electronic devices not intended for class, staying focused on the material rather than social networking, reading material for other classes, avoid sleeping and generally act in a way that indicates to me that you are engaged. Also, refrain from putting away your things before class is over since I will not keep you past the end time.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper or exam from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages and passing it off as

your own work. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It is fine to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see the instructor or visit the Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

I have absolutely no tolerance for plagiarism! If a student commits academic dishonesty on any part of an assignment, the assignment will receive a zero with no possibility for make-up. If academic dishonesty is committed a second time, the student will immediately fail the course and I will pursue the maximum university discipline possible. *This is not negotiable.*

### **Writing Lab:**

The [TAMU-Commerce Writing Center](#) is a valuable service free to any student. They can help you get started on a paper, help with drafts, and answer specific questions about citation style, grammar, and spelling. While they will not write the paper for you, they are there to give feedback and guidance.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### *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:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

#### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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*I reserve the right to modify the class schedule if necessary but will give students ample notice in class and on eCollege.*

**Week 1 (Aug 27 – Aug 31): Introduction and the Foundations of Complex Societies**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 1

*Worlds of History* Chapter 1

*Plagues and Peoples* Introduction

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Tuesday

**Week 2 (Sept 3 – 7): Early African Societies and Bantu Migrations**

*Monday, Labor Day*

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 2

*Worlds of History* Chapter 2

*Plagues and Peoples* Chapter 1 & 2

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Tuesday

Discussion Post #1 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 3 (Sept 10 - 14): Early Societies in South and East Asia**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 3

*Worlds of History* Chapter 3

*Spice* Introduction and Chapter 1

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday

Discussion Post #2 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 4 (Sept 17 - 21): Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 4

*Spice* Chapter 2 & 3

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday

Tentative Research Project Topic due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 5 (Sept 24 - 28): Persian Empires & the Unification of China**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 5 & 6

*Worlds of History* Chapter 4

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Sunday  
Discussion Post #3 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 6 (Oct 1 - 5): State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in India**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 7  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 6

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Sunday  
Tentative Bibliography due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 7 (Oct 8 - 12): The Greek and Roman Mediterranean**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 8  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 5  
*Spice* Chapter 4 & 5

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Sunday  
Discussion Post #4 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 8 (Oct 15 - 19): Cross-Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Roads**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 9  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 7

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Sunday  
Discussion Post #5 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 9 (Oct 22 - 26): The Commonwealth of Byzantium**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 10  
*Spice* Chapter 6 through Epilogue

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Sunday  
Final Research Topic and Thesis Statement due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 10 (Oct 29 – Nov 2): The Expansion of Islam**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 11  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 8

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday  
Discussion Post #6 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 11 (Nov 5 - 9): Centralized Rule in East Asia and India**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 12 & 13  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 9  
*Plagues and Peoples* Chapter 3

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday

**Week 12 (Nov 12 - 16): Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 14  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 11  
*Plagues and Peoples* Chapter 4

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday  
Research Project Outline due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 13 (Nov 19 – 23): States and Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa**

*Thanksgiving Week, Monday class only. Eat lots of turkey and pie!*

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 15

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday

**Week 14 (Nov 26 - 30): Christian Western Europe During the Middle Ages**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 16  
*Worlds of History* Chapter 9, 10, 12

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday  
Discussion Post #7 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 15 (Dec 3 - 7): Encounters Across the Atlantic and Pacific**

Readings:

*Traditions & Encounters* Chapter 17 & 18

*Worlds of History* Chapter 13 & 14  
*Plagues and Peoples* Chapter 5 & 6

Assignment:

Weekly Reading Quiz due @11:59pm Sunday

Finals Week (Dec 10 - 14)

Assignment: Research Project Due @ 11:59pm Monday, December 10