

# HIST 2321: World History I

Dr. Kristin Wirts

*Associate Professor of History*

Fall 2016



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the major political, economic, social, institutional, intellectual, and cultural changes that shaped World History from Early Humankind up to 1700. This course represents the first half of a two-part sequence and is divided chronologically into three segments: Early Humanity and the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Early Modern Era.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Dr. Wirts' office hours for the Spring 2016 term will be on-line on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 –4:30 p.m. Dr. Wirts is also available for teleconferences. Students are encouraged to contact Dr. Wirts by email if they would like to schedule an individualized teleconference. Dr. Wirts is available for online teleconferences during morning, afternoon, and evening hours.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Office: 311 COAS Building, Phone: 665-3561 (Main Line, History Dept.), Email: kristine.wirts@utrgv.edu.

**REQUIREMENTS:** HIST 2321 is a lower-level online history course. All quizzes and exams are conducted vis-à-vis the Blackboard system. Along with the general textbook, students are assigned two books of supplemental reading and one article. Students will be required to take three multiple choice exams and five online quizzes. Each student is additionally required to write three short papers (three pages in length) over the assigned readings. All assignments will be received and returned over the **Blackboard** system. **The professor will not receive assignments over the university email sys-**

**tem.** For this course, students are required to read and think critically about all assigned readings. Students are expected to turn all materials in on time and keep abreast of classroom assignments and announcements as they appear on Blackboard.

**PREREQUISITES AND REQUIRED TECHNICAL SKILLS:** There are no prerequisites for this course, but students should be proficient in English (both in reading and writing). Students should know how to submit email with attachments and how to create and submit files in Microsoft Word format.

**Required Readings:** All books required for this course are available at the Campus Bookstore.

Article and Books:

Jared Diamond, "The Worst Mistake in History of the Human Race," *Discover Magazine* (1987): 64-66. **(Posted on Blackboard)**

Louise Lavathes, *When China Ruled the Seas* (1994).

Peter N. Stearns, *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity, Combined Volume* (2010).

John Thornton, *The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684 -1706* (1997).

**QUIZZES AND EXAMS:** Each student will be required to take five online quizzes. Each quiz is worth 10 points for a total of 50 points. The quizzes are multiple-choice and will cover all the assigned readings. In addition to five quizzes, students will take three multiple-choice exams. As with the quizzes, the exams will be administered over Blackboard. Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 300 points. The three exams will cover all assigned readings since the previous exam. Note: The final exam is not comprehensive. Students will be given 120 minutes to take each exam, and students will have only ONE opportunity to take each exam. The closing date for quizzes #2-#5 and all exams is **December 13**. The highest score achieved by **December 11** on quizzes #2-#5 and all three exams will stand as the final grade for each quiz/exam. Finally, all exams and quizzes are open book. Students are permitted to use whatever study guides or resources at their disposal (notes, textbook, additional readings, internet) to answer quiz or exam questions. Note additionally that students are required to work independently when taking their quizzes and exams. **Collaboration conducted in the course of an online quiz or exam is strictly prohibited.**

**MAKE-UPS:** Under no circumstances are Make-Ups given unless the student furnishes the instructor with a written, legitimate excuse. A legitimate excuse includes illness, death of a friend or family member, family emergency,

conflict with work, etc. If you are not sure what constitutes a legitimate excuse, ask the professor. Students unable to complete a test or a quiz are instructed to contact the professor as soon as possible. Any student missing more than one exam or two quizzes is strongly encouraged to drop the course.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** Each student is required to write three short papers (3 pages in length). The papers should be double-spaced and in 12 point font. Professor Wirts will provide the essay question for the paper. The essay question for each paper will cover the assigned readings. Papers that are less than two pages in length may be subject to a point deduction. Students are additionally required to use proper grammar and punctuation for all their writing assignments. Only writing assignments that are typed and that follow Turabian or the Chicago Style form will be accepted. Either foot or end notes are acceptable, though not both forms for the same paper.

Students may access guidelines for citing sources from the following web addresses:

Chicago Style Guidelines: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>

Turabian Guidelines: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian2009.pdf>

**TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES:** Students experiencing technical difficulties are encouraged to contact UTRGV's Center for Online Learning, Teaching, and Technology (COLTT). COLTT can be reached either by phone at (956) 665-5327 (Edinburg Campus) or (956) 882-6792 (Brownsville Campus). Students may also submit an outline ticket at <http://colttapps.utrgv.edu/helpme>. COLTT's Website address is <http://utrgv.edu/online> and E-Mail address is [coltthelp@utrgv.edu](mailto:coltthelp@utrgv.edu). The IT helpdesk can also assist in resolving technical issues and can be reached by phone at (956) 665-2020. The IT helpdesk is located at Visit ACSB 1.102. If any student still cannot access the Blackboard system due to technical difficulties, then he or she may contact Professor Wirts for the needed course materials. Please note that it is incumbent upon the student to address his or her technical difficulties. The Professor will not continue to email course materials to students throughout the course of the semester.

**LATE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED WORK:** Students who experience technical difficulty in submitting their writing assignments through Blackboard have a **48 hour grace period**. Students who choose to submit assignments during the grace period must notify the professor electronically (by Blackboard email) that they will be submitting their work late and why. Any work submitted after the grace period will not be accepted without a legitimate excuse and written documentation (i.e., doctor's note). No papers will be accepted after **December 6**, even those with legitimate excuses.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Professor Wirts, in collaboration with other world history faculty, usually organizes cultural field trips during the course of the semester. These field trips are not required, but students are encouraged to participate. Students are also encouraged to attend history club and other department and/or university events that reinforce themes and content covered in HIST 2321.

**COURSE GRADE AND POINT BREAK-DOWN:** There are three exams (each worth 100 points), three short papers (each worth 50 points), and five online quizzes (each worth 10 points). The total number of points a student can accumulate for the course is 500.

<p><b><u>Exams</u></b>  <b>Exam #1 100 Points</b>  <b>Exam #2 100 Points</b>  <b>Exam #3 100 Points</b></p> <p><b><u>Quizzes</u></b>  <b>Quiz #1 10 Points</b>  <b>Quiz #2 10 Points</b>  <b>Quiz #3 10 Points</b>  <b>Quiz #4 10 Points</b>  <b>Quiz #5 10 Points</b></p>	<p><b><u>Writing Assignments:</u></b>  <b>Paper #1 50 Points</b>  <b>Paper #2 50 Points</b>  <b>Paper #3 50 Points</b></p> <p><b><u>Final Course Grade:</u></b>  A = 450- 500 Points  B = 400- 449 Points  C = 350- 399 Points  D = 300- 349 Points  F = 299 Points or Less</p>
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**Examination and Assignment Schedule:**

<b>Exams</b>	<b>Opening Dates</b>	<b>Closing Dates</b>
<b>Exam #1</b>	<b>September 25</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Exam #2</b>	<b>October 30</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>December 4</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>Opening Dates</b>	<b>Closing Dates</b>
<b>Quiz #1</b>	<b>September 9</b>	<b>September 11 (Mandatory)</b>
<b>Quiz #2</b>	<b>October 9</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Quiz #3</b>	<b>October 23</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Quiz #4</b>	<b>November 13</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Quiz #5</b>	<b>November 27</b>	<b>December 13</b>
<b>Writing assignment Due Dates:</b>		
<b>Paper #1</b>	<b>September 25</b>	
<b>Paper #2</b>	<b>October 30</b>	
<b>Paper #3</b>	<b>December 4</b>	

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students completing this course should be able to (1) analyze an historical argument and identify the thesis in historical works, (2) demonstrate understanding of how bias and points of view influence the historical record, (3) know how to use secondary sources to develop an argument, (4) demonstrate knowledge of proper periodization and their characteristics in multiple areas of the world in history, (5) make comparisons between those periods, areas, and events, (6) demonstrate the ability to present in written form important historical concepts, debates, and differing historical interpretations, and (7) demonstrate knowledge of the TEKS for history 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and TExES standards.

## UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE:** At all times, students should keep in mind that the online environment is a public space. Students are asked to exercise common courtesy and professional standards appropriate for an academic setting. Students are asked to write in standard English (in both formal writing assignments and online discussions) and respect their fellow students in all email, chat, and group discussion. In online discussions and chats, students are additionally asked to communicate in complete sentences.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION:** Per UTRGV policy, all email communication between the UTRGV faculty and staff and students must be conducted through the students' official University supplied Email account. Therefore, please use your UTRGV assigned Bronc Mail for any correspondence with UTRGV faculty and staff. Other emails may be blocked by the spam filter. Students are responsible for the consequences of an undelivered or delayed email blocked by the spam filter. For online courses students should use the email system in Blackboard.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [accessibility@utrgv.edu](mailto:accessibility@utrgv.edu). **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [accessibility@utrgv.edu](mailto:accessibility@utrgv.edu).

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:** Students are required to

complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:** As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Any student who plagiarizes will receive a zero for the writing assignment on which he or she has plagiarized and a grade of F for the course. Professor Wirts will additionally recommend that UTRGV take appropriate disciplinary action. Professor Wirts does not consider group study or consulting a tutor (or the professor) as academic misconduct. In writing your papers, keep in mind that all written material should be properly cited. If the idea is not yours, cite the source from which you found the material. If you are using a direct quote, put the quote in quotations and cite the source. If you are not sure what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism, ask the professor. Finally, students are also required to work independently when taking their online exams. Collaboration conducted in the course of an online exam or quiz is strictly prohibited.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:** In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing,

discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:** According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher educational institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

## **COURSE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Early Humanity and the Ancient World**

Week 1 (8/29): THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

Required Reading: Stearns, Chapters 1 & 2

Jared Diamond’s “The Worst Mistake in History of the Human Race.”

Week 2 (9/4): NOMADIC SOCIETIES

Required Reading: Stearns, Chapter 3

**QUIZ #1 OPENS SEPTEMBER 4 (MANDATORY)**

Week 3 (9/11): CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION: CHINA AND INDIA

Required Reading: Stearns, Chapters 4 & 5

**QUIZ #1 CLOSSES SEPTEMBER 11 (MANDATORY)**

Week 4 (9/18): CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION in the MEDITERRANEAN

Required Reading: Stearns, Chapter 6

Week 5 (9/25): CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION in the MEDITERRANEAN (Continued)

**PAPER #1 DUE SEPTEMBER 25**

**FIRST EXAM OPENS SEPTEMBER 25**

### **The Middle Ages**

Week 6 (10/2): THE RISE OF ISLAM: CIVILIZATION in the MIDDLE EAST

Reading: Stearns, Chapter 8, Louise Lavathes’ *When China Ruled the Seas* (1994).

Week 7 (10/9): INDIA and SOUTHEAST ASIA/ AFRICA and ISLAM

Reading: Stearns, Chapter 9 & 10

**QUIZ #2 OPENS OCTOBER 9**

Week 8 (10/16): EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION  
Required Reading: Stearns, Chapter 11 & 12

Week 9 (10/23): CHINA during the MIDDLE AGES/ THE MONGOLS  
Required Reading: Stearns, Chapter 13 & 15  
**QUIZ #3 OPENS OCTOBER 23**

Week 10 (10/30): CENTERS of CIVILIZATION in the AMERICAS  
Required Reading: Stearns, Chapter 14  
**PAPER #2 DUE OCTOBER 30**  
**SECOND EXAM OPENS OCTOBER 30**

**The Early Modern Era**

Week 11 (11/6): THE WEST and the WORLD  
Required Reading: Stearns, Chapter 16  
John Thornton's *The Kongolesse Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684 – 1706* (1998).

Week 12 (11/13): WESTERN CIVILIZATION/ THE RISE OF RUSSIA  
Required Reading: Stearns, Chapters 17 & 18  
**QUIZ #4 OPENS NOVEMBER 13**

Week 13 (11/20): THE OTTOMAN and MUGHAL EMPIRES  
Reading: Stearns, Chapter 19

Week 14 (11/27): EAST ASIA: VITAL TRENDS in POLITICS  
Reading: Stearns, Chapter 20  
**QUIZ #5 OPENS NOVEMBER 27**

Week 15 (12/4): PAPER #3 DUE DECEMBER 4  
**FINAL EXAM OPENS DECEMBER 4**

Week 16 (12/11): ALL EXAMS CLOSE DECEMBER 13 BY MIDNIGHT  
**QUIZZES 2 - 5 CLOSE DECEMBER 13 BY MIDNIGHT**