

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY**  
**HIST 2321-02-50868-WORLD HISTORY I**  
**SPRING 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr. Tamer Balci

**Course Time:** 10:50 am-12:05 pm

**Telephone:** (956) 665-8785

**Classroom:** ELABS 258

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**Office:** ELABS 346B

**Office Hours:** M-W 3:00-4:00 pm or by appointment

**Course Description:** To better understand and live in a global environment, this survey of world history traces the increasingly complex development and interaction of human societies from the hunter-gatherers of the Paleolithic Age to the first globalization in the 16th century. Readings, discussion, lectures, and visual material will emphasize the human experience in a comparative analysis of economic, social, political, and cultural systems around the globe. This survey course aims to provide a general knowledge about the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China, Africa, Greece and Rome along with the civilizations in Central Asia, Pre-Columbian America and Southeast Asia. The course centers on historical themes, keeping track of time and geographic themes. Secondly, the course will emphasize patterns of integration that linked different civilizations at regional, hemispheric and global levels. Our goal is to assimilate factual knowledge about human civilizations through the assessment of their historical records. We will seek for common patterns of development and change within a comparative framework. In the process, we hope to develop a fuller sense of our common humanity. There is no prerequisite for this course.

**Student Learning Objectives** for all World History survey courses:

**Core Objectives**

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of the information in them to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and to develop and explore new questions.
- **Communication Skills (COM)** – Students will demonstrate the ability to adapt their communication to a particular context, audience, and purpose using language, genre conventions, and sources appropriate to a specific discipline and/or communication task.
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** – Students will recognize and describe cultural diversity, the role of civic engagement in society, and the links between ethics and behavior.
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** – Students will demonstrate an awareness of the range of human values and beliefs that they draw upon to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

**Department Level Student Learning Objectives:**

SLO 1: Students demonstrate critical historical thinking.

SLO 2: Students demonstrate competency in applying historical skills.

SLO 3: Students communicate historical information effectively in written expression.

### Course Level Learning Objectives for Hist 2321

- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to understand how the values, beliefs, and ideas of early world civilizations in Mesopotamia, India, and Europe as well as China and Pre-Columbian America affected human cultural development. (SR and PR)
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to recognize the aesthetic and intellectual contributions of different ethnic, religious, and gender groups to past and present societies in contexts of accommodation and resistance. (SR and PR)
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to recognize in written and/or oral forms the significant outcomes of global diversity and cultural interactions. (COM, SR and PR)
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how bias and points of view influence the historical record and develop an understanding that enables them to view social issues from different perspectives. (CT, COM, SR and PR)
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to distinguish primary and secondary sources and analyze these sources to develop written and/or oral arguments. (CT and COM)

### Student Expectations

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Participate in 8 in-class Group Discussions (CT, COM, SR and PR)
- Complete 2 Quizzes (CT, COM and SR)                      -Complete 1 Midterm (CT, COM, SR and PR)
- Complete 1 Analytical Essay (CT, COM, SR, PR)                      -Complete 1 Final Exam (CT, COM, SR and PR)

### Required Texts

1- Richard W. Bulliet, Pamela Kyle Crossley, Daniel R. Headrick, Steven W. Hirsch, Lyman L. Johnson & David Northrup, *The Earth & Its Peoples: A Global History, Volume I: To 1550*. Boston: Wadsworth Publishing, 2015. Sixth Edition. ISBN: 978-1-285-44567-0

\*Please note that there are different prints of the 6th edition. If page numbers are different in your textbook, you can follow the chapter order listed in the course schedule.

2- Alfred J. Andrea and James H. Overfield, *The Human Record: Sources of Global History, Volume I: To 1500*. Boston: Wadsworth Publishing, 2016. Eighth Edition. ISBN: 978-1-285-87023-6

**Note:** As the course must cover a number of issues that cannot be examined solely from the perspective of a few works, some shorter works, articles and translation of primary documents will be available on Blackboard.

### Course Requirements & Assignments

**8 Group Discussions:** You will participate in eight in-class group discussions. Your three worst grades will be dropped from the final calculation. Most of the assignments will require reading and analyzing primary documents. You will read the document and answer the questions. Analyzing primary documents requires background knowledge of the historical period. You are advised to read history of the period from your textbook or the course notes. (CT, COM, SR and PR)

**Grading Group Assignments:** Every assignment will be graded based on its focus, content, accuracy adequacy and interpretation. You may receive up to 40 points for each assignment. Incomplete, inaccurate or unsatisfactory assignments will get lower points. Assignments will make up total 200 points toward your final grade. Group members will receive the same grade.

**2 Quizzes:** There will be two short quizzes. See the schedule below for specific dates. (CT, COM and SR)

**1 Midterm Examination:** The exam will cover all material presented during the first half of the course, including readings and notes. (CT, COM, SR and PR)

**1 Analytical Essay:** During the semester you will write one analytical essay. Essay-writing guidelines and all related handouts will be posted on Blackboard. (CT, COM, SR, PR)

**1 Final Examination:** The exam will cover all material presented during the second half of the course, including readings and notes. (CT, COM, SR and PR)

### COURSE POLICIES

**Grading Policy:** I will grade all assignments and exams within 10 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS days.

8 In-Class Group Discussions (3 lowest grades will be dropped) (5x40=200 Points)

2 Quizzes (2x50=100 Points)

1 Analytical Essay (300 points)

1 Midterm Examination (200 Points)

1 Final Examination (200 Points)

**Total:** 1000 Points

**A:** 900 points or more

**C:** 700 to 799 points

**B:** 800 to 899 points

**D:** 550 to 699 points

**F:** Below 550 points

**Class Participation & Attendance:** You will participate in weekly discussions of the required texts and other books or articles as assigned. You are expected to participate in class discussions. You should come to class prepared and have done as much of the reading as you can. Showing a consistent lack of preparation will hurt your prospects for success in this class in all of its facets. No more than two excused absences are allowed. If you have to miss a session, you should notify me in advance. You may be dropped from the course if you miss more than three meetings or two consecutive assignments. Be aware of and keep up with the Course Schedule in the Syllabus. Participate in activities to the best of your ability.

**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 education 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.

**Communication and Netiquette:** Students in online courses should use the email system in Blackboard Learn. I will answer all emails within TWO BUSINESS days. Per UTRGV policy, all email communication between the UTRGV faculty and staff and students must be conducted

through the students' official University supplied UTRGV email account. Therefore, please use your UTRGV assigned email for any correspondence with UTRGV faculty and staff. Other emails may be blocked by the spam filter. You are responsible for the consequences of an undelivered or delayed email that are blocked by the spam filter. For online courses students should use the email system in Blackboard.

All students must have adequate writing skills to communicate content in a professional and concise manner. Students must be proficient in their written presentations including strategies for developing ideas, citing scholarly references, writing style, wording, phrasing, and using language conventions. Students must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines, use non-racist and non-sexist language, and include sufficient references to support their thesis and ideas in the assignments.

**Late Work and Make Ups:** Make-up exams will be given only if you provide a documented emergency situation that had prevented you from completing the exam. If you miss an exam, you must come to my office to take your make up exam. There is no make up for missed in-class group assignments.

**Incomplete Policy:** Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if you have a documented emergency. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 30 days.

**Grading Assignments and Exams:** I will grade and give feedback on all assignments, Quizzes, Midterm and Final exams within 10 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS days.

**Plagiarism and Academic 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.

**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 [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@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 [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

**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.

**Student Services:** Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email ([ucentral@utrgv.edu](mailto:ucentral@utrgv.edu)) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor's office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

**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. Online evaluations will be available:

Spring 2018 Module 1	February 14 – February 20
Spring 2018 Module 2	April 11 – April 17
Spring 2018 (full semester)	April 11 – May 2

**Course policies are subject to change:** It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any change will be posted announced in class and in Blackboard.

**Important Dates:**

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <https://my.utrgv.edu/home>. Some important dates for spring 2018 include:

January 19	Last day to add a course or register for spring 2018
March 12 – 17	SPRING BREAK – NO classes
March 30 – 31	EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes
April 12	Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
May 2	Last day of classes
May 3	Study Day – NO class
May 4 – 10	Spring 2018 Final Exams
May 11 - 12	Commencement Ceremonies

## TOPICS & SCHEDULE

### MODULE 1: Week 1: January 17, Week 2: Jan 22-24, Week 3: Jan 29-31

**Week 1: January 17, Contents:** Emergence of Human Communities, Humanity & History, Agricultural Revolutions. Reading: *Earth & Its Peoples*, Chapter 1, p. 1-22, *The Human Record*, P-1-7, “Primary Sources and How to Read Them”, “Analyzing Sample Sources”.

**Week 2: January 22-24, Contents:** River Valley Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt and Indus Valley. Reading: *Earth & Its Peoples*, Chapter 2, p. 23-48. *The Human Record*, Chapter 1, p. 1-28.

**Week 3: January 29-31, Contents:** The Mediterranean and the Middle East: Assyrians, Phoenicians, and Israelites. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 3, p. 49-77. *The Human Record*, Chapter 2, p.42-62.

### MODULE 2: Week 4: February 5-7, Week 5: February 12-14

**Week 4: February 5-7, Contents:** Early China, Celts, Nubians, and Euroasians. Reading: *Earth & Its Peoples*, Chapter 4, p. 78-108. *The Human Record*, Chapter 1, p.28-34, Chapter 4, p.87-101.

**Week 5: February 12, Contents:** Greece and Iran. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 5, p. 109-142. *The Human Record*, Chapter 4, p.101-118.

**February 14: QUIZ 1 !!!**

### MODULE 3: Week 6: February 19-21, Week 7: February 26-28, Week 8: March 5-7

**Week 6: February 19-21, Contents:** An Age of Empires: Rome and Han China, Emergence of Christianity. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 6, p. 143-173. *The Human Record*, Chapter 5, p.123-132, p.146-170.

**Week 7: February 26-28, Contents:** India and Southeast Asia. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 7, p. 174-197. *The Human Record*, Chapter 3, p.67-79, Chapter 5, p.139-146.

**Week 8: March 5: Midterm Exam Review**

**March 7: MIDTERM EXAM EXAMINATION!!!**

**March 12-14: SPRING BREAK!!! NO MEETING!!!**

### MODULE 4: Week 9: March 19-21, Week 10: March 26-28

**Week 9: March 19-21, Contents:** Civilizations of the Americas: The Mayans, the Toltecs and the Aztecs and the Andean Civilization. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 8, p.198-226. *The Human Record*, Chapter 10, p.357-368.

**Week 10: March 26-28, Contents:** Trade networks, Silk and Spice Road, The Sasanid Empire and the Rise of Islam. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 9-10, p. 227-271. *The Human Record*, Chapter 3, 80-83, Chapter 7, p.217-241, Chapter 8, p.268-299.

**MODULE 5: Week 11: April 2-4, Week 12: April 9-11**

**Week 11: April 2, Contents:** Early Medieval Europe, the Byzantine Empire and the Crusades. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 11, p. 272-296. *The Human Record*, Chapter 9, 300-332.

**April 4: QUIZ 2 !!!**

**Week 12: April 9-11, Contents:** East Asia: China, Japan and Korea. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 12, p. 297-319. *The Human Record*, Chapter 8, p.245-268.

**MODULE 6: Week 13: April 16-18, Week 14: April 23-25,  
Week 15: April 30-May 2**

**Week 13: April 16-18, Contents:** Mongol Eurasia and the Early Ming Rule. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 13, p. 321-349. *The Human Record*, Chapter 11, p.375-409.

**Week 14: April 23-25, Contents:** Sub-Sahara Africa and Asia. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 15, p.374-400. *The Human Record*, Chapter 10, p.333-357.

**Week 15: April 30, Contents:** The Latin West, Renaissance and the Maritime Revolution. Reading: *The Earth & Its Peoples*, Chp. 14 and 16, p. 350-373, p.401-431. *The Human Record*, Chapter 11, p.411-425.

**May 2:** Final exam review

**Final Exam:** Monday, May 7, 2018, 10:15 am-12:00 pm