Welcome to World Civilizations!

GOALS:
This is a survey class, in which we take a broad view of human history and historical change over several millennia. Within the confines of this class, we have several goals. In very broad terms, you should acquire and/or develop skills which are transferable to other arenas of your lives and careers - analytical skills to help you break down and understand complex issues; skills of self-expression which allow you to express your own ideas and analyses clearly and comprehensibly; the ability to understand yourself, your family, and your community within broader historical contexts. Beyond those goals, we have some specific aims, the most important of which include (but are not limited to) being able to answer several questions: what do we mean by civilization? How are the civilizations we encounter different from one another? What are the major changes within those civilizations, and how may we account for them? What happens when the very way in which a civilization perceives and understands itself changes?

CONTENT AND MATERIALS:
The course texts are as follows: World Civilizations: The Global Experience (3rd Edition, Peter Stearns et. Al.)
Beyond this I have posted materials on the webpage. Pictures and texts on the page should be read for the appropriate day as if they had been assigned from a text book.

TESTS AND GRADING:
This course consists of 5 ‘tests,’ the last of which is your final exam. Each test will require you to prove map proficiency, to identify major events and people from the lectures, to prove that you have a grasp of the chronology of events we discuss, and to write in one form or another about the material we cover. Make-ups will be given only for pre-documented or pre-approved medical appointments. Do not miss the tests! Beyond them, you will receive points for attendance and participation, and will choose from several options for a final project. If I do not have a test grade for you, I will deduct 5 points from your attendance/participation total in the end; I may occasionally pass around sign-in sheets in class which provide further documentation for absences. The point of all this: Come to class! Point breakdowns are as follows:
4 tests @ 120 points each (480)
1 final @ 220 points (220)
Attendance/participation (100)
Project (200)
Total: 1000
I will discuss the final project in class and will also post information about it on the website. Grading is on a modified decile with no rounding up, so 900 total points equals the lowest possible point total for an ‘A’ mark in the class, 800 points the lowest possible ‘B,’ and so on.

MISCELLANEA:
With regards to your work in this class, I expect no less of you than you should expect of yourself; this expectation extends not only to your performance, but also to your behavior. In as much as it is possible, your work should be your own; for a more detailed discussion of ‘Academic Integrity,’ see Section 409 of the Student Handbook (Policy on Academic Honesty). When you come to class, please be considerate of the your fellow students; please arrive on time, do not talk once the class has begun, read the newspaper (page turning is more distracting than you think), or eat (yummy noises are equally disturbing). If you have questions concerning the syllabus or the course do not hesitate to email me, call me, or see me in person. If you have specific needs for test- or note-taking, please contact the Office of Disability Services (463-9044, 230 Student Center). The reverse of this page contains an abbreviated syllabus, of which a more detailed version may be located on my website. Finally, this syllabus and its electronic counterpart offer you a general outline for this course, an outline to which I will try to remain faithful, but which I also reserve the right to modify if circumstances demand such modification. Good luck!
Schedule and General Lecture Topics

AUGUST
24 Introduction
26 Human Origins and the Near East
31 India and China River Valleys

SEPTEMBER
2 China; Eastern Mediterranean
7 Eastern Mediterranean
9 QUIZ 1; India
14 China, the Ancient Greek World
16 Ancient Greek World
21 Alexander and Asoka
23 Asoka; Imperial China
28 China and Rome
30 China and Rome

OCTOBER
5 QUIZ 2 ; India
7 Africa and the Americas
12 Africa and the Americas
14 Christianity and Rome
19 Christianity and Rome
21 Religion and Asia

NOVEMBER
2 Quiz 3 ; Europe
4 Europe and Japan
9 Europe and Japan
11 Mongols and their World
16 Quiz 4
18 Reading Day
23 Thanksgiving
25 Thanksgiving
30 Europe and China

DECEMBER
2 Europe and China
7 Religious Architecture
9 World Monasticism

Final Exam Schedule
Classes follow the university-mandated schedule for exams, which may be found here