Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Date: 3/15/15

I. Course Prefix and Number: HIS 112
   
   Course Name: World History I
   
   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours
   
   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: no pre-requisites or co-requisites

   A survey of the political, economic, intellectual, cultural and religious development of the globe, from the Agricultural Revolution (c. 10,000 B.C.) to the sixteenth century A.D. Major topics will include, Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, the Hellenistic World, Ancient Indian Civilization, Imperial China, Early Mesoamerica, the Byzantine Empire, the Crusades, the Ottoman and Mughal Empires and Traditional Japan. Major consideration will be given to the dynamics and consequences of global encounters and interactions between diverse cultures (productive and destructive), the emergence and development of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and other major world religions, and the myriad ways ancient/pre-modern developments have shaped the contemporary world.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the broad outline of early world history.

- Demonstrate a knowledge of global geography and how it has changed over time.

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture etc. of at least one non-western civilization, and obtain the historical knowledge necessary to live interdependently in a diverse global community.
• Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings.

• Identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of early world history, and, in their own writing, will demonstrate well-reasoned arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.

• Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published and electronic historical resources.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

May be taken to fulfill the SUNY General Education requirement of 3 credits of a world civilization course.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

☐ writing □ oral communications  X computer literacy
☐ X reading □ ethics/values
☐ mathematics □ citizenship
X critical thinking  X global concerns
X information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Textbook, published primary source reader (or electronic equivalent), assigned historical monograph, PowerPoint presentations, College learning management system.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, reading and discussion

IV. Assessment Measures:
• Student knowledge of the broad outline of pre-1500 world history will be assessed using in-class, closed-book essay examinations (Critical Thinking and Global Concerns competencies).

• Quizzes will be employed to assess students' understanding of global geography, and how it has changed over time (Critical Thinking and Global Concerns competencies).

• Quizzes and essay examinations will be employed to assess students' understanding of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture etc. of at least one non-western civilization (Critical Thinking and Global Concerns competencies).

• Quizzes, essay examinations and/or a term paper will be employed to assess students' ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings (Reading competency).

• An assigned research paper will be employed to assess students' ability to gather information from a range of published and electronic historical sources, to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of early world civilization, and to develop a well-reasoned and evidence-supported historical argument (Critical thinking, Computer Literacy and Information Management competencies).

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

The Earliest Human Societies

The Agricultural Revolution

Mesopotamian Civilization

Ancient Hebrew Civilization & Early Judaism

Ancient Egyptian Civilization

Early Indian Civilization

Ancient China

Bronze Age and Classical Greece
Alexander the Great, Persia & the Hellenistic Empire

The Roman Empire

The Rise of Christianity

Imperial China

Byzantine Empire (6th – 15th centuries A.D.)

The Islamic East (7th – 15th centuries A.D.)

Africa to 1400 A.D.

The Mongol Empire

Japan & Southeast Asia to 1500

Medieval Europe & the Crusades

The European Age of Overseas Discovery & Empire-Building (15th – 16th centuries)

Early American Civilization (through the 15th century)

The Ottoman Empire

Africa & the Rise of the Slave Trade