Course Description

Surveys Asian, African, Latin American, and European civilizations from the ancient period to the present. Part I of II. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Surveys the general history of the world from about 3000 BCE to 1600 CE and allows students to reach a basic understanding of the characteristic features of the world's early historical development. Students will learn about some of the important political, economic, social, intellectual, cultural and religious changes that shaped the development of the world’s civilizations in this period of time.

Course Prerequisite/Corequisite

None

Course Objectives

Upon completion the course, the student will be able to:

- Establish a chronology of historical events in the world before 1600 CE. (Addresses general education objectives C and D under information literacy.)
- Explain the changing geopolitical structures of world civilizations up until 1600 CE. (Addresses general education objective A and E under culture and social understanding.)
- Define the importance of key individuals and developments in world civilizations before 1600 CE. (Addresses general education objective C and D under information literacy.)
- Identify the social, economic and political forces at work in the evolution of the world’s early civilizations. (Addresses general education objectives A and E under cultural and social understanding.)
- Recognize and describe the significance of some of the cultural achievements of world civilizations before 1600 CE. (Addresses general education objective C under culture and social understanding.)
- Analyze complex historical sources and materials and reach conclusions based on interpretations of those materials. (Addresses general education objectives A and B under communication and objective d under critical thinking.)

Major Topics to be Included

- The origins of human societies
- Early river-based civilizations
- Classical societies in India, China and the Mediterranean
- The rise and spread of religions such as Buddhism, Christianity and Islam
- Development and growth of trading networks such as the Silk Road and Indian Ocean
- African societies
- Early Mesoamerican and Latin American cultures
- East Asia
- The Mongol empire
- Europe’s Reformation, Renaissance and Explorations