I. Course Description - A study of world civilizations from ancient times to 1500. Areas to be examined include The Near East, Far East, South Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Emphasis will be placed upon significant social, economic, and political developments in each region.

II. Course Rationale - This course exists to highlight the major political, military, social, and cultural developments of our World heritage, both Western and non-Western, from early man until the Reformation. In addition, this course exists to improve the reading and writing skills of students.

III. Learning Objectives - Required pre-requisites include the ability to write coherent college-level essays, and the ability to understand and comprehend college-level textbooks and writings. The student should have completed all developmental reading and writing courses before taking this course.

- Explain and analyze key historical events or processes in the area and during the period under study which shape individuals, communities, and nations.
Think critically about the diversity of the human experience as influenced by geographical location, race, ethnicity, cultural traditions, gender and class.
Distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and understand how each are used to make historical arguments.
Assess, use, and synthesize different kinds of evidence from a variety of historical sources, including primary and secondary sources, to make a coherent argument about the past.
Effectively conduct research and write a coherent historical essay or research paper that articulates a clear argument, effectively uses and interprets multiple forms of evidence, identifies arguments in secondary historical texts, and uses appropriate citations.
Understand and demonstrate the difference between opinions and substantiated scholarly claims.

IV. Course Textbook Reading Outline -

A. UNIT I - Civilization’s Beginning, China, India, and Olmecs - Chapter 1, 2 (pages 39-59), 4, 7, and 8

B. UNIT II - Greek Thought and The Greeks- Chapters 2 (pages 60 to 67) & 3

C. UNIT III - The Romans and Christianity - Chapter 6

D. UNIT IV - The Early Middle Ages, Byzantium, Islam, Late Middle Ages - Chapters 10, 11, and 12

E. UNIT V - The Crusades, Medieval Reformation, 100 Years’ War, Renaissance, Africa, and Americas before 1500 - Chapters 5, 13, 14, and 15

V. Textbooks and Materials -


Additional readings assigned as needed

VI. Method of Instruction -
Due to the amount of material and time to be covered in this online course, quizzes, discussions, tests, and other assignments will be employed. Student must read the text(s) as this will require mastery for quizzing and testing purposes. Students should read the appropriate chapters and Professor’s Notes before attempting quizzes,
discussions, and tests. This will allow students to have a base of knowledge from which to work on the graded assignments. Students are encouraged to ask the instructor questions by email or telephone regarding the course material. The weekly modules open at 12:01 am on Mondays and close on Sundays at 11:59 pm. All the assignments for the week must be completed before the Sunday due date at 11:59 pm.

**VII. Course Schedule** We will cover the first 15 chapters of *The Heritage of World Civilizations*. Some chapters and corresponding units overlap. There will be five (5) essay test or multiple choice (your choice of options) evaluations, ten (10) discussion forum postings, fifteen (15) readings-based quizzes, a research paper, and two (2) additional research paper related assignments that constitute 100% percent of the student’s final grade.

**VIII. Evaluations and Grading Policy** - No grades will be dropped in computing the student’s final grade for the course. Any missed assignments or make-ups, which are generally reserved for verified Red Cross emergencies only, will be handled at the discretion of the instructor. Grading will be on the ten (10) point scale for quizzes and tests as follows - A 90 to 100, B 80 to 89, C 70 to 79, D 60 to 69, and F below 60. Please be advised that all writing assignments will be graded on spelling, content, organization, punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and following instructions. Points will deducted for each error found in writing assignments.

The quizzes will be taken once a week. The quizzes will be entirely multiple-choice (objective), and are primarily based on the test bank questions from the publisher-produced test bank. Reading the appropriate chapters in the textbook, studying the key terms and people(s) for each unit, and studying the publisher-produced Powerpoint will help you prepare the best for the reading quizzes and test components of the course. The reading-based quizzes are timed, and they will be available for a one week period only. Make sure you check the dates, and take the quizzes as early as possible.

The tests will be administered on average once every three weeks. The tests will be significant components of this course. They will be essay tests. You will need to make sure that you address the essay question, and that you respond with long multiple paragraphs (generally a seven paragraph minimum) as required for college-level writing. **You must use Respondus Lock Down Browser** when completing these tests/evaluation assignments. The tests are timed for 90 minutes, and they will be available until the end of the week when they are due (WEEKLY MODULES OPEN ON MONDAY AT 12:01 AM AND CLOSE ON SUNDAYS AT 11:59 pm). Make sure you check
the dates, and take the tests as early as possible.

The tests are worth 100 points each. The following grading rubric will be used in grading your essay question tests: 90 to 100 - Student has a good opening paragraph with a thesis statement, and a good concluding paragraph with some analysis. The entire question is answered and addressed within the body of the essay. The essay is college level writing. 80 to 89 - Student has both a short opening and concluding paragraph, but not a strong thesis statement and/or any analysis in the conclusion. The essay question is addressed, and the essay is college level writing. 70 to 79 - Student's essay is missing either an opening or closing paragraph. The student did not answer or address the essay question completely. The essay shows some weaknesses in college level writing. 60 to 69 - Student's essay is missing both the opening and closing paragraph. The student does not answer or address the essay question completely. The essay exhibits many weak college level writing skills. 59 and below - Student's essay is missing both the opening and closing paragraph. The student does not answer or address the essay question accurately. The student does not exhibit college level writing skills.

Two additional short discussions (totals 10) called Discuss Board will be assigned for each of the five (5) major units to be covered, and it will require your participation about once a week. The short discussions will cover important historical events and better prepare the student for the unit test. Each of these postings will be worth a maximum of 10 points, but you must follow the instructions. To receive credit for the assignment, the student must log on and write grammatically and factually correct, original information. Failure by the student to participate in a discussion forum during the time period given will be considered unsatisfactory/fail and the student will receive a zero for that assignment. The student should use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation writing their entry in the short discussion forums. The short discussions will be available for one week when the module is open. Make sure you check the due dates, and participate as early as possible. With threaded discussions, you will be required to read the existing student postings to the discussion before posting your required and appropriate entry to the discussion.

The short discussion forum responses are worth 10 points each. Your posting should be college-level writing. The following grading rubric will be used in grading each student's posting to the short discussion forum: 10 points - (50-75 words) Student posted a reliable historical entry (not speculation) and addressed the question. Student used key terms and dates from the textbook, videos, and/or Professor's notes in a manner consistent with the instructions. The student used proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation in the post. 9 points or less - Student missed one or more of the preceding criterion
A research paper will be written for this course in Microsoft Word and sent to the "Dropbox." **Research Papers** will be typed, double spaced, 10 or 12 font, (with one to one and a quarter inch margins, and with no less than 23 lines and no more than 27 lines per page), and will be no shorter than **four (4) full pages** in length (excluding the bibliography page, endnote page, and cover sheet), and not longer than **five (5) full pages**. When the paper is submitted, it will be sent to the Dropbox Folder in elearn. Only Microsoft Word and .rtf files will be accepted in the course dropbox. Make sure to retrieve a receipt for the research paper when it is submitted. Research papers that are late will not be graded and will be counted as a zero grade. Endnotes will be the only acceptable style of documentation for the research paper (For a thorough review of endnotes, students should refer to Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). A online lecture on the bibliography and endnotes will be provided, and the JSCC librarian will help you with research for your paper and research questions in the discussion forum area. I have assigned your research topic and you will find your topic in the "News" section on the course home page. A quick reference guide on how to cite sources, including web addresses can be found at [http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm). The research paper is worth 100 points, thus equivalent in weight to an exam in calculating your final grade. **Plagiarism detection software will be used in the assignment to determine if you copied and pasted your work from another source.** Students that plagiarize will be significantly penalized.

The two (2) **additional assignments** given by the instructor are for the student to demonstrate their research writing skills and skills using Elearn. The two research paper related assignments will be submitted to the instructor in the course Dropbox as MS Word files or .rtf files only. The course module instructions will guide you in the process. To receive credit for an assignment, the student must have submitted the assignment by the due date, and the assignment must be primarily correct in following all instructions. Failure to complete the assignment in the time allotted will result in the student receiving a zero for the assignment. **The additional assignments are worth up to 25 points. The following grading rubric of criteria will be used in evaluating each of the assignments:**

- **25 points** - Student met or exceeded the minimum instructional requirements for the assignments. The student's assignment was completely correct in meeting the instructional requirements/methodology, was correct in spelling, and was correct in grammar.
- **20 points** - Student met the minimum instructional requirements for the assignment. The student's assignment was largely correct in meeting the instructional requirements/methodology, was correct in spelling, and was correct in grammar.
- **15 points** - Student met most of the
instructional requirements for the assignment. The student's assignment was incorrect in spelling, and/or was incorrect in grammar. **10 points or less** - Student failed to perform the assignment in the time frame given to complete the task. The student's assignment was largely incorrect in following either the instructional requirements/methodology, the use of correct spelling, and/or for failure to employ proper grammar.

You **must use a minimum of a Windows 10** operating system on your computer for this course, and the student **must download Respondus Lock Down Browser** to complete the online tests. If you change computers you use to take this course, you must download Respondus Lock Down Browser in all circumstances to the computer you are testing on first.

**The student's final grade** is based on the course discussions, tests, quizzes, research paper, and assignments. Each of the tests is worth up to 100 points each towards the final grade. Each of the weekly quizzes and assignments are worth a maximum of 25 points each. The short discussions are worth 10 points each. The research paper is worth 100 points. The final grade is based on 1150 possible points.

Getting Started Quiz - 25 points
Weekly Quiz 1 - 25 points
Short Discuss A - 10 points
Weekly Quiz 2 - 25 points
Short Discuss B - 10 points
Research Paper Bibliography - 25 points
Weekly Quiz 3 - 25 points
Short Discuss C - 10 points
Research Paper Intro. - 25 points
Weekly Quiz 4 - 25 points
Short Discuss D - 10 points
Weekly Quiz 5 - 25 points
Short Discuss E - 10 points
Research Paper - 100 points
Weekly Quiz 6 - 25 points
Short Discuss F - 10 points
Test 1 - 100 points
Weekly Quiz 7 - 25 points
Short Discuss G - 10 points
Test 2 - 100 points
Weekly Quiz 8 - 25 points
Short Discuss H - 10 points  
Test 3 - 100 points  
Weekly Quiz 9 - 25 points  
Short Discuss J - 10 points  
Weekly Quiz 10 - 25 points  
Short Discuss K - 10 points  
Weekly Quiz 11 - 25 points  
Test 4 - 100 points  
Weekly Quiz 12 - 25 points  
Weekly Quiz 13 - 25 points  
Weekly Quiz 14 - 25 points  
Weekly Quiz 15 - 25 points  
Test 5 - 100 points  
total=1150 possible points

IX. Attendance/Class Policies  Students will be expected to regularly work on their readings and assignments. Due to the amount of material, after a student has missed six (6) assignments (a total of two weeks of classes) they may be administratively dropped from the course. Disruptive behavior in the discussion forum essay components - disrespect to other students - will not be tolerated. Please use polite and formal language in any postings or discussions.

X. Student Conferences and ADA  -  
Students With Disabling Conditions:  Jackson State does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission and access to academic programs, services or employment. Students with disabilities should inform the instructor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) inside the Counseling Office so that appropriate accommodations can be made, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the responsibility of the student to provide current, documented evidence of their disability to the DRC. Contact Linda Nickell, Dean of Students, at ext. 50354 for additional ADA information, or go to the JSCC website at https://www.jscc.edu/about-jackson-state/student-services/disabled-student-services/

XI. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism - The academic policies with regards to cheating or plagiarism in the course are consistent with the institutional policy found in the Jackson State Community College Catalog and Student Handbook. To avoid some of the problems associated with cheating online, students will be required to download Respondus Lock Down Browser when completing all of their
test components. This elearn feature will neither allow you to do anything else on the computer while testing nor will it allow the user to cut and paste while testing.

XII. Note To Students On Any Type Of Scholarship – There will be no practice of discrimination by your professor based upon any factor but for those appearing in this syllabus - not race, gender, income, religion, political ideas, etc., or scholarship status. I do not wish to know you are on a scholarship, as I would not want to know any other of your personal financial information. All students have equal access to my attention and their grades. The best strategy for success in this course is to follow the syllabus, complete assignments on time, and address all instructions.

XIII. Student Academic Bill of Rights - The professor in the classroom and in conference will encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression. Student performance will be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. The following statutes govern instructor grading in this course:

1. Protection of Freedom of Expression - Students will be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in this course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of the course for which they are enrolled.

2. Protection Against Improper Academic Evaluation - Students will have protection through orderly procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. At the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for the course in which they are enrolled.

3. Protection Against Improper Disclosure - Certain information about students is protected from public disclosure by Federal and state laws. Protection against improper disclosure is a serious professional obligation. Judgments of ability and character may be provided under appropriate circumstances.

This course and syllabus are designed and maintained by Lawrence Gundersen, Ph.D., Professor of History and Political Science.