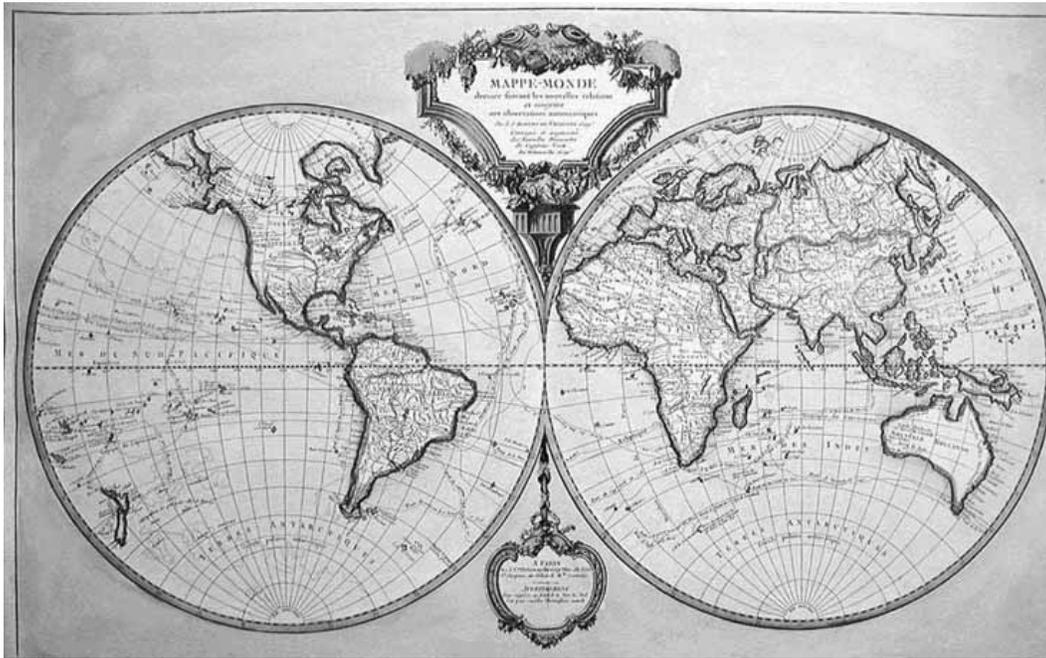


## History 50: World Civilizations to 1600

Spring 2015; Monday / Wednesday 1:30-2:45; Mendocino Hall 1005



### General Information

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

Office: Tahoe 3088

e-mail: [Dym@csus.edu](mailto:Dym@csus.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:45-10:00,  
Wednesdays 11:00-12:00,  
and by appointment.

### Catalog Description

HIST 050. World Civilizations, Beginnings-1600. A study of some major civilizations of the world from the beginnings of civilization to 1600. Covers the classical and medieval traditions of the West as well as at least two major non-western cultures. 3 units.

### Course Description

History 50 is the first of the two part survey course tracing the development of human social structures, institutions, and ideas from the Paleolithic period to approximately 1600 A.D. In this course we will be looking at a variety of civilizations, cultures, and societies. We will trace their rise and decline paying close attention to two central themes:

1. Cultural development within individual civilizations.
2. Cross-cultural encounters between civilizations.

We will not be able to cover every people and culture as time limitations prohibit such a broad spectrum of analysis. Instead, we will examine a select group of

cultures and events that historians have identified as major landmarks in the history of human development.

### ***Course Objectives***

Upon successful completion of History 50 students should be able to:

- Distinguish the characteristics of the world's major civilizations in their geographic settings.
- Trace the development of traditional civilizations and recognize their enduring influence.
- Describe global processes (e.g. agricultural and urban revolutions, emergence and growth of civilization, human migration, disease, ecological forces).
- Describe the interactive roles which social, religious, political, economic, scientific and technological forces have played among the civilizations of the world.
- Manifest a sense of historical time.
- Discuss the historical dimensions of contemporary world affairs and issues.
- Compare and contrast responses of the world's peoples as a result of intercultural contacts and the diffusion of ideas, institutions, and inventions.
- Draw upon their knowledge of the varieties of human experiences, and their sympathetic understanding of cultures other than their own, to define their role as citizens of the contemporary world.
- Express informed judgments of the behavior of peoples and their institutions.
- Analyze cause and effect relationships in history.
- Discuss the major attempts to explore the ethical and fundamental questions of life posed throughout history.
- Finally, I hope that this course will aid you in the development of university level methods of historical inquiry, text interpretation, analytical writing, and critical thinking.

### ***Required Texts***

Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets-Salter, *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, From the Beginning to 1500*. 6th edition.

Narayan, R. K. *The Ramayana*.

Arnott, Peter D., ed. *Oedipus the King and Antigone* by Sophocles.

Van Gulik, Robert. *Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee: An Authentic Eighteenth-Century Chinese Detective Novel*.

Wunderli, Richard. *Peasant Fires*.

## ***Requirements and Grading Rubric***

There will three online writing assignments, four book quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam which will be weighed in the following manner:

BBC Radio writing assignments	3 x 50	150 points	20%
Book quizzes	4 x 50	200 points	26.6%
Midterm		200 points	26.6%
Final Exam		200 points	26.6%
Total		750 points	100%

## ***BBC Radio: A History of the World in a Hundred Objects***

Over the course of the semester you are required to submit **THREE** History of the World in a Hundred Objects essays. The essays must be between 300-600 words in length and are to be submitted on SacCT. The essay must address the prompt provided on SacCT and they will be graded based on the following rubric.

A 45-50 pts	The essay is very well written, contains at least one specific reference from each of the three episodes, answers the question, is of the appropriate length, includes significant analytical and interpretive elements, and is free of grammatical and spelling errors.
B 40-44 pts	The essay is well written, contains at least one specific reference from each of the three episodes, answers the question, is of the appropriate length, contains sufficient details, and contains few grammatical, capitalization, and spelling errors which do not impede understanding.
C 35-39 pts	The essay is reasonably written, answers most of the questions, contains some indirect references from the three episodes, is generally correct, and contains a number of grammatical, capitalization, and spelling errors.
D 30-34 pts	The essay is poorly written and/or answers only a small part of the question.
F 29 pts or less	The essay does not adequately answer the question and shows no sign of having listened to the three episodes.

Located within SacCT you will find a folder called “A History of the World in a Hundred Objects.” Within this folder there are seven themed folders each containing three podcasts that are approximately fourteen minutes in length, and during the two weeks in which the assignment is open a link to the assignment area. There is also a

link to the assignment on the left side toolbar of SacCT. Of the seven sections only one will be available during a two week period, you may write on any three groupings that you choose. You may listen to the other groupings or the entire BBC series if you want to, and you are encouraged to do so, but you only have to submit three assignments.

The podcasts are all located within SacCT. For many of you they should play without any problems. However, some students may experience a browser conflict or problem that prevents the file from playing. If this occurs, try opening SacCT using another browser (IE, Firefox, Safari, Chrome, etc). If that does not work, then go directly to the BBC site and try listening from there.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/> Or you can download the podcasts from Apple iTunes. Which episodes go with which assignments is clearly explained within the detailed A History of the World in 100 Objects Assignment explanation sheet located within SacCT.

I do not give extra credit. However, for this assignment, you can submit more than three submissions and I will count your three highest submissions. In other words, if you so desire and if your grade on a submission was not as high as you would like it to be, you may submit more than three, and I will count the three highest. In short, you can keep submitting assignments until you earn an “A” on three of them. I would highly recommend that you get started early on this assignment and get it out of the way. I also recommend you start early, in case you run into technical problems.

### ***Book Quizzes***

There will be four book quizzes worth fifty points each. They will be given at the beginning of class on the dates listed below. The quizzes are designed to see how well you have read the book. We will discuss the book following the quiz. If upon completion of the quiz you leave class early without a valid reason, you will receive a zero on the quiz.

NOTE: SPECIAL BOOK QUIZ RULE. I expect you to read the entire book and to come to class prepared to take the quiz. If you have read the book, you should do well on the quiz. If you have not read the book, or have only read parts of the book, you do not deserve credit. You must get at least 15 of the 25 questions on the quiz correct to earn a score. If you get 14 or less questions correct your score for the quiz will be 0 (ZERO).

### ***Exams***

The exams will consist of matching, short identifications, and one essay question. The exams will cover the assigned readings, my lectures, and everything we discuss in class. About two weeks prior to the examination date I will post on SacCT a study guide of all the terms and essay questions that you will need to know for the exam.

Make up exams are allowed only under the following conditions. A student must contact me before the exam or during the exam day. Next, the student will confer with me in my office to determine whether a make up exam is warranted. If a student contacts me after the exam, he/she must provide extensive documentation explaining the failure to take the exam before I decide whether a make up will be given.

### ***SacCT:***

I will be using SacCT to post copies of my lecture outlines, to post the syllabus, and to keep track of your grades. The BBC Radio Assignments are to be done in SacCT in the assignment area.

***Attendance*** is expected at all class meetings. (How else can you learn?) Students should notify the instructor in the event of extended absence. Withdrawals will be permitted only up to the scheduled deadline.

No students may leave the classroom before the class hour ends unless I am informed before class of an unavoidable appointment.

All cellular telephones must be turned off or set on Silent Mode (what they call “Manner Mode” in Japanese). A disruption of class caused by your phone ringing will be held against you.

***Class Participation*** pertinent to the topic under discussion is encouraged. Everyone is expected to be prepared and to participate. Active participation may be used to determine the final grade in borderline cases.

### ***Academic Honesty***

This course follows the CSUS Academic Honesty policy. If you are not familiar with California State University, Sacramento’s Policies and Procedures Regarding Academic Honesty, please read them. They can be found at:

<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm>

In short, **CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated and may result in failure of the course and possible referral for academic discipline. I expect your BBC assignments to be your own work. If they are not, beware!

### ***Course Outline and Schedule***

Week	Date	Lectures	Readings
Week 1	Jan. 26	Course Introduction	
	Jan. 28	Introduction to Origins of Human Life and Culture The Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages The Agricultural Revolution Mesopotamia and the Rise of Civilizations Hamurabi's law codes and women's rights	Bentley, pp. 2-33, 130-133.
Week 2	Feb. 2	Israel: Hebrews give the world monotheism Assyria: rule by terror Persians: The Enlightened Empire Phoenicians	Bentley, pp. 33-49, 134-140, 146-151.
	Feb. 4	Egypt and the Vision of Eternal Life Osiris and Isis Queen Hatshepsut The Kush in Africa  <b>Due: "A History of the World 1: The Stone Age"</b>	Bentley, pp. 50-68; <i>The Ramayana.</i>
Week 3	Feb. 9	Ancient India: Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro Indian Religions Hinduism: the most brilliant means of human control ever devised Buddhism: inner harmony	Bentley, pp. 74-89, 324-327; <i>The Ramayana.</i>
	Feb. 11	Jainism: don't hurt anything India: Mauryan Empire India: Gupta Empire <b>Book Quiz #1: <i>The Ramayana</i></b> <b>Class discussion of <i>The Ramayana</i>.</b>	Bentley, pp. 174-192; <i>The Ramayana.</i>
Week 4	Feb. 16	China in Antiquity Shang: writing emerges Zhou: Mandate of Heaven	Bentley, pp. 90-108;
	Feb. 18	A Hundred Schools of Thought: The	Bentley, pp. 152-159.

		Age of Chinese Philosophers Confucianism, Mohism, Taoism, and Legalism  <b>Due: “A History of the World 2: Food in the Ancient World”</b>	
Week 5	Feb. 23	Qin & Han Qin: Legalism in action with Shi Huangdi Han: Confucianism adopted	Bentley, pp. 159-173.
	Feb. 25	The Americas The Olmec and Maya	Bentley, pp. 110-123.
Week 6	March 2	The Minoans & Myceneans Ancient and Classical Greece: War, Sports, and Politics The emergence of Greek democracy The Triumphs and Tragedies of Athens and Sparta Athenian democracy vs. Spartan militarism  <b>Due: “A History of the World 3: Writing and the Transformation of the Human World”</b>	Bentley, pp. 194-215; <i>Oedipus the King and Antigone.</i>
	March 4	Athenian women vs. Spartan women: the great irony Alexander the Great and Hellenistic diffusion and synthesis of Near Eastern culture <b>Book Quiz #2: <i>Oedipus the King and Antigone</i></b> <b>Class discussion of <i>Oedipus the King and Antigone.</i></b>	Bentley, pp. 140-141; <i>Oedipus the King and Antigone.</i>
Week 7	March 9	The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic Imperial Rome and the <i>Pax Romana</i>	Bentley, pp. 216-236.
	March 11	Decline and Change in the Roman Empire The Spread and Significance of Christianity	

		Pagan influence on Christianity	
Week 8	March 16	Cross-Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Roads	Bentley, pp. 238-259.
	March 18	<b>MIDTERM</b>  <b>Due: “A History of the World 4: Symbolic Representations of Power”</b>	
<b>SPRING BREAK: MARCH 22-29</b>			
Week 9	March 30	Muhammad and the Islamic faith The rapid spread of Islam The Islamic Empires and Worldview	Bentley, pp. 288-310, 322-323. <i>Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee</i>
	April 1	Ibn Battuta: the pre-modern world’s greatest traveler Africa: Axum, Mali and Ghana; the importance of camels, gold and ivory	Bentley, pp. 322-323, 382-401. <i>Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee</i>
Week 10	April 6	The Golden Age of China Sui: Grand Canal Tang: Open to other cultures from around the world, Emperor Wu rules supreme <b>Book Quiz #3: <i>The Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee</i></b> <b>Class discussion of <i>The Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee</i></b>	Bentley, pp. 264-282. <i>Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee</i>
	April 8	Song: Urbanization, wealth and footbinding Ancient Korea  <b>Due: “A History of the World 5: World Religions and Human Images”</b>	Bentley, pp. 282-287.
Week 11	April 13	Silla & Koryo Korea Choson Korea Ancient Japan	
	April 15	Nara and Heian Japan	

		Heian culture and the role of women	
Week 12	April 20	Kamakura Japan: The Rise of the Warrior and Japanese feudalism	
	April 22	Multiple Centers of Europe, 500-1000 Byzantium Carolingians  <b>Due: “A History of the World 6: Trade, Commerce, Cultural and Industrial Networks”</b>	Bentley, pp. 334-356.
Week 13	April 27	Vikings Magyars The Split in the Church: Catholic vs. Orthodox	<i>Peasant Fires.</i>
	April 29	Genghis Khan, the Mongol Hordes, and the <i>Pax Mongolica</i> Ming China and the Ming Voyages: China surveys the world	Bentley, pp. 368-378, 459-461, 466-467. <i>Peasant Fires.</i>
Week 14	May 4	The Crusades	<i>Peasant Fires.</i>
	May 6	Black Death <b>Book Quiz # 4: <i>Peasant Fires</i></b> <b>Class discussion of <i>Peasant Fires</i></b>  <b>Due: “A History of the World 7: Money”</b>	Bentley, pp. 456-458; <i>Peasant Fires.</i>
Week 15	May 11	The Renaissance and the Rebirth of Europe The Protestant Reformation	
	May 13	How is the world about to change? Columbus and European Ascendency  Catch up and review	

**Final Exam: Monday, May 18, 12:45-2:45**