



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: HIST

Course Title: World History to 1500

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 1500 X01

Credits: 3

Course Description

World History up to 1500 is a one-semester introduction to the history of the world to 1500. It is the first half of a standard World History survey, a course taught in almost all universities in the United States and several other countries. It aims to give students an overall perspective on the earliest background of the world situation at a more sophisticated level than in high school courses. It serves as a background course for more focused courses on specific countries or regions before 1500 in history and other fields. It focuses on significant events that shaped the history of the world's regions before 1500. In this course, we will consider how environmental conditions and historical contexts shaped humans in early civilizations and how humans have shaped the worlds around them. We will explore global aspects of human history, such as how humans responded to the physical environment to survive and in what ways humans from one society interacted with those from another. Humans worldwide faced similar environmental challenges, so they shaped their societies differently. Therefore, we will also explore how each civilization was exceptional by considering various topics, including social organization, economy, culture, intellectual traditions, technology, religions, and political institutions.

World History up to 1500 considers these events part of the larger narrative of understanding the global world. Because the course addresses a long history and many parts of the world, the course has to move rapidly, describing what professors and textbook authors consider the most important and basic events and processes in each period and region. The course is, thus, designed to raise many questions, inspire curiosity, and encourage you to learn more, at least about some subjects. It focuses on the modern survey histories of the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe during the time period under study.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Waliu Ismaila

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the significance of historical events, figures, institutions, and processes in world history to 1500.
2. Discuss the influence of ethnic, and religious groups and ideologies in world history.
3. Examine significant topics and sources in world history in class discussions and academic writing using information from primary and secondary sources.
4. Describe the role of historical context in shaping both past and present events in world history.
5. Evaluate the perspectives and biases of primary and secondary sources gathered using library resources.
6. Analyze global or intercultural issues.
7. Discuss stereotypical cultural conceptions and recognize the complexity and variety of different cultural groups.8Evaluate how one's own cultural values compare with those from different backgrounds.

Course Materials and Texts

Robert W. Strayer and Eric W. Nelson, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, (Macmillan Learning, 2024). 5th Edition. ISBN: 9781319244439

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Grading Policy

A – An outstanding work that meets the course requirements
B – A work significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
C – Good work that meets the course requirements in every respect.
D – A relatively weak work worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

P – a satisfactory achievement, which is equivalent to a D or better

F - Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no notification of extreme situation with accompanying documentation.

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Robert W. Strayer and Eric W. Nelson, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, (Macmillan Learning, 2024). 5th Edition. ISBN: 9781319244439

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Module No.	Topics	Readings
1	Introduction, History, and Sources	
2	World Environments and Pre-History	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 1
3	River and Sea Societies	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 2
4	Forging Connections across Environments – Empires	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 2, part 2.
5	Roman China – The Anchors of the Silk Routes	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 3
6	Roman Empire, Han China, and Gupta India – Problems on the Frontiers	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 3
7	World Religions	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 4
8	Society and Inequality in Eurasia/North Africa	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 5
9	Connection and Isolation	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 6
10	Contact and Conflict	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 10
11	Thirteenth Century Connections	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 8
12	The Middle Ages, Feudalism and the Renaissance	Video Documentaries
13	The Last Nomadic People on Earth – the Mongols	Robert Strayer, et al Ch. 11
14	Formal Essay Paper	
15	Plague, Environment, and Isolation in the Fourteenth Century	Guns, Germs, and Steel Documentary, Episode 1-3.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI / ChatGPT: The use of any artificial intelligence service, such as ChatGPT, is strictly prohibited in this course. It is the height of dishonesty and laziness and will not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form. If you consider using this tool to complete assignments here, DO NOT. It will be severely punished. Students caught submitting work generated by an artificial intelligence service will receive an automatic failing grade not just for the assignment but for the entire course, and they will be reported to Student Affairs for Academic Misconduct

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.