SOCS/ANTH/GEOG/HIST 139: The World in Historical and Social Science Perspectives
San Jose State University Fall 2008 TR 1500-1615 DMH 234
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Course Description:
This Course is an interdisciplinary historical social scientific investigation of world civilizations
from the dawn of humankind until 1750 C.E. Topics covered include early human societies of the
Paleolithic and Neolithic and the formation of the first cities and civilizations in all areas of the world. We
will also examine the rise of the first Empires, the expansion of long-distance trade networks, and the first
transoceanic voyages that linked the Old and New Worlds, as well as the development of colonialism and
the states of the Early Modern Period. Differing Cultures and Ideologies, and the impact of cross-cultural
interaction will also be explored as a recurring theme of the course.

A variety of perspectives will be emphasized in discussing each period and region, and eight
historical and social scientific themes and categories will serve as strands of learning in this course,
including:

- **Food ecology**, with special emphasis on the influence of water as a means to form agricultural
  units and develop networks of trade.
- **Legal authority**, emphasizing crime and punishment across societies and cultures.
- **Gender and ethnic relations**, emphasizing marriage and family relations.
- **Cosmology**, emphasizing comparative religions.
- **Cities**, with special emphasis on maps and structuring of space and density in societies and
civilizations.
- **Writing**, emphasizing oral and written historiographies of the various cultures and societies.
- **Material culture and science**, with emphasis on the role of medicines and changing
technologies in societies and cultures.
- **Conflict and war**, with special regard for military tactics and their role in encounters and cultural
  contacts.

Prerequisites of this course are:
- Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST)
- 100W is prerequisite or co-requisite to all Culture, Civilization and Global Understanding courses
- Upper division standing (60 units)
- Completion of Core General Education
SJSU Studies: CULTURE, CIVILIZATION, & GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (Area V)
(For students beginning continuous enrollment in Fall 2005 or later, completion of, or co-registration in, a 100W course is required for enrollment in all SJSU Studies courses. Courses used to satisfy Areas R, S, and V must be taken from three separate SJSU departments, or other distinct academic units (having own HEGIS Code).

Content Objectives
As a result of participation in this course, the student is expected to:

- Describe historical, social, cultural, economic and political characteristics of the world prior to 1750 C.E.
- Understand and explain major concepts associated with the eight strands identified above, particularly as seen from different disciplinary perspectives.
- Contrast differing perspectives about historical events, social phenomena and cultural assimilation and resistance with regard to the developing communication and trade networks in the period under investigation.
- Recognize that knowledge of the past is socially constructed and related to the location of the individual in space and time.
- Analyze, interpret and evaluate evidence related to the cultural and historical analysis of art and art objects in world history.
- Write critically and introspectively about historical objects in their place and time on the earth, using proper syntax, structure and mechanics, as identified in a manual of instruction.
- Participate in and evaluate teaching and learning activities, which model appropriate curricula in world history and civilization.

A. Goals
Courses in Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding should give students an appreciation for human expression in cultures outside the U.S. and an understanding of how that expression has developed over time. These courses should also increase students’ understanding of how traditions of cultures outside the U.S. have influenced American culture and society, as well as how cultures in general both develop distinctive features and interact with other cultures.

B. Student Learning Objectives
Students shall be able to:
1. compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. (Assessed through the WorldArt Portfolio, 3000 word minimum paper);
2. identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture (assessed through a combination of the 3 Essay Exams, quizzes and World Art Portfolio reviews); and;

3. explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures (assessed through Essay Exams).

C. Content

• Diversity. Issues of diversity shall be incorporated in an appropriate manner.

• Writing. Written assignments should include both in-class and out-of-class writing, giving students practice and feedback throughout the semester. Evaluative comments must be substantive, addressing the quality and form of writing. A single final term paper would not satisfy the requirement. A minimum of 3000 words of writing is required in a language and style appropriate for the discipline.

• Civic Learning. Courses shall address the civic relevance of the topic in an appropriate manner.

• Values Clarification: Students should demonstrate their ability to articulate and discuss their values and engage in civil discourse.

• Courses will address significant achievements of the human intellect and imagination in a comparative context to understand and appreciate different ideas, cultures, values, religions, institutions, languages, and peoples of the world.

D. Pedagogical Approach

• Courses shall focus on issues or present perspectives from different academic disciplines

• Courses shall require students to apply basic skills (reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking, research, and mathematics) and to utilize knowledge gained in Core General Education courses.

• Active Learning
  • Each course shall provide for active student participation. The course may not be exclusively lecture format.
  • Assignments must utilize library research and oral and written communication skills.
  • Courses should promote reflective processes and critical analysis.

• Primary sources. Class materials (readings, research) must include primary sources appropriate to the discipline (e.g. scholarly journal articles, original artwork)

Course Texts:

Technology Resources:

“Worldart Web Kiosk” - http://worldimages.sjsu.edu/

“Social Science Internet Resources for Educators: Getting Started.” (This is a web site resource of exemplary curriculum sites for SJSU student teachers.): http://www.sjsu.edu/~jwhitlat/socstud.htm

Course Requirements:

Essay Exams: There are three short answer exams, each one designed to assess the content and concepts from each unit. Each examination will have eight short answer questions from which you choose five. These five answers will count for your score on each exam. Each essay examination is worth 50 points. Each exam requires you to bring a new small bluebook, available in the campus bookstore.

Art Through the Ages Notebook: The Art Through the Ages Notebook has three submissions due at approximately equal intervals during the semester. Early in the course you will receive more detailed instructions as well as in-class discussion of how to read art for its historical and cultural contexts and prepare this assignment. The Notebook is, in effect, a museum catalog with images that you choose from the Worldart Web Kiosk on the SJSU website (http://worldimages.sjsu.edu/) based on a common topic or theme related to this course. There are three elements to the final paper: 1) an introductory essay for the theme, with a preliminary bibliography, 2) a collection of 15-20 images, and 3) a short explanation of each image both in context and interpretation along with a closing statement. Each deadline will include all previous material, including revisions, along with new material. The first submission is worth 50 points, the second is worth 75 points, and the last is worth 125 points, for a total of 250 points for the entire assignment. The final paper will constitute your final exam requirement for this course.

Because proficient writing is a critical professional skill that is transferable across disciplines, there will be an emphasis on writing skills and techniques. Good writing does not come easily to most people and requires both practice and guidance. Students may be asked to meet with the professor individually to discuss and improve specific writing skills. This course has a requirement of at least 3000 words from combined assignments.

Weekly Open Expression & Group Collaborations/Discussion: Each week individuals will be asked to present a discussion and analysis of course materials to other students, who are in turn encouraged to ask questions about the material presented. Individuals will be required to do this at least twice during the semester, and all students will be evaluated on both their presentation and participation throughout the semester.
**Reading Quizzes:** There will be 10 multiple-choice quizzes of the readings at regular intervals during the semester. Please bring a Scantron T&E 200 sheet to each meeting with a scheduled quiz. Quizzes are worth 10 points each, or 1 point per question. Missed quizzes cannot be made-up, but on the day of the final exam, a cumulative quiz of 20 previous questions from throughout the semester will be given as extra credit. Students are permitted a single sheet of paper with their own notes during quizzes. Both sides of the paper may be used. Students may not share notes during the quizzes or exams.

**NOTE:** lectures may not cover all the material found in the chapters assigned, and may introduce material *not* discussed in the text. It is therefore critical that students read each chapter carefully and keep notes from the lectures which compliment or add to the body of reading. While quizzes will largely target the readings, lecture material will be found especially useful for essay exams. Students are expected to have completed the readings in advance of the week in which the readings are listed.

**COURSE GRADE:**
Below are the point values of all assignments, and their percentage of the total grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>EXAMS (3)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUIZZES (10)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPEN EXPRESSION</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GROUP DISCUSSION</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTEBOOK - Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTEBOOK - Part 2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL NOTEBOOK</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>20.8</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
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**GRADING:** Grades are given based upon a standard grading scale as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your percentage is your total points divided by the total points possible on the assignments. Each assignment will contain its grading criteria within the instructions. Please note that all scores below 60% will receive failing grades. Completion of all assignments does not guarantee a passing grade in the course.
POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is an expected part of class for all students, and you are responsible for all material covered each day. It is a basic courtesy to arrive in class on time and not cause disruptions to myself and your fellow students. All students should turn off cell phones when entering the room. If you cannot arrive on time, it is nevertheless better to come late than not at all - please enter discretely and take your seat. If you do miss class, you are advised to obtain lecture notes from other students. I will answer questions, and encourage students to attend office hours to discuss missed material, but I cannot repeat the content of entire lectures for students who have missed class, nor will I supply my own lecture notes. Students are encouraged to notify me (preferably via e-mail) if they will be or were unable to attend class with a reasonable excuse (illness, family emergency, work conflict, etc.). This is especially important if there are any handouts or changes in the schedule, such as the postponement of an exam.

NOTE: I may regularly take attendance at the beginning of the semester; this is largely to assist me in learning all of your names and assess class participation.

LATE POLICY: Unless a student receives explicit approval from me, all LATE assignments will be penalized by 25% of their value if received after the end of class on the due date, and by 50% if received after the end of class the following week - and will not be accepted after two weeks beyond the due date. No assignment may be turned in beyond the day of the Final Exam. Assignments must be turned in as a printed document – email is NOT acceptable. Please plan ahead to avoid last-minute computer and printer errors.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Exams can only be made up if the following conditions are met: 1) You have a known and unavoidable emergency and have arranged with me in advance to take the test at an alternate time; 2) you are unable to attend class due to an unforeseeable emergency, AND you have contacted me within 24 hours of the class date to inform me of your situation. On test days, I will be sure to check voice mail and email, and will reply as quickly as possible. If you do not get a reply from me, you cannot assume I have received your message. You must make a reasonable effort to inform me of your situation. Only students with a genuine, verifiable emergency and a mutually agreed-upon plan to make up the exam will be allowed to do so, and all make up tests must be completed before the next class meeting unless I have given permission otherwise. NOTE: In-class assignments such as quizzes and group activities cannot be made up.

OFFICE HOURS: Students are encouraged to ask questions in class, but for those wishing to speak to me individually, please come to my office in Clark Hall 404G on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between 1:30-2:30 p.m. Additionally, special arrangements can sometimes be made to meet with
students at other times, my schedule permitting. Students are also encouraged to contact me via phone or (especially) e-mail with questions or problems; whenever possible, a response will be given that day.

**DROPPING A CLASS**

Go to [http://my.sjsu.edu](http://my.sjsu.edu)
- Enter your SJSU ID and Password – you may now use your nine-digit SJSU ID to login to MySJSU. If you are a continuing student and have previously been given a User ID beginning with an uppercase W, you can continue to use this ID to log in.
- If you drop a class, you must do so prior to the time you submit payment to ensure that your registration fees are properly assessed.

**Navigate to “Self Service” > Student center > Drop a class**
- Click on “Drop Classes”
- Click the checkbox next to each class you wish to drop and click “Drop Selected Classes”
- Review your selection and click “Finish Dropping”

**Instructor Drops**

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, they are not required to do so. *It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.*

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

It is assumed that all students are familiar with the expectation of honest work, and the consequences for dishonest work in your classes. Please consult the university catalog for detailed information. The details below are excerpted from the [official campus policy on Academic Integrity](http://my.sjsu.edu):

> Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also
demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university’s reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

CHEATING:
At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

- Copying in part or in whole, from another’s test or other evaluation instrument;
- Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy.
- Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy.
- Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions;
- Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate;
- any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

PLAGIARISM:
At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one’s own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

- The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another’s work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work; and
- representing another’s artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one’s own.

Students caught engaging in the above actions will receive an automatic F in the course and a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development for further disciplinary action. Students with prior incidents on report may find themselves suspended or expelled from the University. Claiming ignorance of what constitutes cheating or plagiarism is no excuse. If you are in doubt,
ask me for clarification. If you are genuinely having difficulties completing assignments, you are better off being honest (to you and me) then you are trying to cheat and hoping to get away with it.

More information can be found on the campus website section for Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development: [http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Any student with a condition or situation that requires special accommodations must make arrangements through the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/). This includes learning and physical disabilities that prevent you from fulfilling course requirements under expected conditions. If you feel that you have a disability, you **must** go to the DRC and follow their guidelines in order to receive assistance. I will work with the DRC to assist you based upon their recommendations. I am not authorized to make assessments of personal situations regarding disabilities, and request that you prepare well in advance for any special needs you may have, particularly for taking exams. You can find more information on SJSU’s policies and the programs available, as well as your rights at:

[http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/)
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
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<th>TOPIC(S)</th>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Early East Asian Civilizations</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/16</td>
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<td>Early Mesoamerica, South America &amp; Oceania</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Persia, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/23</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/25</td>
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<td>10, 11</td>
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<td>Imperial China, Indian Ocean</td>
<td>15, 16</td>
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<td>10/16</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Early Medieval Europe</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Nomadic Empires, African Kingdoms</td>
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<td>22, 23</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
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<td>Atlantic Slave Trade/African Diaspora</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>China &amp; Japan</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/25</td>
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<td>Later Islamic Empires</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>11/27</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/2</td>
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<td>EXAM 3</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>12/4</td>
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<td>12/9</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>12/17</td>
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<td>FINAL PAPERS DUE (Learning Objectives 1 &amp; 2); EC Quiz</td>
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