

## **HISTORY 154 — WORLD HISTORY TO 1550 — FALL 2017**

Course instructor: Matt Stanard

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Classroom: Evans Hall 201

Course meeting times: HIS 154 A on MWF, 9-9:50 a.m. / HIS 154 B on MWF, 10-10:50 a.m.

Office hours: MWF 11-noon & 1-2:45, T 9:30-11, and by appointment

### Course description and objectives:

HIS 154. No pre-requisites. 3 credit hours. (Foundations F3b, F4a) (GE) History of the world from the first humans to the 16th century, focusing on major themes, ideas and forces shaping world history, including political, economic and cultural formations. This course involves lectures; reading, studying and writing outside of class meeting times; discussions of readings in class; take-home essay assignments; and short weekly assignments. If students make the most of the course they will be able to explain and interpret texts from one or more traditions (F3b) and will gain understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture (F4a).

### Grading and grading scale:

Three papers (20% each)	60%
Weekly assignments (complete all; 5 graded)	25%
In class work and participation	15% (total of 100%)

### Grading scale:

97-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
			59 and below = F

A range = superior work, i.e., exceptional university-level work

B range = above average work, i.e., very good university-level work

C range = average work, that is to say customary university-level work

D range = passing, yet unsatisfactory or below average work

F = failing work, that is to say insufficient, incomplete, or inferior work

You are paying a great deal of money to attend Berry College and your grades play a significant role in your future. As the instructor of this course, I see my role as a messenger: When a student does an assignment carefully and exceptionally well, I deliver an “A” on that assignment, and if a student sustains such superior work throughout the course, I report an “A” grade to the Registrar for that student at semester’s end. When students choose to do less than outstanding work, or mediocre or no work, I deliver the appropriate grade. With this approach, of course, I do not curve grades either on assignments or at the end of the course. It is possible that every student will sustain superior work over the course of the semester and thus earn an “A” grade. I have had classes where a number of students made the choice to do so. I also have had classes where many students selected much lower grades.

Important course policies:

- Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in severe penalties. It is the student's responsibility to know and abide by the Viking Code, including its provisions on academic integrity.
- You are not permitted to use electronic devices in the classroom. Any student using an electronic device will have their final grade lowered by one-half a letter grade (5%) per usage. Use of device includes receiving information such as a call or text message.
- Attendance: If you choose to use class meeting times to be somewhere else and/or to do something else, that is your decision.
- The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the syllabus as needed.

Required readings:

- Readings on course VikingWeb page, indicated with an asterisk on course calendar.
- Some shorter readings to be handed out in class.
- Aristophanes, *Acharnians, Lysistrata, Clouds*. Trans. with Intro. and Notes by J. Henderson. Focus Classical Library. ISBN 9780941051583 (Shortened to "Aristophanes" below.)
- Einhard and Notker the Stammerer, *Two Lives of Charlemagne*. Penguin. ISBN 9780140455052 ("*Two Lives*" in course calendar.)
- Confucius, *The Analects*. Penguin. ISBN 9780140443486. ("*Analects*" in calendar.)
- Peter Stearns, *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity, Vol 1 (to 1450)* ISBN 9780205709748. (Shortened to "Stearns" in course calendar.)

Date	Class meeting topic and weekly reading assignment	Assignment due
Aug. 21	introduction to the course	
Aug. 23	4 million to 10,000 BCE	
Aug. 25	Is there just one "human race"?	weekly assign. #1
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 1; *C. Darwin, "The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex"; *R. Groleau, "Tracing Ancestry with MtDNA"	
Aug. 28	The peopling of the earth	
Aug. 30	agriculture and cities	
Sept. 1	Out of Africa?	weekly assign. #2
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 2; *"Issue 1: Did <i>Homo Sapiens</i> Originate in Africa?"	
Sept. 4	no class, Labor Day	
Sept. 6	Mesopotamian and African civilizations	
Sept. 8	the origins of Judaism	weekly assign. #3
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 3; Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> ; *"From Hammurabi's Code"; *"Ancient Iranian Psalms: the Avesta"; * "Gilgamesh"	
Sept. 11	Empire of the Persians	
Sept. 13	The Greek city-states	
Sept. 15	The Hellenistic World	weekly assign. #4
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns ch. 6; Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i> ; *"What Law to Obey?"; *"Medicine and Magic"; *"Funeral Oration of Pericles"; *"Types of Political Constitution; *" Burdens of Empire"	

Date	Class meeting topic and weekly reading assignment	Assignment due
Sept. 18	The rise of the Roman Empire	
Sept. 20	Rome at its height	
Sept. 22	Aristophanes and Greece	weekly assign. #5
<b>Reading:</b>	*“The Education of a Roman Gentleman”; *“The Life of Alexander”; *“Fear and the Spread of Roman Tyranny”	
Sept. 25	Rome conquered Greece. Right?	
Sept. 27	early Christianity	
Sept. 29	The fall of the Roman Empire	<b>paper #1</b>
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 7	
Oct. 2	Nomads and the fall of Rome	
Oct. 4	Notker & Einhard	
Oct. 6	Why did the Roman Empire fall?	weekly assign. #6
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 11; *“Internal Factors Responsible for the Fall of the Roman Empire?”	
Oct. 9	Charlemagne’s Empire	
Oct. 11	Medieval Europe I	
Oct. 13	Life in medieval Europe	weekly assign. #7
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 12; <i>Two Lives</i> , intro. and “Life of Charlemagne” by Einhard	
Oct. 16	no class, Fall Weekend	
Oct. 18	Popes, princes, power	
Oct. 20	<i>Two Lives</i>	weekly assign. #8
<b>Reading:</b>	<i>Two Lives</i> , “Charlemagne” by Notker; *“Church and State Compromise [etc.]”; *“Superiority of the Spiritual Authority”; *“Impact of the Black Death”; *“Chapter 12: The Black Death - Afro-Eurasia, 1346-1350 C.E.” (pp. 422-442)	
Oct. 23	The Black Death	
Oct. 25	early China	
Oct. 27	Warring states, bountiful thoughts	<b>paper #2</b>
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chap. 4; <i>Analects</i> Intro. (pp. 9-55); *“The Dao De Jing”; *“Legalism in Practice”	
Oct. 30	Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism	
Nov. 1	Chinese empires, Chinese cultures	
Nov. 3	Chinese thought in comparison	weekly assign. #9
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns ch. 13; <i>Analects</i> bks I-VI; *“Philosophy of Zhuangzi”; *“Han Feizi & Legalism”	
Nov. 6	The peripheries: Japan, Korea, and SE Asia	
Nov. 8	Nomads: Turks and Mongols	
Nov. 10	<i>The Analects</i> and China	weekly assign. #10
<b>Reading:</b>	Stearns chapter 15 ; <i>Analects</i> books VII-XII; *“The Pillowbook of Sei Shōnagon”; *“‘Barbarians’ in the Empire”; *I. Miyazaki, “Chinese Civil Service Exam System”	

Date	Class meeting topic and weekly reading assignment	Assignment due
Nov. 13	Advice to the emperor, preliminary	
Nov. 15	Advice to the emperor, continued	
Nov. 17	Advice to the emperor, final	
<b>Reading:</b>	<i>The Analects</i> , review Introduction and Books I-XII	
Nov. 20	China and its neighbors	
Nov. 22 & 24	no class, Thanksgiving Holiday	
<b>Reading:</b>	*Marco Polo, "The Description of the World"; *"A Jesuit Missionary Gives His First Impressions of Japan"; *"Did China's Worldview Cause the Abrupt End of Its Voyages of Exploration?"	
Nov. 27	European explorations and new contacts	
Nov. 29	China at its height	
Dec. 1	Why did China step back from the brink?	weekly assign. #11
<b>Reading:</b>	*"Voyages of a Ming Eunuch"; *Hernán Cortes, "The Third Letter"; *"A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies"	

Dec. 4, 1:00 p.m. — Section 154B (MWF 10:00-10:50): **3rd paper** due to Evans Hall 201

Dec. 6, 4:00 p.m. — Section 154A (MWF 9:00-9:50): **3rd paper** due to Evans Hall 201