

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: World Civilization to 1500		
Course Prefix & Number: HIST 191	Section Number: 01	Semester: Spring 2025
Semester Credit Hours: 3	Room: Labry Hall 209	Schedule: MW 2:00-3:15 PM
Required Course Materials: Berger, Eugene, <i>World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500</i> University of Georgia Press (ISBN: 978-1-940771-10-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This textbook is FREE and the link is posted on Canvas. • URL: https://alg.manifoldapp.org/projects/world-history (click on "Start Reading") • A physical copy is available for purchase at the CU Bookstore and Amazon. <i>Any further readings for this course will be added to Canvas if needed.</i>		

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	
Name of Instructor:	Dr. Miguel Angel Chavez
Telephone Number:	615.257.4402
E-mail Address:	mchavez@cumberland.edu
Office Hours:	Labry 230 - MW 12:30-2 PM and 4-5 pm / TR 9:30-11 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a global survey of history from the emergence of humanity in Africa to 1500 CE. Major course themes include the interactions of different culture and the rise and decline of civilizations. We will also examine the rise of major world religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam and the spread of religious traditions around the world. Finally, we will examine the diversity of human societies through the thousands of years this course will cover.

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, and audio-visual presentations. Students are expected to take notes and participate in discussions in class and on Canvas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

At the successful completion of this course, students will come away with an understanding of what history is and the various ways historians practice it as a discipline through the study of global history. Students should appreciate the diversity of peoples and cultures of the world and the importance of cause and consequence in historical actions. Using primary and secondary sources, students will be required to think and write critically and logically about historical events and themes.

The goal of any study of history is more than just for enjoyment but is for students of history to understand the past and its relevancy to today, and to analyze the past critically so that they become better-informed citizens and historical actors in the present and the future.

GRADING

# of Graded Course Elements	Graded Course Elements	Percentage or Point Values
2	Exams	40%
1	Essay Assignment	20%
~12	Homework, Quizzes, and Short Response Papers	30%
-	Attendance and Participation	10%

Exams: There will be **two exams (a midterm and final)** over the material discussed in class as well as any assigned reading. The exams will include questions (e.g. multiple choice, true-false, matching key terms, short answers) and an essay. Each exam will be count towards 20% of your course grade, or 40% in total.

Writing Assignments: There will be **one final project** during the semester. Students will create a multimedia project focusing on a historical region/era. Details will be provided at a later date.

Homework and Class Assignments: **Homework assignments will primarily be done on Canvas**, consisting mainly as quizzes or short writing prompts. Other activities in-class assignments can be implemented if needed. These assignments will constitute 30% of your grade. The two lowest grades will be dropped and will not impact your final homework grade.

Attendance and Participation: Students will be expected to attend class daily and arrive on-time. Roll will be taken at the start of every class, as per Cumberland University policy. Participation in class discussions is also necessary. This will count 10% of your grade.

Excused Absences: Students out for university-sanctioned events (e.g. athletics, academic events), for documented medical events, or for jury-duty will have their absences *excused*. There is no limit to the number of excused absences a student may have.

Unexcused Absences: Any other form of absence is considered *unexcused*. Students are allowed **2 free unexcused** absences in the semester with no penalty. However, subsequent absences will be deducted from the Attendance and Participation grade.

Late Arrivals: Students who do not arrive on-time will be considered late. However, late arrivals can be excused if there is documented evidence of a medical appointment, school-sanctioned

activity, or meeting with a faculty advisor. If a student arrives after attendance is taken, it is the student's responsibility to notify me to update the roll sheet.

Early Departures: In short, students are expected to be in-class until dismissed at the end of the class period. Students with a documented need to leave class early must notify me *before* class starts. Unexcused early departures will automatically be counted as absences.

Extra Credit: Extra credit *may* be given in this course to help students add points to their exam grades. The nature of these extra credit points will be announced in class before the exam.

A = 100-93 / A- = 92-90 / B+ = 89-87 / B = 86-83 / B- = 82-80 / C+ = 79-77 / C = 76-70 / D+ = 69-67 / D = 66-60 / F = 59-0

DROP & WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

The last day to drop or add a course (without a penalty) is Jan. 21. Last day to withdraw from a course with a "W" is Feb. 10. Last day to withdraw with a "WP" or "WF" is on Mar. 24.

<http://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/Current-Catalog/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Registration-Policy/Drop-Process>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the "Academic Integrity Policy" section of Cumberland University's 2024-2025 Catalog:

<https://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/en/Current/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

Further, students are to live up to the *Cumberland Creed*: "Academic honesty is essential to effective learning. Therefore, we as seekers of knowledge hold these as our core values: personal integrity, individual worth, critical and independent thinking, discipline, community responsibility and accountability."

Academic integrity violations include (but are not limited to): **plagiarism, cheating, re-submissions of prior assignments, using AI programs (e.g. Chat GPT), classroom disruptions, and damaging and destroying academic material. Violations will result in a grade of zero for the given assignment. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and/or the Provost.**

You will be given the opportunity to re-do the assignment for partial credit. **Additional violations will result in an automatic F for the course grade.**

Cite your sources carefully when writing! Remember to use quotation marks when quoting from a primary or secondary source. Do not copy-and-paste information from Wikipedia or the textbooks and pretend it is your own work. Do not lend your writing to your classmates: numerous cases of plagiarism have been reported by that method.

TECHNOLOGY USE IN THE CLASSROOM

I highly recommend you take your lecture notes on paper. However, given the needs of students with accessibility issues to use laptops and recorders, I will allow students to use laptops and tablets for note taking. But do not be disruptive with your technology use. In addition, do not use your smartphone in class. If you end up distracted and miss part of the class, that's ultimately your responsibility.

STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate in our communities. At the same time, other communicable illnesses are also present. Members of the Cumberland University community are asked to help maintain a campus that is safe for all by undertaking appropriate health precautions. We encourage community members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing.

If you do experience symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or other ailments, we encourage you to seek medical attention through the University Health Services by making an appointment at <https://cumberland.edu/health-services/> or through your personal health provider. Students may be excused from class attendance with a note from University Health Services or a private health provider, though anyone receiving an excused absence will continue to be responsible for completing all required course assignments.

For further guidance on how to respond to COVID-19, please review the University's statement on health protocols at: <https://www.cumberland.edu/coronavirus/current-health-protocols/>.

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COURSE SCHEDULE – HIST 191: World Civilization to 1500

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Textbooks:

- WH = *World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500*

Homework Assignments are found on Canvas under the “Assignments” page. The below schedule does not include any assignments done in class.

Dates	Topics	Readings	Homework
<u>Week 1</u> Jan. 13-17	Course Orientation and Human Prehistory	Get started on WH, Ch. 1	Introduction Thread Due: Jan. 21
No Class; MLK Jr. Day Jan. 20			
<u>Week 2</u> Jan. 20-24	The Rise of Civilization: the Levant and Egypt	WH, Ch. 2	Canvas Quiz Due: Jan. 28
<u>Week 3</u> Jan. 27-31	Ancient India & the Dharmic Religions (Prehistory to ~200 CE)	WH, Ch. 3 (3.1 to 3.10)	Canvas Quiz Due: Feb. 4
<u>Week 4</u> Feb. 3-7	East Asia (Prehistory to ~200 CE)	WH, Ch. 4 (4.1 to 4.9)	Short Response Due: Feb. 11
<u>Week 5</u> Feb. 10-14	Old Europe, the Greeks, and Judaism (1500 BCE to ~50 BCE)	WH, Ch. 5	Canvas Quiz Due: Feb. 18
<u>Week 6</u> Feb. 17-21	Roman Civilization, Empire, and Christianity (753 BCE to 476 CE)	WH, Ch. 6	Canvas Quiz Due: Feb. 25
<u>Week 7</u> Feb. 24-28	Asia & World Before Islam (200 CE to ca. 700)	WH, Ch. 3 (3.11) and Ch. 4 (4.10 to 4.11)	No Homework! Study for the Midterm!
The Midterm Exam is on Feb. 26			
Spring Break! March 3 to March 7			
<u>Week 8</u> Mar. 10-14	Islam (570 CE to ca. 900 CE)	WH, Ch. 7 (7.1 to 7.6) and Ch. 8 (8.1 to 8.10)	Canvas Quiz Due: Mar. 11

<u>Week 9</u> Mar. 17-21	The Middle Ages: Part I (~ 600 to 1099 CE)	WH, Ch. 3 (3.11 to 3.13), Ch. 4 (4.12), Ch. 7 (7.7 to 7.16)	Rough Draft Due: Mar. 18
<u>Week 10</u> Mar. 24-29	The Middle Ages: Part II (1099 to ca. 1350 CE)	WH, Ch. 11 and <i>then</i> Ch. 4 (4.13 to 4.14)	Canvas Quiz Due: Mar. 25
<u>Week 11</u> April. 1-29	The History of Africa (Prehistory to 1400 CE)	WH, Ch. 9	Canvas Quiz Due: Apr. 1
<u>Week 12</u> April. 10-14	Oceania and the Americas (Prehistory to 1492 CE)	WH, Ch. 10	TBD Due: Apr. 8
<u>Week 13</u> April. 17-21	The Renaissance (1300-1500 CE)	WH, Ch. 12 (12.1 to 12.13)	None! Finish the final project!
Final Project is due on April 18 by 11:59 PM			
<u>Week 14</u> April. 17-21	Early Modernity (~1350 to 1500 CE)	WH, Ch. 12 (12.14 to 12.29)	None! Study for the final exam!
The Final Exam is on Monday, April 28 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM			

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Disability and Accessibility: Students with a disability can register with the **Office of Accessibility**, located in **Labry Hall 226**, to discuss the possibility of accommodations. A “[Registration for Accommodation Services](#)” form should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the second week of the course. Documentation entailing a diagnosis is required. Once registered and approved, an electronic copy of the accommodations will be sent to the student and the professor. The Office of Accessibility can be reached by phone (615-547-1286), by email (mcurtis@cumberland.edu), or in person (Labry Hall 226). For more info, visit: <https://www.cumberland.edu/accessibility/>.

Counseling: The **University Counseling Center** is in Labry Hall 225. Appointments for individual personal counseling sessions, which may be in-person or virtual, can be scheduled by calling or emailing Eddie Christian at 615-547-1397 and echristian@cumberland.edu, or by emailing Sandy Fields (virtual appointments only) at sfields@theratribe.com. The Counseling Center website also contains additional information that may be helpful: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-counseling-services/>.

Library: The **Doris and Harry Vise Library** is very helpful in your studies for obvious reasons. The regular Fall 2024 hours of the library are:

Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The library website can be very useful as well: <https://library.cumberland.edu/home> - scroll down to "Quick Links" to find the Vise Library Catalog and other resources. If you need help from off campus, please call the library at 615-547-1299 or email: library@cumberland.edu.

Computer Labs: There are computer labs available to students, faculty, and staff, located in the basement of Labry Hall. There are also selected workstations available in the University Library and above the atrium on the second floor of Labry Hall, as well as on the second floor of Memorial Hall and in the Learning and Career Commons. If you have problems with any of these computer workstations, printers/copiers, or have other account issues, please submit an IT Service Request by emailing support@cumberland.edu. Student passwords can be reset by visiting: <https://cams3.cumberland.edu/rptool/index.html?s=1>

Academic Support: The **Office of Student Retention and TN Promise Support** exists to offer encouragement, support, and guidance as you navigate life at CU. Among other services, they can offer referrals to the Office of Student Success (Tutoring and Writing Center) as well as the Counseling Center and the Office of Accessibility, when needed. This office houses three academic coaches, who can offer one-on-one sessions to help with things like time management, study skills, etc. Additionally, TN Promise students will receive reminders about important deadlines and requirements from this office. Contact Student Retention and TN Promise Support by visiting LCC 202, calling 615-547-1206, or emailing: retention@cumberland.edu.

Student Success: The **Office of Student Success** is located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 122. This office oversees tutoring and testing services for all actively enrolled Cumberland University students, including the Writing Center (LCC 116) and subject-based academic tutoring labs that are widely available. You can sign up for individual tutors in most CU courses or small group sessions for foundations courses as well. Virtual tutoring sessions are also available for online students. You can visit LCC 122 or LCC 116 directly or email OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu or call 615-547-1238 for a referral. Additional information is also available on the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/academics-2/office-of-student-success/>

Career Services: The **Office of Career Services**, located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 225, supports students and alumni in the development and achievement of career decisions and goals. Services are provided to all Cumberland students and graduates and include: Self-Assessment and Career Planning, Internship and Job Postings, Resume and Cover Letter Review, Graduate School Preparation, and Career-Related Workshops.

Remember to check out the Cumberland App and the website *HireCU* at <https://cumberland-csm.symplicity.com/> for part-time, full-time, and internship job opportunities! For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Career Services Director, Dixie Rury, by phone (615-547-1308) or via email (drury@cumberland.edu) or visit the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-career-services-and-internships/>