

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS (HIS 265)(3 cr)

Professor - Dr. Robinson-Dunn

Class meets TR 11:20-12:35 in B17

Office - Briggs 326, 993-1107 (a message may be left with the secretary in the Liberal Arts office outside of office hours, but do not abuse this privilege, 993-1287)

Office hours - Tuesdays 12:35-3:00 (available until 6:00), Thursdays 11:10-11:20, 12:35-1:05 and by appointment.

Course description – this class covers world history from 1500, or the beginnings of western exploration and expansion, to the present with an emphasis on cultural contact and exchange. We will examine contributions of different cultures and civilizations and how encounters between them have shaped the modern world and identity formation. Students should have an understanding of and be able to think critically and analytically about the material. Also, they should be able to analyze primary as well as secondary sources and use them to create unique historical narratives. Finally, they should be able to organize and communicate their ideas effectively through the spoken and written word, which they will demonstrate on the examinations, writing assignments, and in class discussion.

The grade for this course will be based on class participation (25%), the mid-term (20%), the final exam (30%) and a paper (25%). In order to pass this class, you must take both exams and submit a paper.

The required readings are listed below. Readings from Overfield must be completed by the Tuesday of the week that they are assigned. Please be advised that there will be no deadline extensions for the papers and no make-up exams except in cases of serious illness verified by a doctor's note. Your papers should be free of structural and grammatical errors. You should also have a clear introduction, thesis and conclusion. If you have any doubts about your writing skills, see the writing center before you submit your paper. The writing center is located in B 225 and open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. M-Th and 9-5 F. To make an appointment call 993-1022 Also, the McNichols campus library is located directed across from the Briggs building. See attached statement on plagiarism.

The class participation grade is *not* a warm body grade. In other words you do not get credit simply for being here. You must demonstrate that you have read and understand the material as well as contribute to classroom discussions. Also, you will have periodic, unannounced in-class writing assignments usually lasting for about 15-20 minutes. These will be based on the readings from Overfield and the lectures. They require you to practice organizing and communicating your ideas on paper, which will help you on the exams. They will be considered part of your class participation grade. General attitude and demeanor count as well. Disruptive behavior, eating in class, and chronic lateness to and early departure from class will not be tolerated.

Students with disabilities must see me during the first week of class in order to make any special arrangements that might be necessary.

Required Texts - Howard Spodek, *The World's History*, 3rd edition, Prentice Hall 2001; Andrea Overfield, *The Human Record*, Vol. II, 5th edition, Houghton Mifflin, 2001; and Mary Wortley Montagu's *Turkish Embassy Letters*.

Note - Some weeks you will be responsible for more reading material than others. Review the assignments well in advance and plan your schedule accordingly. It is recommended that you spend at least three hours reading and studying for every hour of class time.

Student course evaluations are an important source of information for curricular teaching improvement in the College of Liberal Arts and Education. As such, all students enrolled in CLAE courses are required to complete an online course evaluation. You will receive emails explaining how to complete the evaluation online. In addition, you will be reminded of the

deadline. Should a student fail to complete the evaluation, their grade for the course will not be posted until the evaluation is complete.

January

10 – 12 Introduction to the course/ Mughal India
handout

17-19- Mughal India con't and the overlapping cultures of tribe and state in 16th-century Africa
Overfield: Duarte Pacheco 117-118; art of Benin 119-120; and Nzinga Mbemba (Alfonso I) 121-
124
Spodek 397-99

24-26- –16th century Africa con't and the foundations of European contributions to the modern
world: the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution
Overfield: Francis Bacon 109-112 and Galileo Galilei 107-109
Spodek 438-441

31-2- the Ottoman Empire: religious and cultural diversity/ slavery and race in Islam/ Muslim
societies of the Ottoman Middle East and North Africa
Overfield: Turkish letters 43-47 and women and law in the Ottoman Empire 64-68
Spodek 476, 500, 511, 661

February

7-9 – The Ottoman Empire continued and 17th-century China: Confucianism, state, and society/
diplomacy and trade
Overfield: *Meritorious Deeds at No Cost* 9-14 and Zhong Han 18-22
Spodek 477-80, 507

14 -16 - imperial encounters in Latin America: European, Native American, and African
influences/ institutions of empire
Overfield: encomienda records 137-139 and complaint of the Indians 139-142
Spodek 451-461, 485-7, 494-98

21 – film

23 – mid-term exam

28-2 – the Enlightenment and revolutions in European states and society/ nationalism and
unification
Mary Wortley Montagu's *Turkish Embassy Letters*
Spodek 521-26, 533, 539-546, 597-604

March

7-9 Spring Break – class does not meet

14-16- Latin America in the 18th and 19th centuries
Overfield: Thomas Paine 195-200 and Simon Bolivar 200-203
Spodek 547-549, 550-56

21-23 - industrialization, 19th-century liberalism, and European imperialism
Overfield: Samuel Smiles 272-275 and images of imperialism 304-308
Spodek 561-576, 609-612, 617-28

28— individual meetings with students to discuss the paper

30- respond to consultation session (suggestions/revisions)

30- the 'opening' of China and Japan to Western influence and the global economy

Overfield: Lin Zexu 339-342 and Sakuma Shozan 350-353

Spodek 613-17, 631-38

April

4-6 – Ottoman decline and communist revolutions

Overfield: announcement to the Arabs 327-330, Mao Zedong 457-461

Spodek –selected readings from chapters 21 and 23

11-13 –communism, postcoloniality and modern religious-political movements

Mohandus Gandhi 441-445, the Muslim Brotherhood 436-441

Spodek – selected readings from chapters 21 and 23

18 - paper due

18– review for final

20- individual/group consultation and review sessions

25 – 11:00-12:50 Final Exam

Comparative Civilizations 265
Paper Assignment

Using material from Mary Wortley Montagu's *Turkish Embassy Letters* write a four to five-page paper on the topic of cultural encounter. The Overfield and Spodek texts may be used as well. There are a number of angles from which to approach this issue. For example, consider comparative empires, British and Ottoman, or national identities, Turkish and English. Enlightenment, Christian, or Western traditions could be compared with those of the Islamic world. In addition, intellectual and court life or women and gender are also possibilities.

Be sure to organize your ideas around a thesis statement. This is your argument and the point of your essay. Every paragraph in your essay should support this argument. You also need to have a clear introduction and conclusion. Your paper should be free of grammatical errors. If you have any doubts about your writing skills, see the writing center before you submit your paper (see your syllabus for hours and location). Papers should be neat and conform to a standard manual or handbook style. Turabian and MLA are the usual choices.

There will be no deadline extensions except in case of *serious* illness verified by a doctor's note. In addition you must make an appointment to see me in my office. This meeting is part of the assignment and will be factored into your grade. The better prepared you are for this meeting, the more I will be able to help you. I suggest that you bring an outline of your paper that includes a thesis statement, a list of the main points you will make, the specific evidence from the lectures and readings that you will use to support your thesis, and two paragraphs (preferably the introduction and one other paragraph). The paper is due at the beginning of class on April 11.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another author's *ideas, opinions* or words as one's own. It is a serious form of academic misconduct, and the penalty for it is expulsion from the university. Reread the statement on plagiarism attached to the syllabus.

If you plan to consult the web, you must see me beforehand. I will give you a several articles on responsible and appropriate use of the web for students of history. After reading them, we will discuss the articles briefly. Unless you do this, do not take information off of the web. I will consider it plagiarism