

# **HIS1385 Origins of Ancient Civilizations**

## **Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Origins of Ancient Civilizations is an introductory course. All students are eligible to take this course.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will explore the history of assorted early societies, including cultures, politics, and religions. Some of the regions we will cover include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and the Mayan Empire. These areas were significant in the development of cultures. Elements of these cultural societies still exist today.

You will learn how ancient civilizations attained power and how they have an impact on our lives today. The emergence and descent of impressive cultures and men will be a topic of scrutiny. You will learn how some of the items and ideologies these ancient people generated have impacted life and inspired others, years or centuries later, to expound on their ideas.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

History is a way to perceive what took place and how it transpired. We can even take it a step further and strive to understand why events happened. We will also attempt to ascertain how ancient events have impacted the world in which we live. By the end of the course all students should:

- Gauge the relevance of agriculture in development of complex cultures and establish the major components of early agricultural societies
- Analyze the political, religious, economic, and social institutions of early civilizations of the Near East, Egypt, South Asia, China, and the Americas
- Expound upon the birth, basic beliefs, and expansion of the world's major religious traditions: Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam
- Learn a general chronology of world history, including pivotal developments and cultural victories from distinct parts of the globe
- Summarize how leaders have altered the world's history
- Weigh the past with current events, issues and problems
- Develop a knowledge of historical cohesion by understanding historical process

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy.

Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

## **TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE**

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: [tutordept@usilacs.org](mailto:tutordept@usilacs.org).

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT**

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: [hr@usilacs.org](mailto:hr@usilacs.org).

## **DRESS CODE**

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual). NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

## **NETIQUETTE**

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.

- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.
- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

## **ADA ACCOMMODATIONS**

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office  
1221 Brickell Ave.  
Miami, FL 33131  
1-305-330-2202  
[registrarsoffice@usilacs.org](mailto:registrarsoffice@usilacs.org)

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING**

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

## **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

(2009) A Comprehensive Outline of World History: Jack E. Maxfield.

(2011) Sumer, Joshua J Mark.  
(2016) Ancient Civilization, Exploring Ancient Civilizations and History. Joanne Shelby.

## **MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a “D” in order to pass the class.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

*Map Assignments-*

Pick an area of the ancient world in a specific time frame. Pick a century. Make a map of the area at that time showing regions, countries, major cities, lakes, rivers, bodies of water, and mountains. Draw a second map of that same area of the world today. Highlight the major differences. Showcase the similarities.

*Report on a person of interest who lived prior to 500CE-*

Choose a prominent person who lived prior to 500CE. Write a report about that person. If possible, include where he/she was born and lived, parents, siblings, spouse and children. Tell what that person did and why you felt he/she was prominent. Do you fell

this person impacted the world today in any way? If so, how? This report should be a minimum of 1,000 words.

*Compare and contrast past with current events, issues and problems-*

Think about how some of the events from the past have impacted the future. How would things be different today if those events did not take place? Do we still see some of the same problems that people of ancient times faced? If so, what? What things have changed dramatically? Did they change for the better or worse? A minimum of 1,000 words is necessary for this paper.

## **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Week 1</b>	Overview of course and coursework Sumer (4.3)(5.3) Ancient Mesopotamia (4.3)(5.3) Babylonia (4.3)(5.3)
<b>Week 2</b>	Battle of Kadesh (6.2)
<b>Week 3</b>	Egypt (5.2)
<b>Week 4</b>	Alexander the Great (11.2)(11.3) <i>Map assignment due</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Video review and Exam</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	Mayan civilization (9.4)(10.9)(11.9)(12.9) Chinese Dynasty (6.7)
<b>Week 7</b>	Chinese Civilization (9.3) Zoroastrianism(9.7)(10.3)(11.3)(12.3)
<b>Week 8</b>	Rome (14.4)(15.4)(16.4)(17.4)(18.4)(19.4) <i>Report on ancient person of interest paper due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Video review and Exam</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	Ptolemy (11.4) Carchemish (5.4)(6.4)(7.4)
<b>Week 11</b>	Assyrian Empire (5.2)(5.3)(6.2)(6.3)(7.2)(7.3)(8.3)(8.8)
<b>Week 12</b>	Persian Empire (9.7)(10.3)(11.3)(12.3) <i>Compare and contrast past with current events, issues and problems paper due</i>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Video review and Final exam</b>