



**SUMMER 2009 - Dr. J. Valente**

Psych 1924 MTWR 5:30-6:45. Office Hours: HSSB 3234, W 4:15-5:15 or by app. (893-8851). josevalente@cox.net

Welcome to History 2A, *World Civilizations to 1000 A.D.* This is a survey course, and one that will cover a very large amount of material, both chronologically and geographically. As such this is not the place to delve into cultural and historical detail, but a place to get the “big picture”. We will be looking at our ancient past, from the Dawn of Humankind, from our earliest ancestors and their efforts to survive and control their environment, to rise of the first great civilizations around the globe, to the establishment of rich and vibrant cultures around the planet which contributed, each in its own way, to making the world we live in today. So we will be asking some broad questions: what makes us human? What are the common elements between cultures? How have different cultures around the planet come up with their own solutions to common problems and challenges? Why are these different? What makes for a marked difference in the way cultures evolved around the planet? What tools have we developed to make sense of the world around us? As we try to answer these questions, it is my hope that you will gain a new insight into your past and your species and your place on this planet.

**Required Texts**

Richard Bulliet *et alii* . **The Earth and Its Peoples : A Global History . Volume A: to 1200.** Fourth Edition.

Alfred, J, and James Overfield. **The Human Record, Volume 1 to 1700.** Sixth Edition

**Please note that extra readings will be assigned and made available on the class website found here: [http://www.history.ucsb.edu/courses/course.php?course\\_id=1174](http://www.history.ucsb.edu/courses/course.php?course_id=1174)**

**Writing Assignment**

This class fulfills the University Writing Requirement. To pass this course you need to get a passing grade on the writing assignment. If you get a failing grade in the paper you will have to retake this course, *no matter what grades you get in the midterm and final exams.* The paper must be at least 1,800 words (about 6-8 pages, double-spaced). For the paper you will be asked to write on a major, underlying theme for the course, based on the primary sources used in this class. Please refer to the **Paper Topic and Instructions Handout** given to you by the T.A.

**Grading**

Midterm	25%
Sections	10%
Paper	30% (WARNING: an F here means an F in the class)
Final	35%

Section attendance is required and is worth a full letter grade. Section will also prepare you for the exams and provide you with critical information which will be of importance when you write the paper.



**A note on plagiarism...**

Plagiarism happens when you derive facts and ideas from another writer's work without citing the sources of your information. The source must always be given, even if you summarized or paraphrased the information. If you write a paper by "clipping" together a series of passages from books and fail to cite your sources you commit plagiarism. Papers from "internet paper mills" are also a problem. Remember that a search engine that works for you, also works for me. Students caught cheating will be subjected to disciplinary action, which can include suspension, a permanent note on your academic record and a letter from the Dean your parents may not really enjoy reading. Not to mention an F in the course.

**Weekly Reading Assignments**

I have provided you with a reading schedule for each lecture. The readings are from the textbook and the class reader. Readings from the class reader (and other readings assigned) are to be discussed in section and it is therefore important that you follow the outlined reading plan.

**Lecture and Reading Schedule**

**A note on the Reading Schedule:** there will be updates to the reading assignments, with some extra reading assignments not found in the course reader. This will be announced in class and through the class email list.

W	LECTURE	TOPIC	TITLE	READINGS
1	1	The Emergence of Humans, to 35,000 BC	Growing up straight: humans evolve and take over the world	TEAIP: Chapter 1 HR: P1-P6
	2		Art, Language and Agriculture	Article on Cave Art
	3	First River Valley Civilizations, 3500-1500 BC	Rivers, Cities and States: 4000-2000 BC	TEAIP: Chapter 2 HR: 5-21, 35-39
	4		Gift of the Nile: Egypt, 5000-2000 BC	
2	5	New Civilizations in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, 2200-250 BC	The Spread of Civilization: China, Africa and the South Pacific	TEAIP: Chapter 3 HR: 21-28**
	6		Europe: Celts and the Northern Frontier; Mesoamerican Olmec	TBA

	7	Mediterranean and Middle East, 2000-500 BC	The Cosmopolitan Middle East	TEAIP:Chapter 4 HR: 42-49 HR: 50-59; 75-81
	8		Jews, Phoenicians and the Mediterranean Experience	
3	9	Greece and Iran, 1000 BC-30 AD	Empires: Persians and the Rise of the Greeks	TEAIP:Chapter 5 HR: 96-107 119-123**
	10		The Hellenistic Experience	
	11	An Age of Empires: Rome and Han China, 753 BC-330 AD	Rome: Empire and Culture	TEAIP:Chapter 6 HR: 182-206 HR: 126-136
4	12		The Other Empire: China	
	13	India and Southeast Asia, 1500 BC-1025 AD	India: The Weaving of Culture	TEAIP:Chapter 7 HR: HR: 62-74; 159-168
	14	Networks of communication and exchange, 300 BC-1100 AD	Connecting the World: Roads and Routes	TEAIP:Chapter 8 HR: 143-151** TBA
	15		Religion and Cultural Expansion	
5	16	Sasanide Empire and the Rise of Islam, 200-1200 AD	The Rise of Islam: Religion, Power and Culture	TEAIP:Chapter 9 HR: 207-240
	17	Christian Societies emerge in Europe	The Rise of The Christian World	TEAIP:Chapter 10 HR: 298-325 HR: 272-276; 326-336
	18		Europe and the "Others": The Crusades	
6	19	Inner and East Asia, 300-1200 AD	East Asia: Power Struggles and New Kingdoms	TEAIP:Chapter 11 HR: 257-271
	20	Peoples and Civilizations of the Americas, 200-1500 AD	The Americas: Nomads and City Builders	TEAIP:Chapter 12 HR: 353-364 HR: 365-369
	21		On Top of the World: Andean Civilization	

TEAIP: *The Earth and its People*

HR: *The Human Record*

TBA: there will be extra readings assigned for these weeks

### Paper Topics

Please select ONE of the following topics. Evidence for your argument MUST come from the readings in the Reader. **Make sure you refer to the *Guidelines for the Writing Assignment* given to you by your Teaching Assistant.**

### Topic one

From Han China, to the Mayan jungles, Humans societies share many commonalities. If you were an alien researcher from a distant planet and could visit and time travel across the period we covered in this course, what common elements would you find across the planet and across the centuries? Make sure to give specific examples.

### Topic two

For many, the Internet, or the iPod, is perhaps Humanity's greatest inventions. But, believe it or not, there were other inventions that changed the course of Human development and had a profound impact on the way people related to each other. Think of three key innovations that changed Human history in a significant way and explain why.

### Topic three

Looking at the past 6,000 years, it could be argued that Man is a religious animal. What role does religion play in the cultural, political and social development of human societies? Be sure to look at the period we covered and give specific examples.



"I didn't write the report. I printed it directly from the Internet, but I did all of the stapling and collating myself."

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
**MIDTERM:** Thursday  
August 20  
**PAPER DUE:** Monday  
August 31  
**FINAL: THURSDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 10**