

HUM 2210: The Humanistic Tradition

Tu/Th, 12:00-1:15 (2210-0004)

Tu/Th, 1:30-2:45 (2210-0006)

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Office hours: Tu/Th, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Course Description and Objectives:

Welcome to HUM 2210, Humanistic Tradition I. This course provides an introduction to the multicultural study of our world heritage, with focus on an historical engagement of civilizations in the classical premodern world. Our objective is to develop a basic familiarity with topics in premodern world history and some of the key themes and critical issues involved with its study.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook:

I'm sympathetic to the reality that undergraduates spend an average of more than \$1,000 on textbooks each year. You don't have to buy any readings for this course.

Our assigned textbook is *World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500* by Eugene Berger et al. This book is available for conventional purchase via services such as Amazon. However, the authors and publisher have also made the book available for free online as an openly licensed textbook. You can access the PDF directly from the "files" section of our course site, or at

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=375>.

Other readings will be made available via the course site.

Grading and Assignments

Reading Notes: 20%

Midterm: 30%

Final: 30%

Professionalism: 20%

Midterm and Final

The midterm and final will each consist of an in-class exam.

Reading Notes

The readings for each session are to be completed for the date under which they are listed. Over the course of the semester, you are responsible for submitting 12 “reading notes” on dates of your choosing. These assignments do not receive letter grades, but are marked as complete or incomplete. A reading note consists of a 2-page, double-spaced response (up to **500 words**), with **full header** (name, HUM 2210, date) and **bibliographic citation**. Reading notes are due **in hard copy at the start of class**. Email attachments are not accepted. A reading note should cover the following:

1. **Thesis/Main Idea:** in as close to one sentence as possible, explain what the author is arguing.
2. **Evidence/methodology:** how does the author prove her/his argument?
3. **Quote (properly attributed and cited):** use the author’s own words to illustrate the main or secondary points of the reading.
4. **New Terms/Concepts (if applicable):** did the article introduce or draw upon unfamiliar terms or concepts?
5. **Critique:** are there any elements of the reading that you find problematic? Anything that could have been discussed further?
6. **Conclusions:** observations, informed reflections, connections between this reading and lectures or other course materials?

Grading Scale

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	60-69
F	< 60

Professionalism

This primarily amounts to attendance, which will be taken at every session. Points can be deducted for undermining a productive classroom environment, which includes disrupting sessions, undermining class discussion, unexcused late work, inappropriate email etiquette, using phones during class, and other forms of unprofessional conduct. For this course to be successful, the classroom needs to be a site of mutual respect and support.

Safe Zone and Title IX Statement

I have pledged to affirm the identities of and provide resources to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

I am committed to the safety and well-being of everyone in our campus community, and therefore willing to be a resource for your concerns beyond this course. If you come to me for non-course-related concerns, I will protect your confidentiality within the limits of the law. As a member of the faculty, I am legally required to report information concerning sexual discrimination and misconduct. Please become familiar with your rights and resources, including access to confidential counseling, at <http://osrr.sdes.ucf.edu/titleix>.

Disability Accommodation

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodation should contact me as soon as possible. Please become familiar with UCF resources for student accessibility at <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

Course schedule (subject to change):

Introductions

1/9: syllabus review

1/11: how do we study the past?

Critical Concepts: Race and Ethnicity

1/16: Race in the Ancient World

- Bahrani, "Race and Ethnicity in Mesopotamian Antiquity"

1/18: Race in the Ancient World

- Isaac, "Proto-Racism in Graeco-Roman Antiquity"

Critical Concepts: Gender and Sexuality

1/23: Gender

- Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, "An Introduction to Gender"

1/25: Sexuality

- Halperin, "Is There a History of Sexuality?"

Critical Concepts: Religion

1/30: Religion as modern category

- McCutcheon, "The History of 'Religion'"

Prehistory

2/1: *World History*, ch.1

the Ancient Near East

2/6: Mesopotamia

- *World History*, 21-41

2/8: Egypt

- *World History*, 42-62

Classical Empires

2/13: Persia

- Daryaee, *Sasanian Persia*, ch. 3

2/15: Greece

- *World History*, ch.5

Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean

2/20: Early Judaism

- *World History*, 38-41

2/22: the Roman Empire and Christianity

- *World History*, ch.6

India

2/27: India

- *World History*, ch.3

3/1: Vedic Traditions

- Kumar, "Introducing Hinduism: The Master Narrative"
- Doniger, "Sacred Cows"

Buddhism

3/6: no class

3/8: Buddhism

- Company, "Buddhism Enters China' in Early Medieval China"

Spring Break

3/13: **no class**

3/15: **no class**

China

3/20: China

- *World History*, ch.4

Ancient American Empires

3/22: the Maya and Aztecs

- *World History*, ch. 10

Catch-Up Session

3/27: TBD

Ethiopia

3/29: Aksum

- *World History*, ch. 9

Islam

4/3: thinking about Islam

- Ernst, *Following Muhammad*, ch.2

4/5: Muhammad

- Ernst, *Following Muhammad*, ch. 3

Islam

4/10: the Qur'ān

- Abdel Haleem, *Understanding the Qur'an*, ch. 1-2

4/12: Islamic history from the origins through medieval civilization

- *World History*, ch. 8

The Medieval World

4/17: the Mongols, Islam, and Western Europe

- *World History*, ch.11-12

4/19: conclusions

Final Exam

The time of your exam depends on your specific class time.

If you attend the **12:00-1:15p.m.** sessions, your exam takes place in our classroom on **April 26, 10:00-12:50p.m.**

If you attend the **1:30-2:45p.m.** sessions, your exam takes place in our classroom on **May 1, 1:00-3:50p.m.**

It is your responsibility to be in the right place at the right time.