

HIST 2A – World History, Prehistory–1000CE

Winter 2020

T/R 2-3:15pm – IV Theater 1

Instructor

Dr. William Thompson
wkthompson@ucsb.edu

Office: HSSB 3236
Office Hours: T/R 3:30–4:30pm

Discussion Sections and Teaching Assistants

Harini Alladi

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Tuesday 8am – HSSB 3201

Tuesday 9pm – HSSB 4041

Friday 11am – Girvetz 2135

Lei Dou

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Friday 8am – HSSB 1232

Friday 9am – HSSB 1227

Friday 3pm – HSSB 1227

Christina Roberts

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Monday 12pm – North 1111

Thursday 4pm – HSSB 1236

Thursday 5pm – HSSB 3202

Donna Anderson

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Thursday 9am – HSSB 4202

Thursday 10am – HSSB 4202

Thursday 11am – Kerr 2166A

Bradford Fried

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Wednesday 6pm – HSSB 2252

Wednesday 7pm – North 1111

Thursday 7pm – Girvetz 2116

Kristen Thomas-McGill

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Monday 9am – HSSB 4041

Monday 12pm – HSSB 2202

Monday 2pm – HSSB 2202

Justin Devris

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Monday 9am – HSSB 1224

Monday 11am – HSSB 2202

Friday 10am – HSSB 1206

Dana Hughes

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Tuesday 6pm – HSSB 2202

Tuesday 7pm – HSSB 2202

Wednesday 3pm – HSSB 4041

Huizhong Zheng

huizhong@ucsb.edu

Tuesday 4pm – HSSB 1236

Tuesday 5pm – HSSB 1207

Thursday 6pm – Ellison 2816

Honors Section with Dr. Thompson

Friday 9-10:50am – HSSB 4020

Course Description

First, this is a survey of the peoples, cultures, and social, economic, and political systems that characterized major civilizations in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania from Prehistory to 1000 CE. It is impossible to cover everything that happened during this period; instead, you will be presented with a small selection of topics that provide a bird's eye view of developments during this period. The purpose of lectures is to clarify the historical context in order to understand the primary and secondary sources you will read and discuss in section.

Second, this course will introduce you to the interpretation and analysis of historical primary sources. You will read documents and study material objects from the past. You will discuss these materials in section, giving you a taste for how historians create narratives that explain human experience and wrestling with the challenges of bias and silences in the historical record.

Third, you will take on the role of historian yourself, writing a paper that evaluates a recent historical work in light of the material you study in this class.

Learning Objectives & Outcomes

- Acquire basic literacy regarding the development of world systems, ideologies, conflicts, and relationships from prehistory to 1000 CE; plus gain geographical knowledge of key places, regions, and features around the globe.
- Develop and practice skills of historical research and interpretation, interpersonal communication, and analytical writing.
- Practice historical empathy, understanding the motivations, beliefs, and concerns of people in the past without imposing modern value judgments on them.

Required Texts

- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, concise 2nd ed., vol. 1 (W.W. Norton, 2019)
OR purchase the E-Book for \$40 (includes online access code).
- Jennifer A. Rea and Liz Clarke, *Perpetua's Journey: Faith, Gender, and Power in the Roman Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2017).
- Additional required readings will be posted on the course Gauchospace page.

Lecture Attendance

Attendance at lecture is key to your success in this course. It is your responsibility to show up and be an active participant by listening, taking notes, and contributing to in-class activities.

Course Assignments

Weekly assignments—including the *WTWA* textbook chapters and primary sources, InQuizitive, and *Perpetua's Journey*—should be completed by 2pm Tuesday (or when your section meets, whichever comes earlier). Additional required readings are posted on Gauchospace and should be completed before lecture on those days. Note: On February 25 you are required to watch a documentary online rather than attending lecture.

Grading Components

Discussion Section	25%	Paper	25%
InQuizitive	10%	Final Exam	25%
Midterm Exam	15%	<i>Lecture Attendance</i>	<i>4% bonus possible</i>

Explanation of Grade Components

Discussion Section: These are an essential, required part of the educational plan of this course. They will emphasize analysis of the readings, preparation for the paper and exams, and will include short weekly writing assignments determined by your TA. Attendance at section is mandatory and three unexcused absences will result in a 0% section grade. You must pass section to pass the course. Your TA is your primary resource; so make use of their office hours.

InQuizitive: You will complete online review quizzes for each chapter assigned from *WTWA*. These are due by **2pm on Tuesday** of the week they are assigned (unless otherwise noted). They are meant to improve your understanding, aid retention, and help you prepare for the final exam. Use the link on Gauchospace to access the InQuizitive site for our class. Be sure that you have the product registration code for your copy of *WTWA*, as this is necessary to access InQuizitive.

Midterm Exam: An assessment of your basic geographical knowledge as it relates to the time period covered by this course, and your ability to identify and analyze primary sources from the course. To be completed in class on **February 4**. There will be no make-up midterm.

Paper: An essay to be turned in on GauchoSpace by **10pm, February 29**. In addition to sharing your general impressions of *Perpetua's Journey*, this paper should analyze the book's historical methodology and connection to other course material. See the "Paper Guidelines" document on GauchoSpace for more information. You must earn a passing grade on the paper to pass the course. (1,200–1,400 words.)

Final Exam: A cumulative assessment of your mastery of course content. To be completed on **March 17**. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions on course readings/films/primary documents, lecture material, and class discussions. There will be no make-up final.

Lecture Attendance Bonus: Occasionally, I will assign short written responses during lecture to spur discussion. Students who are consistently present at lecture and complete these written responses will earn a 4% bonus to their overall course grade. You must complete all but one of the written responses to qualify for the bonus.

Office Hours

I have office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30–4:30pm. Please stop by with any questions you may have about the class, or just to chat.

Technology Policy

Phones must be silenced during lecture. Laptops and tablets are allowed during lecture and should be used for note taking and accessing digital copies of course materials. Be considerate of those around you. If you become a distraction you may be asked to leave.

Academic Honesty

If you submit work that is not your own or that does not acknowledge the contributions of others it is a breach of your student academic contract. When discovered, it will result in failing the assignment, potentially failing the course, and possible academic sanctions.

Special Accommodations & Reporting

Please inform your TA as soon as possible if you require academic accommodations, have emergency medical information you wish to share, or need special arrangements in the case of a building evacuation. It is your responsibility to coordinate with the DSP office if you require testing accommodations. Your TA and I are also Title IX mandated reporters for any known cases of domestic or sexual abuse; however, we can refer you to campus resources if you prefer.

Power Loss or Natural Disasters

In the event that the university cancels classes due to a public safety power shut off or natural disaster, please check email for information regarding any necessary changes to the course schedule or assignments.

Course Schedule Key

- WTWA* = *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, Concise 2nd ed., Vol. 1 (W.W. Norton, 2019).
Sections: Plan for that week's meetings, including topics and/or readings to be discussed.
- ❖ Section reading assignment. To be completed before your weekly section meeting.
 - 📖 Course reading posted to Gauchospace. Complete for that day's lecture.
 - 💻 Online viewing assignment instead of attending lecture. Use link on Gauchospace.
 - Exam or paper due date. To be completed or turned-in on that day.

Items listed to the right of the bold Week # must be completed by **2pm on Tuesday** of that week (unless noted otherwise).

Course Schedule

Week 1

Jan 7 Introductions, course preview, syllabus review, crashing policy.

Jan 9 Thinking Like a Historian & Becoming Human
📖 *WTWA*, Ch. 1 (optional, not tested)

Sections: Introductions, Gaddis, and "Making History" activity.
❖ 📖 John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History*, Ch. 1.

Week 2

***WTWA*, Ch. 2 + InQuizitive**

Jan 14 Rivers, Cities, and First States, 3500–2000 BCE.

Jan 16 Material Culture: The First Cities and States.
📖 Amy Richlin, *Arguments With Silence*, "Introduction" (excerpt).

Sections: Material culture activity.
❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 2, pp. 96–103.

Week 3

***WTWA*, Ch. 3 + InQuizitive**

Jan 21 Nomads, Territorial States, and Microsocieties, 2000–1000 BCE.

Jan 23 Material Culture: The Beginnings of Science and Literature.

Sections: ❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 3, pp. 142–153.

Week 4 ***WTWA*, Ch. 4 + InQuizitive**

Jan 28 First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia, 1250–325 BCE.

Jan 30 Material Culture: Old World, New Powers.

Sections: ❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 4, pp. 192–201.

Week 5 ***WTWA*, Ch. 5 + InQuizitive (due Thursday, 2pm)**

Feb 4 ➤ **Midterm Exam**

Feb 6 Worlds Turned Inside Out, 1000–350 BCE.

Sections: ❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 5, pp. 240–249 (tested on final exam).

Week 6 ***WTWA*, Ch. 6 + InQuizitive**

Feb 11 Shrinking the Afro-Eurasian World, 350–100 BCE.

Feb 13 Guest Lectures: Huizhong Zheng & Kristen Thomas-McGill

Sections: ❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 6, pp. 286–295.

Week 7 ***WTWA*, Ch. 7 + InQuizitive**

Feb 18 Han Dynasty China and Imperial Rome, 300 BCE–300 CE.

Feb 20 Material Culture: Empire Builders & Guest Lecture: Lei Dou

Sections: ❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 7, pp. 332–341.

Week 8 **Rae & Clarke, *Perpetua's Journey***

Feb 25 NO LECTURE – Online viewing assignment instead.

📺 *Christianity: The First 2000 Years*, Episode 1.

Feb 27 NO LECTURE – Work on your paper.

Section: ❖ Discuss *Perpetua's Journey* and paper writing. All sections will meet as usual.

➤ **Papers due on GauchoSpace by 10pm, Saturday, Feb 29.**

Week 9 ***WTWA*, Ch. 8 + InQuizitive**

Mar 3 The Rise of Universalizing Religions, 300–600 CE.

Mar 5 Material Culture: The Rise of World Faiths.

Sections: “Holy Smokes” activity.

❖ Primary sources from *WTWA*, Ch. 8, pp. 382–391 (not discussed, will be tested).

Week 10 ***WTWA*, Ch. 9 + InQuizitive**

Mar 10 New Empires and Common Cultures, 600-1000. Course evaluations.

Mar 12 Material Culture: The Silk Road and Beyond.

Sections: Final exam review. Section evaluations.

Final Exam

March 17 4–6pm

This syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes.