

HIST 2301-002
(Online)
History of Civilization before 1500
Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kimberly Breuer

EMAIL ADDRESS: breuer@uta.edu

OFFICE: UH 324

OFFICE HOURS: Virtual (see course module on how to set up a virtual meeting) and by appointment

HISTORY DEPARTMENT PHONE: 817-272-2861 (individual faculty do not have office phones in the History Department – the fastest, most direct, and preferred means of communication is via email. Expect a response to an email with 48 hours, longer on weekends and breaks)

CO-INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Justin T. Dellinger

EMAIL ADDRESS: jdelling@uta.edu

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT: This course surveys significant developments prior to 1500 in world history. It explores the achievements and experiences of great civilizations, emphasizing major historical figures and epochs, important ideas and religions, and factors of continuity and change. Particular emphasis is given to the development of the world's religions and the cultural exchanges and encounters of the world's peoples. The course provides a foundation for understanding our heritage and shared values, and introduces students to the historical forces that have shaped today's world. This course is student centered, employs active learning, and provides opportunity for interaction with subject matter, the instructors, and your fellow students.

Please note that this is an experimental course section. Dr. Breuer (History Department) and Mr. Dellinger (LINK Lab/Doctoral Student in History) are researching some innovative online learning practices in this course. We will be giving you an opportunity to provide feedback to help us tweak the course as the semester progresses. You will be able to choose your own path through this course (within certain constraints) and we will provide you with instructor suggested pathways and guidance along the way. This is not a “read the book and take a high-stakes test” type of online course. We will dedicate the first week of the course to “bootcamp” to allow you to become familiar with the course and our expectations, and to meet and greet the instructors and your fellow students.

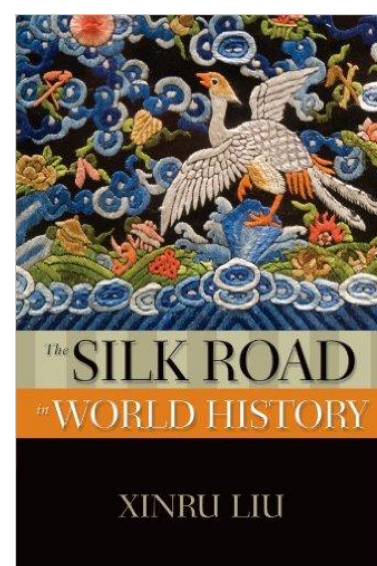
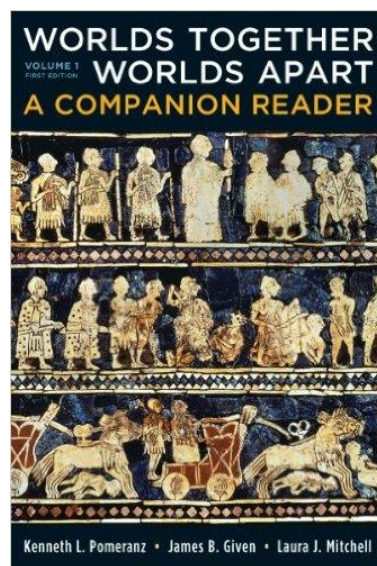
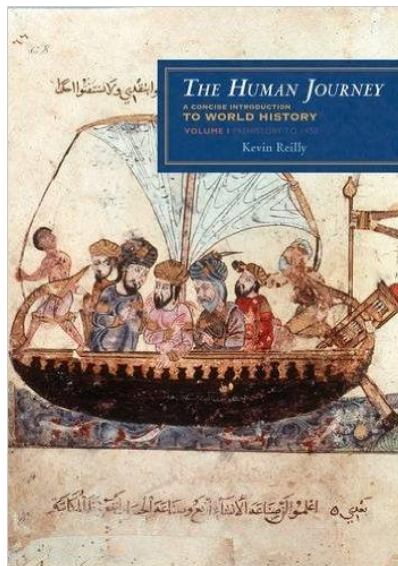
CLASS PREREQUISITES: None

CLASS FORMAT: *This is a 100% online, web-delivered course.* There are many opportunities for students to interact with the instructor and each other throughout this course. While there is great flexibility as to how and when you complete your work, *this course is not self-paced.* It is imperative that students keep up with the pace of the class and pay attention to due dates. Successful online students are self-starters with good time management skills. This course resides in Blackboard with links to a class website. It is the student's responsibility to log into Blackboard (www.uta.edu/blackboard) on the first day of class to access the module.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS:

There are 3 required materials for this class:

- Reilly, *The Human Journey, Vol. 1* ISBN-13: 978-1442213852
- Pomeranz, et al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A Companion Reader (Vol. 1)* ISBN-13: 978-0393911602
- Liu, *The Silk Road in World History* ISBN-13: 978-0195338102



Note that you will need the first two books by the second week of the semester. You will begin to use the Silk Roads book in Unit 2, which opens on 2/29. Plan accordingly.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

During this course, students will learn how to:

- identify key events, peoples, individuals, terms, periods and chronology of the history of the world before 1500; distinguish between historical fact and historical interpretation; and connect historical events in chronological chain(s) of cause and effect
- demonstrate awareness of the basic historical geography of the world
- develop analytical skills by scrutinizing primary source documents
- develop critical thinking skills by discussing the living nature of history, critiquing different interpretations of the same events, and understanding change over time
- synthesize diverse historical information on broad themes of world history before 1500 and present this information in coherent, well-articulated and well-substantiated discussions and other written assignments
- conduct and curate academic research utilizing digital history sources and other internet resources to present digital history and digital storytelling artifacts

FACULTY EXPECTATIONS:

I expect that students will

- not cheat, plagiarize, collude or commit other acts of academic dishonesty
- participate fully by being prepared for discussions and other assignments. Being prepared means doing your reading, watching videos, perusing all links in this website and covering all materials presented
- do college-level work in all written assignments. You will receive specific and detailed instructions for all assessments within this course, follow them. Proofread for grammar and prose (turning in sloppy work with many grammatical errors is not college level - if you have problems with writing on a college level, utilize the services of the Writing Center)
- turn in work on time
- show respect to your instructor and your fellow students in all interactions
- ask for help when needed

HOW TO ACCESS THE COURSE MODULE: This course resides in Blackboard (elearn.uta.edu) and will become available on first day of the semester; I will email the class when the module is available. We will be sending out an email to all enrolled students with more information about the Blackboard course module and the companion HIST 2301-002 course website a few days before the semester begins.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: You will upload documents in this course and will need appropriate software. If you do not already have it, Microsoft Office is available from the UTA Bookstore for a substantial discount and it will allow you to complete all assignments in this course. If you choose to use software other than Microsoft Office, I will not be able to support you and you may risk improper submissions. **Note* - You cannot use anything older than Microsoft Office 2007 (PC)/2008 (Mac) for Word Documents, but you may submit a pdf file. No other types of files are permitted unless otherwise stated in the course module.*

If you have not already done so, you should check to make sure that your system is configured correctly. Go to <http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/system-configuration.php> to see a list of requirements. If you are not at the most recent update, you may have issues opening some items in Blackboard.

A note about BROWSERS: The recommended browser for Blackboard is Firefox. However, I also require that you have another browser available on your computer (Chrome is a good second choice, but any other browser will do). Why? Well, sometimes there are updates to either the browser or to Blackboard. When this happens, some content might not display in a particular browser.

Always contact me first if you are having technical issues. I will often be able to quickly resolve your issue, but if not I will be able to help you craft the description of your problem and what issues we have ruled out so that the OIT Help Desk will be better able to pinpoint your problem. Before contacting me with a technical issue with course materials, always access the material in your back-up browser. If it displays properly, then it is an issue with a recent update of software for your primary browser. Use the backup browser for a day or two (this gives Blackboard a chance to adjust their settings). Also check the Technical Help FAQ, located under the "Important Information" tab in the course module menu, for troubleshooting information for common problems.

GRADING: Your knowledge of the course materials will be assessed through Participation (20% of the semester grade), Quizzes and Tests (20% of the semester grade), and Assignments (60%) of the semester grade).

Your grade for this course will be based upon 10000 quality points. Points earned on each assignment simply add up. At the end of the course, your earned semester grade will be based on the following scale:

Grade Scale: A = 9000-10000; B = 8000-8999; C = 7000-7999; D = 6000-6999; F = 5999 and below

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS:

Participation: As you move through the course materials (the history under study), you will have several ways to interact with the materials, instructors, and your fellow students. You will be able to choose from a menu of participation options and you will accumulate participation points for each interaction. You may do as many of these participation options as you wish, but your points will max out at 200 for Bootcamp and 600 for each of the three units (for a total of 2000 participation points for the semester).

Choices for participation include:

- Discussion Boards
- Joining a History Live! – an instructor led virtual session
- Social Media presence
- Surveys
- Reflections – a quick short answer response to something you have just watched, read, or accessed in the course materials with no right or wrong answer
- Possible other choices as the semester progresses

You will be provided more information on each of these options and the various points each are worth in the course module.

Quizzes and Tests: Worth up to 2000 points total (or 20% of semester grade). There are three types of quizzes and tests in this course: Check Quizzes, Unit Tests, and a Comprehensive Final Essay (the final exam).

Each of the three Units of course materials has 500 points of quiz/test available. You may earn your points in two ways

- You can choose to check your mastery of a particular subtopic by taking a Check Quiz (5 multiple choice questions) upon completion. These check quizzes will be worth a total of 500 points per unit. You may take each check quiz twice and we will record the highest grade. If you are satisfied with your cumulative grade on the check quizzes for the unit, you do not need to take the unit test.
- The unit test consists of 50 multiple choice questions over all of the materials in that unit. You will have one attempt at this test.
- You may do both the check quizzes (cumulative) and the unit test and we will record the highest grade of the two as your Quiz/Test grade for that unit.

Everyone must complete the Final Comprehensive Essay (worth 500 points or 5% of your grade). This 3-4 page essay will be your opportunity to reflect upon the entirety of the course. It is open book/note and will be due during finals week. This essay constitutes your final exam. You will be given the essay prompt the last week of the semester.

Assignments: This course uses an assignment bank approach. You may do as many of these assignments as you wish and you may earn up to 2000 points in each unit. Some assignments must be done individually, but others you can choose to work on in groups of 2-4 students. Assignments are worth either 500, 1000, or 1500 points and there are bonus points available for turning in assignments by the Early Bird due date.

Assignment	Points	Bonus	Individual	Group
Exit Tickets	500	25	Yes	No
Diigo or Listly Curation	500	25	Yes	Yes
Annotated Timeline	500	25	Yes	Yes
2-3 page Essay	1000	50	Yes	No
Document Analysis	1000	50	Yes	No
Historical Geography Project (Story Map)	1500	75	Yes	Yes
Video Storytelling Project	1500	75	Yes	Yes
Thinglink Project	1500	75	Yes	Yes
Create Your Own Project (proposal approval required)	?	?	Yes	Yes

See course module for more details on these assignments and assessments and how to work in a group or propose your own project. Note that you can combine elements above to reach 2000 points (for example you may wish to create a timeline or a curation on the same topic as a Story Map or Video you are creating. You may attempt more than 2000 points, but the maximum points earned will be 2000 per unit. Grading will be done on a rolling basis, so if you turn things in early and are not satisfied with the points you have earned to date in a unit, then you can do an additional assignment to bring your grade up (Note that if you wait until the last possible date to turn in assignments you will not get your grades back in time to choose to do another assignment, so plan accordingly).

EXPECTATIONS FOR TIME SPENT IN STUDY: In a traditional long semester face-to-face course, a general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 2-3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 6 hours of reading, study, etc. beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in an on-campus course would expect to spend at least an additional 6-9 hours per week of their own time, outside of the 3 hours per week in the classroom, in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. ***This online course is based upon this rule of thumb, therefore, students should expect to spend at least 9-12 hours per week on course materials, readings, studying, and assignments.***

Students will need to access the course module several times a week. While you will be able to choose your own path within a unit, there are several key due dates you must pay attention to.

LATE PAPER AND MAKE-UP POLICY: Late work is not accepted. Students must provide university approved documented evidence to make up a unit test. If a serious issue arises (major illness or injury, etc.) contact Dr. Breuer immediately to work out a plan of action. Because of the nature of this course and the many opportunities you have for choosing and completing your work, it is likely that you will be able to plan ahead for any expected work or personal issues or plan to access the Internet as needed if you are away from home.

GRADE GREVIANCES: You will typically receive your grade and feedback on an assignment within one week. If, for some reason, there will be a delay in return of grades, an announcement will be posted with further details. Students are expected to check their grades regularly. You will have ONE WEEK after grades are posted in each unit to challenge a grade or missing grade. After that time, the grade will be considered final and I will not revisit the grade later in the session. There will be a shorter turnaround period at the end of the semester. Unit 3 grades will have a three day window for a grade grievance once the grades are posted.

Any appeal of a grade beyond the instructor in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

[see http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19]

DROP POLICY: Contact ***your advisor*** for drop policies. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>). The last day to drop in Spring 2016 is April 1.

RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: It is the goal of the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts to create and maintain a respectful learning environment in online courses. The official policy concerning communications within this course is stated below:

When contacting your instructor via email, remember to construct your messages both respectfully and carefully (be as specific as possible with your questions). In this course, as with any other UTA course, your communication with students and faculty should be the utmost professional. When communicating with your peers and instructor, there will be NO discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, veteran status, age, physical handicap, or marital status. Keep in mind that instructors reserve the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. All UTA students are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with UTA's Standard Code of Conduct. Students violating these codes will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. **Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.**

The History Department takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Copying or closely paraphrasing directly from the text or internet sites without proper citation as plagiarism. If in doubt, cite. **If you are found guilty of academic dishonesty on an assignment, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you are found guilty of cheating on a second assignment, you will receive an F (0) for the course.** We will refer all cases of suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs.

NOTICE: All assignments submitted to Blackboard will be run through SafeAssign to check for plagiarism.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

TITLE IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE: *The instructors reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.* Further calendars are available in each unit in Blackboard. For your convenience, a Google course calendar is available at <http://worldciv.linklab.domains/history-2301/visual-syllabus/course-calendar/>

BOOTCAMP (1/19-1/22)

- All Bootcamp participation items must be completed by 8am on Monday, January 25

UNIT 1: THE RISE OF FIRST CIVILIZATIONS - (1/25-2/26)

- Create your own project proposal due by 2/1
- Notification of Intent to work in group due by 2/1
- Social Media Session 1A (1/25-2/9)
- Social Media Session 1B (2/10-2/24)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 1500 point assignments (2/15)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 1000 point assignments (2/16)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 500 point assignments (2/17)
- Last Day to make initial post in Discussion forums (2/19)
- Last Day to make comment posts in Discussion forums (2/22)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 1500 point assignments (2/22)
- Last Day to complete Reflections and Surveys (2/23)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 1000 point assignments (2/23)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 500 point assignments (2/24)
- All Unit Check Quizzes close on 2/25
- Unit 1 Test available from 2/25-2/26

UNIT 2: THE CLASSIC PERIOD (AXIAL AGE) - (2/29-4/1)

- Create your own project proposal due by 3/7
- Notification of Intent to work in group due by 3/7
- Social Media Session 2A (2/29-3/11)
- Social Media Session 2B (3/12-3/30)
- SPRING BREAK (3/14-3/18)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 1500 point assignments (3/21)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 1000 point assignments (3/22)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 500 point assignments (3/23)
- Last Day to make initial post in Discussion forums (3/25)
- Last Day to make comment posts in Discussion forums (3/28)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 1500 point assignments (3/28)
- Last Day to complete Reflections and Surveys (3/29)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 1000 point assignments (3/29)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 500 point assignments (3/30)
- All Unit Check Quizzes close on 3/31
- Unit 2 Test available from 3/31-4/1

UNIT 3: THE POSTCLASSIC WORLD – (4/4-5-6)

- Create your own project proposal due by 4/11
- Notification of Intent to work in group due by 4/11
- Social Media Session 1A (4/6-4/19)
- Social Media Session 1B (4/20-4/4)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 1500 point assignments (4/25)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 1000 point assignments (4/26)
- Early Bird Due Date for all 500 point assignments (4/27)
- Last Day to make initial post in Discussion forums (4/29)
- Last Day to make comment posts in Discussion forums (5/2)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 1500 point assignments (5/2)
- Last Day to complete Reflections and Surveys (5/3)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 1000 point assignments (5/3)
- Drop Dead Due Date for all 500 point assignments (5/4)
- All Unit Check Quizzes close on 5/5
- Unit 3 Test available from 5/5-5/6

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY (FINAL EXAM)

- Prompt available on 5/2
- Blackboard Upload available 8am on 5/9
- Blackboard Upload closes 11:59pm on 5/10 (Drop Dead Due Date)