

HIST 2301-004
(Online)
History of Civilization before 1500
Fall 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kimberly Breuer

EMAIL ADDRESS: breuer@uta.edu

FACULTY PROFILE: <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/kimberly-breuer>

OFFICE: UH 314

OFFICE HOURS: Tues/Thurs 9:30am – 10:30am, 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 (of the UTA LINK Lab) 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 be trying out some interesting tech (don’t worry, we will be giving you step-by-step instructions along the way in addition to one-on-one support as needed) as well.

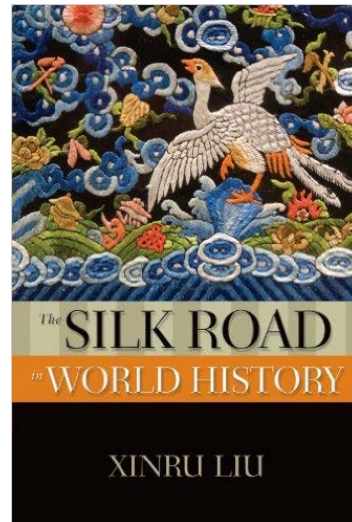
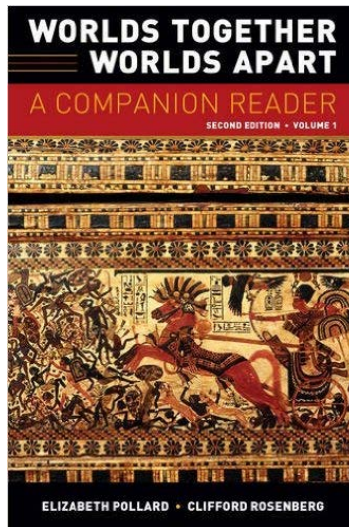
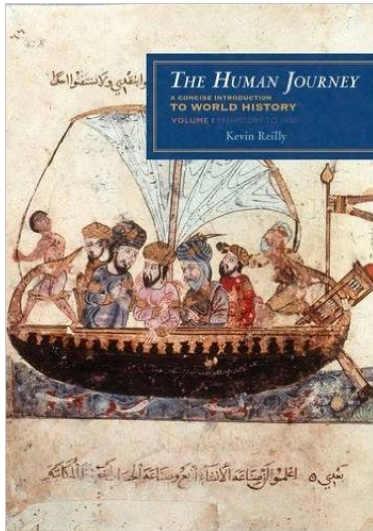
CLASS PREREQUISITES: None

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
- Pollard and Rosenberg, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A Companion Reader*, 2nd edition (Vol. 1) ISBN-13: 978-0393937770
- Liu, *The Silk Road in World History* ISBN-13: 978-0195338102



Note that you will need the first two books at the beginning of the semester. You will begin to use the Silk Roads book in Unit 2, which opens on 10/3. 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 in a web domain

MARKETABLE SKILLS LEARNED IN THIS COURSE:

During this course, students will learn the following skills that can be used in other courses or as marketable skills:

- ability to interpret and critically evaluate evidence
- ability to assess the credibility of sources and make judgments about their usefulness and limitations
- ability to determine bias, audience, perspective, and context for various sources of information

- ability to utilize chronological and spatial reasoning
- ability to identify key pieces of evidence, interpret and contextualize evidence, and craft evidence-based arguments
- build a web domain
- research and curation
- create annotated media and post it to a web page
- create a digital storytelling narrative and post it to a web page

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 also be utilizing an additional software called Pro-Solo for some assignments and students will be creating a personal portfolio for World History posted on their own personal web domain (provided free of charge by UTA). Full information and how-to instructions will be available in the course module.

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 Historical Engagement (35% of the semester grade), Quizzes and Tests (20% of the semester grade), and the Domain of One’s Own Portfolio (45% 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:

Historical Engagement: 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. Most of these engagements will take place in Pro-Solo (full information in the course module). Each of the three units in the course will have 1100 engagement points available. There are three types of engagements:

- Interpreting History (200 points per unit) – brief answers to questions about historical topics, controversies, and events.
- Evaluating History in Media (400 points per unit) – students work individually and in discussions to evaluate how the history we are learning is portrayed in social media, the news, and pop cultural forms.
- Crowdsourcing Analysis of Primary Documents (500 points per unit) – students work individually and in discussions to analyze historical documents.

You will be provided more information on each of these engagements 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.

Domain of One's Own Portfolio: Worth up to 4500 points (or 45% of the semester grade). You will set up a personal web domain (free from UTA) following instructions in the course module. Students will then create media based upon the history we are studying to be posted in their web pages (you will turn in the URL of your page for grading). Required portfolio elements include a social media meme, Listly curation, annotated media, and digital storytelling. Full how-to instructions are available on all elements in the course module. Students will be able to choose their own topics for these elements as long as it relates to the history under study in this course.

Extra Credit: There are small (short answer) extra credit opportunities throughout the course module.

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 – the same amount of time you would spend in an on campus class.**

LATE ASSIGNMENT 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 and possible revision of due dates. 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. Bottom line: if you think you will have problems meeting a due date, contact Dr. Breuer before the due date to discuss options. If you wait until after the due date and you cannot prove unforeseen extenuating circumstances, you will not be able to make up the assignment.

GRADE GREIVANCES: 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://wwweb.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://wwweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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 Judicial Affairs.

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>.

CAMPUS CARRY: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

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.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

TITLE IX: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE: *The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

A more detailed calendar of all windows of opportunities for quizzes and other minor assignments is available in the Blackboard course module. Below are the required textbook readings for each section of the course (note that there are other linked readings in the course module) and major assignment due dates.

R= Reilly

P/R = Pollard and Rosenberg

L = Liu

	Open Date	Close Date	Textbook Readings
Boot Camp (Course Intro)	8/26	9/1	none
Prologue	8/26	9/6	R: Preface and Chapter 1 P/R: Chapter 1
Unit 1	9/6	9/30	R: Chapter 2 P/R: Chapter 2, Casebook, Chapter 3
Unit 2	10/3	11/2	R: Chapters 3, 6 P/R: Chapters 4,5,6,7 L: Chapters 1,2,3
Unit 3	11/3	12/7	R: Chapters 4,5,6 P/R: Chapters 8,9,10, Casebook, 11 L: Chapters 4,5,6

Last Day to Turn in Portfolio Elements

Element	"Drop-Dead" Due Date
Social Media Meme	9/9
Curation Topic Check	9/19
Curation	10/3
Annotated Media Topic Check	10/21
Annotated Media Artifact	11/4
Digital Storytelling Topic Check	11/14
Digital Storytelling Artifact	11/28