HIST 2301-001
(Online)
History of Civilization before 1500
Spring 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kimberly Breuer
EMAIL ADDRESS: breuer@uta.edu
FACULTY PROFILE: https://www.uta.edu/profiles/kimberly-breuer

OFFICE: UH 314
OFFICE HOURS: Virtual and in person by appointment (email to arrange meeting time)

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. 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.

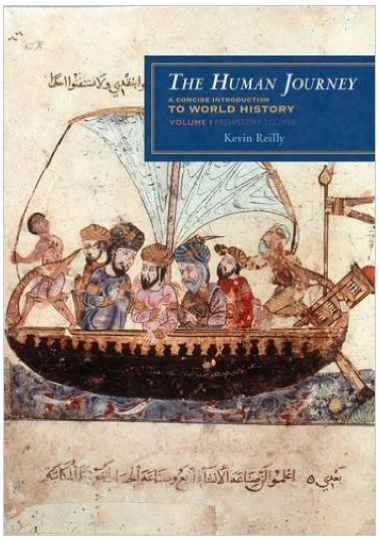
Please note that this is an experimental course section. Dr. Breuer (History Department) and Mr. Dellinger (of the UTA LINK Lab) are researching some innovative online learning practices in this course. We will be giving you an opportunity to provide feedback to help us tweak the course as the semester 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.

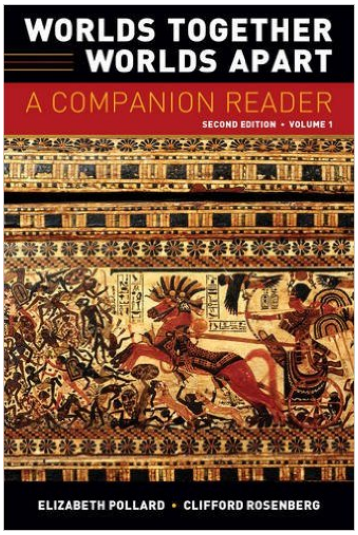
CLASS PREREQUISITES: None

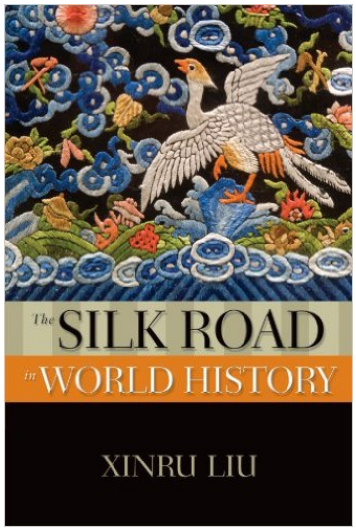
CLASS FORMAT: *This is a 100% online, web-delivered course*. There are many opportunities for students to interact with the instructor and each other throughout this course. While there is great flexibility as to how and when you complete your work, *this course is not self-paced*. It is imperative that 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 ProSolo and 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 and to email Dr. Breuer if there are any issues with access or coursework.

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 need the Silk Roads book by late February. 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 artifacts

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 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 (for those choosing this option)
- research and curation
- create annotated media
- create a digital historical geography narrative
- create a video (for those choosing this option)

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.

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 “Bootcamp” tab in the course module menu, for troubleshooting information for common problems.

GRADING: Your knowledge of the course materials will be assessed in two ways. 50% of your grade will come from Historical Engagement (Discussions, Journals, Microlearning, Testing). The other 50% of your grade will come from a semester long Historical Geography Portfolio project.

Your grade for this course will be based upon 10000 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). There are three Levels of Historical Engagement exercises:

- Level 1: Basic Facts
    - *Microlearning Activities* are scattered throughout the course module and are quick check quizzes, surveys, or responses to something you have just read or watched. Worth a few points each. There will be a minimum of 500 microlearning points available in the course.
    - Multiple Choice Credential (unit) Tests – three tests worth 400 points each
- Level 2: Thematic and Comparative Connections
    - There are 9 *Journal* options scattered throughout the course. Journals are 250-500 word entries (1-2 pages) asking you to think about the major themes of the course and how the different regions compare/contrast. Each journal is worth 200 points
- Level 3: Critical Thinking and Application
    - There are 6 *Discussions* scattered throughout the course. These discussions will ask you to go deeper into the materials and discuss them with your fellow classmates. Each discussion is worth 400 points.
    - The *Final Comprehensive Essay* is the open-book, open-note final exam in this course. It is worth 500 points.
- Bootcamp: The Course Bootcamp (or course introduction) contains microlearning, quiz, journal, and discussion examples. There are 300 total points available in the Bootcamp

You will be provided more information on each of these engagements in the course module.

Note that there are 6700 points available for Historical Engagement. Your grade in this course is based upon 5000 Historical Engagement points. This means that you have a CHOICE OF ASSIGNMENTS to complete to earn your Historical Engagement points. Any points above 5000 will be considered extra credit points.

Instructor Suggested Pathway through Historical Engagement Exercises:

- Complete all Bootcamp Exercises (300 points) to understand how the course works
- Level 1: Take all three credential tests (400 points x 3 = 1200 points)
- Level 2: Complete all Journal entries (200 points x 9 = 1800 points)
- Level 3: Participate in 3 discussions, one in each credential (400 x 3 = 1200)
- Level 3: Submit the Final Exam Essay (500 points)

This adds up to the 5000 points for Historical Engagement. As you move through the course materials, complete all Microlearning Exercises you come across as your extra credit and for a good self-check that you are learning the materials.

There are many variations that will add up to 5000 points. We suggest that you map your way through the course to make sure that you attempt enough points. Note that "mapping" of your pathway is a microlearning exercise in each credential in the course.

Historical Geography Portfolio Project: Worth 5000 points. In this project, you will learn about sources, documents, and historical geography. Students will create a digital historical geography artifact using Story Map on one of several themes. You must add five locations to your Story Map for each of the three substantive credentials (units) in the course. You will receive feedback on your developing project twice during the semester with a chance to revise for a higher grade. There are several steps and graded elements to this semester long project and more information will be provided in the course module. The graded elements are:

- Sources, Documents, and Historical Geography – this is a skills-building exercise completed before beginning work on your Story Map. Worth 500 points
- Story Map Check #1 – This is a milestone check of your project after the first credential (5 locations). Worth 500 points
- Story Map Check #2 – This is the second milestone check of your project. Worth 500 points.
- Final Submission: Revised Story Map with all 15 locations and your Project Synopsis (which can either be a video or one-page written overview). Worth 3500 points.

There are two options to earn bonus points (extra credit) on your project:

- Create a timeline with images associated with your 15 locations using Time Toast. Worth 200 points.
- Set up and use a personal web domain (free from UTA) and post your portfolio online. Full how-to instructions (and instructor support) are available in the course module.

NOTICE: If you do not turn in the Final Submission, you will earn no higher than a C for your semester grade regardless of how many bonus points you have earned in this project or total points from Historical Engagement exercises.

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 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 and documentable circumstances, you will not be able to make up the assignment.

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 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.

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://wweb.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://wweb.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.

See next page for COURSE SCHEDULE AND MAJOR DUE DATES.
You may print out this next page to be a handy guide to important elements and due dates in this course. This information is also available in the course module.

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.*

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 = Pollard and Rosenberg L = Liu

CREDENTIAL 0: BOOTCAMP Available: 1/17-1/27

Our expectation is that you will go through these materials in the first week of the course. Dates are extended for any late adds.

Important Credential Due Dates

- All Bootcamp exercises other than the Ice Breaker discussion due by 1/27
- Initial Post of Ice Breaker discussion due by 1/24; Three comment posts must be made by 1/27

CREDENTIAL 1: RISE OF THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS Available: 1/19-2/24

Important Credential Due Dates:

- Microlearning Exercises and Journals due by 2/24
- Initial Post of discussions due by 2/17; Three comment posts must be made by 2/22
- Credential Test will be available 2/23-2/24

Readings: Readings: R: Preface, Chapter 1,2 AND P: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Casebook, Chapter 3

CREDENTIAL 2: THE CLASSIC ERA Available: 2/24-3/31

Important Credential Due Dates

- Microlearning Exercises and Journals due by 3/31
- Initial Post of discussions due by 3/24; Three comment posts must be made by 3/29
- Credential Test will be available 3/30-3/31

Readings: R: Chapters 3, 6 AND P: Chapters 4,5,6,7 AND L: Chapters 1,2,3

CREDENTIAL 3: THE POSTCLASSIC ERA Available: 3/31-5/5

Important Credential Due Dates

- Microlearning Exercises and Journals due by 5/5
- Initial Post of discussions due by 4/28; Three comment posts must be made by 5/3
- Credential Test will be available 5/4-5/5

Readings: R: Chapters 4,5,6 AND P: Chapters 8,9,10, Casebook, 11 AND L: Chapters 4,5,6

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY (FINAL EXAM) due on 5/9

Last Day to Turn in Historical Geography Portfolio Elements

Element	"Drop-Dead" Due Date
Sources, Documents, and Historical Geography Exercise	2/3
Story Map Check #1	2/20
Story Map Check #2	4/7
Final Submission	5/1