

**HIST 2301-004**  
**(Online)**  
**History of Civilization before 1500**  
**Spring 2014**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kimberly Breuer

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** breuer@uta.edu

**OFFICE:** UH 324

**OFFICE HOURS:** Virtual (see course module) and by appointment

**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.

**CLASS PREREQUISITES:** None

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS:**

There are 3 required materials for this class:

- Peter von Sivers, *Patterns of World History, Brief Edition, volume 1*
- Xinru Liu, *The Silk Road in World History*
- Amira Bennison, *The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the Abbasid Empire*

**CLASS FORMAT:** *This is a 100% online, web-delivered course.* There are many opportunities for students to interact with the instructor and each other through discussions and feedback. While there is great flexibility as to when you complete your work, *this course is not self-paced.* It is imperative that students keep up with the pace of the class. Students will move together through the module and assignments/tests must be done within a window of opportunity. Successful online students are self-starters with good time management skills. This course resides in Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to log into Blackboard ([www.uta.edu/blackboard](http://www.uta.edu/blackboard)) on the first day of class to access the module.

**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, explaining the nature of historical controversies
- 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

## **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

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS:**

- **Tests:** There will be 3 tests, one for each unit of study, in this course
- **Assignments:** There will be 3 reaction paper assignments (3-4 pages in length) in this course that assess students' knowledge of the course content and assess critical thinking and written communication skills
- **Participation:** There will be 5 graded discussions in this course

See course module for more details on these assignments and assessments.

**GRADING:** Your knowledge of the course materials will be assessed through Tests (30%); Reaction Papers (45%); Discussions (25%)

Your grade for this course will be based upon 500 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 = 450-500; B = 400-449; C = 350-399; D = 300-349; F = 299 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.*

**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 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 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 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 6-9 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 work ahead within a unit of study, you will not be able to do all the week's work on one day of your choosing.

**LATE PAPER AND MAKE-UP POLICY:** Students must provide university approved documented evidence to make up tests/quizzes or turn in late work. If you know there is going to be a conflict, contact me *before* the window of opportunity for that assignment/test closes.

**GRADE GREIVANCES:** Once a grade is posted, you will have ONE WEEK to contact me about any discrepancies or issues. After that time, the grade will be considered final and I will not revisit the grade later in the session.

Any further appeal of a grade 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](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/ao/fao/>).

**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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**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.** I will refer all cases of suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

**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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**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 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 SCHEDULE:** *As the instructor of this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

This course consists of three units. Units will be covered in four to six week periods. See the Blackboard course module for specific dates and windows of opportunity to cover course materials and to participate in discussions, turn in assignments and take unit tests.

Unit 1: Rise of First Civilizations, prehistory – 600 BCE

Unit 2: The Classic Period, 600 BCE – 600 CE

Unit 3: The Postclassic World, 600 – 1500 CE