

HIST 2301-004 (Online)
History of Civilization before 1500
Fall 2018

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 by appointment (email to arrange meeting time); MWF 10-10:45am

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

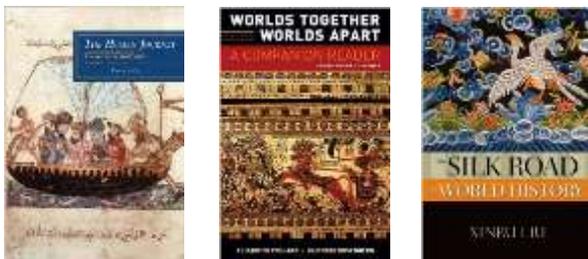
DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT: A survey of significant developments prior to 1500 in world history exploring the achievements and experiences of great civilizations, major historical figures and epochs, important ideas and religions, and factors of continuity and change. Emphasis given to the development of world religions and the cultural exchanges and encounters of the world's peoples.

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; 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:

- 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 the end of September. 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
- research and curation
- create a digital narrative

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.

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 may be able to resolve your issue; 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 in the course module menu, for troubleshooting information for common problems.

GRADING: I assess your knowledge of the course materials in two ways: 80% of your grade will come from Historical Engagement (Discussions, Journals, Skills Exercises, and Testing); the other 20% of your grade will come from a semester long Historical Geography project.

This course uses a 1000-point scale; all points are equal and simply add up.

Semester Grade Scale: A = 900-1000; B = 800-899; C = 700-799; D = 600-699; F = 599 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, the instructor, and your fellow students. There are three Levels of Historical Engagement exercises:

- Level 1: Basic Facts (memorization)
 - Multiple Choice Unit Tests – three tests worth 50 points each (15 % of semester grade)
- Level 2: Thematic and Comparative Connections (understanding)
 - Each substantive Unit (units 1,2,3) will have three *Journal* options. Students must choose two to complete. Journals are 250-500 word entries (1-2 double-spaced pages) asking you to think about the major themes of the course and how the different regions compare/contrast. Each journal is worth 50 points. Students may complete the third journal option for extra credit. (6 required journals worth 30% of semester grade)
- Level 3: Critical Thinking and Application (creating and applying)
 - There are 4 required *Discussions*. These discussions will ask you to go deeper into the materials and discuss them with your fellow classmates. There is one discussion in Unit 0 which is required. Units 1,2,3 have two discussions and students must choose one. Students

may participate in the second unit discussion for extra credit. Each discussion is worth 50 points. (4 required discussions worth 20% of the semester grade).

- The *Final Comprehensive Essay* is the open-book, open-note final exam in this course. It is worth 50 points (or 5% of semester grade).
- Historical Methods/Skills:
 - Unit 0 contains information about critical thinking and historical reasoning. There are 6 short skills-building exercises (multiple choice and short answer) that will teach you the historical methods that will make you successful in this course. These Skills exercises are worth 100 points total (or 10% of your semester grade).

More information on each of these engagements is available in the course module.

*****Note that there are 1100 points available for Historical Engagement while I base your semester grade upon 800 Historical Engagement points. This means that you have a CHOICE OF ASSIGNMENTS (journals and discussions) to complete to earn your Historical Engagement points and any points attempted beyond the required 800 will be considered extra credit points.**

Historical Geography Project: Worth 200 points (or 20% of your semester grade). In this project, you will consider the impact of geography on history. Students will create a digital historical geography artifact using Story Map on one of several themes. You must add three locations to your Story Map for each of the three units of historical course materials. You will receive feedback on your developing project once during the semester with a chance to revise for a higher grade. There are several steps and graded elements to this semester long project with more information provided in the course module. There are four graded elements to this project: the proposal (30 points), first Story Map check (30 points), final Story Map submission (100 points), and Key Takeaways One Page Essay (40 points).

NOTICE: If you do not turn in the Final Story Map Submission and Takeways Essay, you will earn no higher than a C for your semester grade regardless of how many extra credit points you have earned 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, and assignments 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 flexibility 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.

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.

GRADE GRIEVANCES: Students have up to one week after an assignment is graded and returned to protest a grade. You must see the TA first, unless I announce that I graded the assignment. If you still are not satisfied with the explanation of the grade, you may then appeal to me and I will regrade the assignment and my grade will be the posted grade. Further information on the UTA policy for an appeal of a grade beyond the instructor is published in the current undergraduate catalog. [see http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19]

PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. Since this is an online course, students should access the Blackboard module at least once weekly to review materials and complete assignments.

Please note: While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

DROP POLICY: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, **students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw.** Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. 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/>).

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/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

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.

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>.

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/>

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. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or titleix@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>.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

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: UT 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.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

The IDEAS CENTER (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE tutoring** to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

Stop. Think. Protect Yourself. You Have Choices.

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. This graphic provides each member of the UTA community with information and options for responding to an active threat. These options are not chronological, but are designed to address dynamic situations. Assess the situation (your location, the location of the threat, type of threat, etc.), identify and weigh your options, develop a plan of action and commit to it.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">YOUR OPTIONS TO AN ACTIVE THREAT</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">You Have Choices!</h3>	
A V O I D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AVOID the situation. <u>Stay away</u> from the area and campus. If you can safely leave the area, RUN. Get others to leave the area, if possible. Prevent others from entering the area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know your exit and escape options. If in a parking lot, get to your car and leave. If in an unaffected area, stay where you are. When you are safe, call UTA PD at 817.272.3003 or 911 with information you have.
	<p>If you can't leave the area safely, DENY or slow entry to the intruder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lock/barricade doors with heavy items. Turn off lights/projectors/equipment. Close blinds and block windows. Stay away from doors and windows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silence phones and remain quiet. <u>Don't let your phone give you away.</u> HIDE and take cover to protect yourself. Be prepared to run or defend yourself.
	<p>If you can't AVOID or DENY entry to the intruder, DEFEND your location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a last resort, <u>FIGHT for your life</u>. Use physical force and any weapons available - fire extinguishers, books, chairs, belts, umbrellas, pens/scissors, hot coffee/drinks, trash cans, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the element of surprise. Work together as a team. Develop a plan. Commit to your actions. Your life depends on it. Be aggressive, loud, and determined in your actions.
<p>Follow ALL instructions.</p> <p>For more information, go to: police.uta.edu/activeshooter</p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Emergency: 817.272.3003</p> <p>Non-Emergency: 817.272.3381</p> <p>police.uta.edu</p> </div> </div>	

Additional information for active threat and other emergency situations can be found through the links below:

police.uta.edu/activeshooter

police.uta.edu/em

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

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 – Kimberly H. Breuer*

Below are the required textbook readings for each unit of the course (note that there are other linked readings in the course module) and major Historical Engagement assignment due dates.

UNIT 0: CRITICAL THINKING AND HISTORICAL REASONING

My expectation is that you will go through these materials in the first week of the course and quickly move on to Unit 1.

Important Dates

Unit Discussion Initial Post due on or before 8/28 and Comment posts on or before 8/30

Skills Exercises due on or before 8/31

UNIT 1: RISE OF THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

Unit 1 will open upon submission of the Skill Exercise 6

Important Unit Due Dates

Initial Discussion Post must be made on or before 9/19; Comment posts must be made on or before 9/21

Journals must be completed on or before 9/24

Unit Test must be completed between 9/26-9/28

Textbook Readings

Reilly: Preface, Chapter 1,2; Pollard and Rosenberg: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Casebook, Chapter 3

UNIT 2: THE CLASSIC ERA

Unit 2 will open upon submission of Unit 1 Test or on Monday, 10/1 if you failed to take the test

Important Unit Due Dates

Initial Discussion Post must be made on or before 10/17; Comment posts must be made on or before 10/19

Journals must be completed on or before 10/22

Unit Test must be completed between 10/24-10/26

Textbook Readings

Reilly: Readings: Chapters 3, 6; Pollard and Rosenberg: Chapters 4,5,6,7; Liu: Chapters 1,2,3

UNIT 3: THE POSTCLASSIC ERA

Unit 3 will open upon completion of Unit 2 Test or on Monday, 10/29 if you failed to take the test

Important Unit Due Dates

Initial Discussion Post must be made on or before 11/26; Comment posts must be made on or before 11/28

Journals must be completed on or before 11/30

Unit Test must be completed between 11/30-12/3

Textbook Readings

Reilly: Chapters 4,5,6; Pollard and Rosenberg: Chapters 8,9,10, Casebook, 11; Liu: Chapters 4,5,6

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY (FINAL EXAM)

Prompt available on 12/3; essay must be submitted by Monday, 12/10

II. Historical Geography Project Due Dates

- **Proposal** – on or before 9/10
- **Story Map Check** – on or before 10/8
- **Final Story Map** – on or before 11/16
- **Key Takeaways Essay** – on or before 11/19