

Global History, Fall, 2006
Dr. Martin
Office: Rm. 204

Period 1
9:00-9:50
Rm. 209

Purpose: to give you a good grounding in world history and thus prepare you for the Regents examination in June; this course, however, does not “teach to the test.” This first semester will cover prehistory up to c. 1400, the end in Europe of the Middle Ages. The topic is obviously vast, and therefore our treatment must concentrate on highlights to determine patterns and trends. For our semester to be successful, I must depend on you doing the reading before class session -- class discussion and lecture will assume you have already read the relevant material. The primary text will be the textbook, World History: Patterns of Interaction, but other writings and materials will be included during the course of the semester. You therefore should keep a separate notebook or binder, which you bring to class every day, where you keep in one place materials I will distribute to you throughout the year.

Requirements: regular tests and writing assignments, both from the textbook and other sources. Tests will occur on assigned chapters fairly regularly every 2 or 3 chapters; the format for the tests is short answer and short essay, plus identifying sites on maps. There will be roughly one writing assignment per month. Class participation counts for 15% of the grade; tests and papers for 60%, the final examination for 20%.

Policies: punctual and regular attendance (unexcused absences and excessive tardinesses will negatively affect your grade); active reading; class participation. Please remember that there is no extra credit in this course; take all assignments very seriously.

Plagiarism, which is when you present the work of someone else as your own, is a serious matter. I follow our official school policy: the first instance of plagiarism results in a grade of zero on that assignment; a second instance results in failure of the course. After the first instance, a letter recounting the episode is placed in your file. If it is followed by no other incidents, that letter is removed. If a second instance follows, the letter remains permanently in your file. Cheating on a test has the same results: zero on the first infraction, F for the semester after the second infraction.

Calendar (by week; provisional):

Sept. 11-14: introduction; Chapter 1
Sept. 18-21: Chapt. 2
Sept. 25-28: Chapt. 3
Oct. 2 (Yom Kippur; no school) 3-5: Chapt. 4
Oct. 9 (Columbus Day; no school) 10-12: Chapt. 5
Oct. 16-19: Chapt. 5, cont.
Oct. 23-26: Chapt. 6
Oct. 30- Nov. 2: Chapt. 6, cont.
Nov. 6-9: Chapt. 7
Nov. 13-16: Chapt. 8
Nov. 20-22: Chapt. 9
Nov. 27-30: Chapt. 10
Dec. 4: Chapt. 11
Dec. 11: Chapt. 12
Dec. 18: Chapt. 13
Dec. 25-Jan. 1: Winter Recess
Jan. 2: Chapt. 14
Jan. 8: Chapt. 15
Jan. 15 (ML King Day: no class):
 Jan. 16: conclusion
Jan. 18-30: finals and Regents

Some important dates:

Monday, Oct. 30: midterm narratives and grades due
Tuesday, Nov. 7: Election Day; no classes

Thursday, Nov. 9: Parent-teacher conferences: 5-7:30
Friday, Nov. 10: Parent-teacher conferences, 12-3
Wednesday, Jan. 17: Reading Day
Jan. 18-30: Finals and Regents

Style Sheet:

1. Papers should be typed and double-spaced. (If it is impossible for you to type your paper, you may submit a NEATLY handwritten paper in black ink; use standard 8 x 11" paper and at least 1" margins on each side. You MUST still double-space.)
2. Do NOT prepare a cover sheet or place your paper in a binder or folder. Number the pages in the upper right-hand corner.
3. Use active, not passive, voice as much as possible; there should be no incomplete or run-on sentences. Proofread your paper carefully; it is difficult to respect a paper whose author seems to despise it. E-mail submission of papers is not acceptable.
4. "Visual" is an adjective, not a noun. Authors do not use "visuals," they use visual effects.
5. "Its" is a possessive pronoun; "it's" is a contraction that stands for "it is." They are not the same word; do not confuse them. "Its" ≠ "it's."
6. Whenever you are tempted to use the words "being that," substitute them with "because."
7. Whenever you begin a sentence with "also," it's a sure sign you need to rewrite that sentence.
8. "However" is best used as a postpositive, i.e., NOT at the beginning of a sentence, when it means "nevertheless." When it is used as an adverb – "However discouraging the prospect, he never lost heart" – it can be used at the beginning of a sentence.
9. Avoid split infinitives: "Virgil calms Dante by telling him to not fear the beast." [Ugh; much better to say, "Virgil calms Dante by telling him not to fear the beast."]
10. Commas, periods, etc., go INSIDE quotation marks: "May you never die," he said, "until I kill you."
11. He, she, it ≠ they. Singular pronouns agree with singular nouns and pronouns while plural pronouns agree with plural nouns and pronouns. Thus, you cannot say, "When one reads Dante, they get a feeling of hellishness," or "The reader knows when they smell a rat."