# HIS 1500: Roots of the Modern World: Society and Religion

Fall 2013

"The unexamined life is not worth living." —Socrates "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." —George Santayana

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Office: Coleman 3781

Office Hours: MWF 11-12, M 2-3

Section 2: MWF 9:00-9:50, Coleman 2751 Section 3: MWF 10:00-10:50, Coleman 2751

### **Texts:**

McKay, John P., et al., A History of World Societies, Vol. 1 Kevin Reilly, Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

Other readings on Desire2Learn

**Grading:** Participation: 10% Exam #1: 10%

Attendance: 5% Exam #2: 15%

Journals: 10% Final Exam: 25%

Term Paper: 25%

Consider this: If we seek an answer to why we should study history, a good starting point is the two famous quotes given above. Essentially, history is there for us to learn from it. We can learn about ourselves, both as individuals and as a society, by studying the past. But to apply its lessons in modern life, a healthy knowledge of important figures, events, and movements is required, which this class is designed to provide. But this goal can only be achieved by you. Even if you have no previous knowledge of the distant past, you are just where you need to be to learn about it, as well as to develop the skills of analysis and communication in the field of history. I am here to help as I can, but in the end your efforts are mainly what will yield satisfactory results, including a good grade.

This is <u>your</u> class: The working methodology is for you to engage the material as much as you can. Your routine should be to question, react, analyze, debate, defend, and be skeptical, both in class and in writing. I'll have plenty of things to say, to be sure, but I want you to be vocal. Generally speaking, class discussions will be incorporated into my lectures and on certain days will be our main way of covering the material. Most of the class participation grade is based on your daily preparation and contribution, but I also give credit for asking questions during my lectures, stopping by the office to have a discussion, or otherwise chatting with me anywhere else on campus, anything that shows your engagement with the material.

Writing Assignments: This course is designated "writing intensive." Thus, one goal of this class is to improve your skills in analysis and in the written presentation of that analysis, which will be achieved mainly in the form of journals and a term paper. <u>Journals</u> will be weekly one-page papers, always typed and with the expectation that you will maintain the usual standards of good essay writing. Journals may range from open-ended reactions to the week's material to responses to specific questions. Journals must be turned in in class; e-mails will not be accepted

except under exceptional circumstances. The <u>term paper</u> will be four to five pages, examining issues arising from your reading of primary sources. It will be written in two drafts, and we will have an in-class workshop following the submission of the first draft. Both drafts of the term paper will be e-mailed to me and uploaded to turnitin.com. Detailed paper guidelines will be provided for the term paper, including instructions on how to register for turnitin.com, information about the assignment question, citation and bibliography requirements, and so on. Failure to follow <u>all</u> instructions in the paper guidelines will result in a lower paper grade.

Attendance and Make-Up Policy: Regular attendance should be considered a top priority. Roll will be taken at the start of each class. After calling the roll, I will close the door. If you arrive after the door is closed, you are considered absent. Make-ups for exams are only possible if your absence on that day was absolutely unavoidable (e.g., a serious medical condition, a serious accident, etc.), and you will need to provide written documentation. Make-ups are not possible unless these two conditions are met. No exceptions! (Believe me when I say this: if you are not totally committed to the class and do not attend regularly, chances are you will not get the grade you want.)

Academic Integrity (and other information): All work you do for this course must be yours alone. Academic dishonesty in any form is an offense against the integrity, standards, and stated policies of the university. Be sure to ask me if you are at any time uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating. Such breaches of academic integrity will be treated with stern measures, including, but not necessarily limited to, an F for the course. Additionally, during exams, all cell phones, iPods, and other portable devices <u>must</u> be turned off and stowed away at all times. Finally, when taking exams, always remember to bring a <u>blue book</u>, which can be purchased at the book store. <u>Blue books</u> will always be required for exams in this class. Each blue book you bring must be fresh with no writing in it.

**For Students with Disabilities:** Any students who need accommodation for physical or learning disabilities should communicate with me <u>as soon as possible</u>. Appropriate accommodations are only possible for <u>documented</u> disabilities. If you have questions on what constitutes appropriate accommodation, or about disabilities in general, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

**Desire2Learn (D2L):** I will be using this resource to post key names and questions (*which are required viewing before each class*), powerpoints, assigned readings, and other materials. This syllabus will also be posted on the website, disallowing any excuse for losing the syllabus.

Resources for Additional Help: Success in any college course depends in large part on developing important study, test taking, communication (oral and written), and time management skills. As a supplement to anything I can do for you, the following websites can provide useful resources to help with these skills. Better yet, visiting these centers and talking face-to-face with their trained staff, not only for this course but for any other at EIU, will likely translate into success, as measured not only by your grade but by the development of the aforementioned skills, which will carry you much farther in life.

Student Success Center, 9<sup>th</sup> St. Hall: <a href="http://www.eiu.edu/~success/">http://www.eiu.edu/~success/</a> Writing Center, 3110 Coleman Hall: <a href="http://www.eiu.edu/~writing/">http://www.eiu.edu/~writing/</a>

*Tentative Schedule (subject to change):* 

You are responsible for keeping track of all assignments, test dates, and due dates. Any changes will be announced ahead of time.

M = McKay et al., R = Reilly, D2L = Desire2Learn (selections that are online)

**Note:** Exams will include quotations from primary sources. The Reilly book provides useful primary documents, as listed below, but don't forget to read the inserts in the assigned sections of McKay et al. and anything posted on D2L. Quotations could come from any of these sources.

### Week 1

M Aug 19: Introduction

W Aug 21: Early Mesopotamia (M pp. 33-43; Sources: Code of Hammurabi = R pp. 58-61)

F Aug 23: Early Mesopotamia II

## Week 2

M Aug 26: Ancient Egypt I (M pp. 44-51; Sources: Book of the Dead and Images = R pp. 66-72)

W Aug 28: Ancient Egypt II

F Aug 30: Judaism and Hebraic Civilization (M pp. 53-57; Sources: Old Testament = R pp. 212-22)

### Week 3

M Sept 2: Labor Day (no class)

W Sept 4: Later Mesopotamia and Persia, Zoroastrianism (M pp. 57-61)

F Sept 6: Persia II

## Week 4

M Sept 9: Exam #1

W Sept 11: Ancient India (M pp. 65-74, 79-84)

F Sept 13: Early Hinduism (Sources: Vedas, Upanishads, Gita, R pp. 91-102, 200-02)

#### Week 5

M Sept 16: Buddhism (M pp. 77-79, 84-85; Sources: Selections from the Pali Canon = R pp. 202-09)

W Sept 18: Buddhism II

F Sept 20: Class Exercise: Understanding the Eightfold Path

## Week 6

M Sept 23: Ancient China I: Early Dynasties (M pp. 91-103, 175-87)

W Sept 25: Ancient China II: Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism (<u>Sources</u>: Confucius, *Analects* = R pp. 138-40; Han Fei, *Legalism* = R pp. 140-44; Laozi, *Tao Te Jing* = R pp. 144-48)

F Sept 27: Ancient China III

## Week 7

M Sept 30: Ancient Greece I: Bronze to Dark Ages (M pp. 115-18; Sources: Homer, *Iliad*, D2L)

W Oct 2: Ancient Greece II: Archaic Age (M pp. 118-23; Sources: Aristotle, R pp. 102-04)

F Oct 4: Ancient Greece III: Classical Age (M pp. 123-27; Sources: Thucydides, R pp. 105-09)

#### Week 8

M Oct 7: Ancient Greece IV: Greek Philosophy (M pp. 128-31; <u>Sources</u>: Plato, *The Republic* = R pp. 110-20)

W Oct 9: Ancient Greece V: Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Age (M pp. 131-39)

## F Oct 11: Fall Break (no class)

#### Week 9

M Oct 14: Exam #2

W Oct 16: Roman Republic I (M pp. 144-57)

F Oct 18: Roman Republic II

## Week 10

M Oct 21: Film: Rome: "The Kalends of February"

W Oct 23: Roman Empire I (M pp. 154-63, 169-71; Sources: Juvenal, Graffiti from Pompeii, D2L)

F Oct 25: Roman Empire II

# <u>Week 11</u>

M Oct 28: Christianity in the Roman World (M pp. 166-69; <u>Sources</u>: Paul = R pp. 231-34; Pliny and Trajan = R pp. 243-46; Eusebius = R pp. 246-49)

W Oct 30: Christianity II

F Nov 1: Islam (M pp. 233-45; Sources: Qur'an = R pp. 259-67; Alexander Stille = R pp. 267-72; peace treaty = R pp. 272-74)

# Week 12

M Nov 4: Islam II

W Nov 6: Early Middle Ages (Europe and Byzantium) (M pp. 205-29)

F Nov 8: Early Middle Ages II

# Week 13

M Nov 11: High Middle Ages (M pp. 393-404; Sources: Magna Carta = R pp. 284-89)

W Nov 13: High Middle Ages II

F Nov 15: Life and Thought of the High Middle Ages (M pp. 408-14)

#### Week 14

M Nov 18: The Crusades I (M pp. 404-08; <u>Sources</u>: Fulcher of Chartres, Anna Comnena, Ibn al-Qalanisi, Raymond of St.Giles, Ibn al-Athir, R pp. 350-59, 365-83)

W Nov 20: The Crusades II

F Nov 22: Late Middle Ages (M pp. 415-21; <u>Sources</u>: de' Mussis, Boccaccio, al-Maqrizi = R pp. 441-58); **Rough Draft due** (turnitin.com and e-mail by 5 p.m.)

# Thanksgiving Break: Nov 25-29

# <u>Week 15</u>

M Dec 2: Workshop on Term Papers (Failure to attend will adversely affect your paper grade.)

W Dec 4: Renaissance (M pp. 425-33)

F Dec 6: Final Thoughts: Looking to the Future; **Final Draft due** (turnitin.com and e-mail by 5 p.m.)

## **Final Exam**

Section 2: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 8:00-10:00; Section 3: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:15-12:15