

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 111

World Civilization I

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys Asian, African, Latin American, and European civilizations from the ancient period to the present. Part I of II.

This course introduces world history from the dawn of civilization to the modern era. Topics include African, Asian, European, American, and Greco-Roman civilizations and Christian, Islamic and Byzantine cultures. Students will analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in pre-modern world civilizations.

Students will be introduced to useful skills for historical analysis and interpretation. Students will strengthen skills in interdisciplinary studies and global awareness.

Students are not required to complete this course prior to taking HIS 112 (World Civilization II).

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

McKay, John and Hill, Bennett, et al. A History of World Societies, 11th edition, Value Edition. Mass.: Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978-1-319-18944-0.

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Recognize the origins of civilization from their roots in Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Fertile Crescent and Near East and evaluate the importance of the early foundations on later development.
- Trace the origins of several Asian civilizations from their roots in India and China.
- Compare and contrast the political and social systems, economics, and religion of the various Greek city-states and evaluate their impact on civilization.
- Examine the social, political, economic, religious, and military institutions of the Roman Republic and Roman Empire and evaluate their impact on civilization.
- Display comprehensive knowledge of the development of the early Christian church and explain its influence on civilization.
- Trace the development of Islam and explain its influence on civilization.
- Examine the relationship between the basic social, political, economic, military, and religious institutions of early medieval Europe and determine their impact on civilization.
- Analyze Africa before the European intrusion.
- Analyze the Americas before the European intrusion.
- Evaluate the influence of the Renaissance and Reformation on civilization.
- Identify the age of exploration and analyze its impact on the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

Topical Description

1	The Development of early civilization: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Palestine, India and China.
2	The legacy of Greece: Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations, the heroic period, the classical period (rise of the polis, growth of democracy, and cultural achievements), Hellenistic diffusion (Alexander the Great, economic

	scope, cultural developments, and scientific developments of the Hellenistic world).
3	The influence of Rome: Expansion, the Republic (social, economic and political developments), the Empire, Pax Romana, Christianity, and decline.
4	Christianity: Growth of the early church, attitudes toward classical culture, monasticism and influence on Germanic people.
5	Islamic World: Development of the faith, expansion, consolidation, and decentralization.
6	Europe in the Middle Ages: The empire of Charlemagne, feudalism, revival and reform in the Christian church, the crusades, economic revival, creative outbursts, Black Death, evolution of warfare, political, social and economic evolution.
7	Africa 400-1500 A.D.: Early societies, kingdoms in western Sudan, the Trans-Saharan trade, and rising empires.
8	Americas 400-1500 A.D.: Mesoamerican civilization, Aztec society, and Inca society.
9	The Renaissance: Origins, Italian cultural, social, economic, and political developments, and northern European developments.
10	The Reformation: conditions of the Catholic Church, Protestantism (Luther, Calvin, other Protestant movements), spread of Protestant ideas, the Counter Reformation, and religious wars.
11	Exploration and discovery: Origins, European contacts with Africa (economic effects and slavery) and Asia (early imperialism and social and political developments).
12	European contacts with the Americas: Effects of disease, early imperialism, cultural effects, and social, economic and political developments.

Notes to Instructors

None