



about the society that it comes from), how does it correspond with the rest of the information we learned in class and in the other readings on similar subjects, and finally why is it important for premodern history (i.e., why am I assigning it?). I encourage you to use the Oral Communication Center in the library, as well as meeting with me to discuss any questions you might have. Following your presentation, you should be prepared for at least 5 minutes of questions from your classmates. Handouts and/or powerpoints are acceptable, but not required. These presentations will often take place on Friday, following the quiz.

If you have any questions about any of these assignments, please come see me during my office hours or make an appointment. Finally, this syllabus is subject to change by the instructor, if changed, the students will be informed with sufficient notice to complete assignments.

The grades will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 5%
- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Group Presentation: 10%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Exam 3: 20%
- Cumulative Question: 5%

### **Conclusion**

By the conclusion of this class, you will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of world history, specifically, an ability to locate and name cities, bodies of water, continents, and geographic features on a world map; the ability to explain the importance of figures and concepts such as Akhenaten, Constantine I, Hammurabi, monotheism, and castes; the ability to discuss historical change such as the development of agriculture, migration of various peoples, the growth of kingdoms and empires, etc. Through attendance at lecture and reading of the assigned texts, each student should be able to accomplish these objectives, which will give you a basis for further learning in every discipline.

### **Texts**

*Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past.* Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler. (2003)

Course Packet with Primary Source Readings (These readings will also be on Moodle)

### **Course Materials**

*Week 1 (January 9, 11, 13): Introduction and Early Southwest Asia*  
(*Traditions* chaps. 1, 2; Code of Hammurabi)

Prehistory; Mesopotamian society; The development of writing and alphabets; Indo-European origins and migrations

*Week 2 (January 16, 18, 20): Early Society in South Asia*

(*Traditions* chap. 4; Laws of Manu)

Harappan society; Aryan “Invasion”; Caste system, Rig Veda, and religion;

*Week 3 (January 23, 25, 27): Early Africa*

(*Traditions* chap. 3; Herodotus on Egypt)

Egypt and Nubia; Archeology of Egypt

*Week 4 (January 30, February 1, 3): Early Society in East Asia*

(*Traditions* chap. 5)

Early east Asia (Xia, Shang, Zhou dynasties); Writing, culture, and social stratification

*Week 5 (February 6, 8, 10): Religion and Politics in South Asia*

(*Traditions* chap. 9; Jain Doctrines; Siddhartha encounters old age, sickness, and death)

Classical India; Unification and disunification of India; Development of Buddhism

*Week 6 (February 13, 15, 17): The Creation of Empire—Persia and Qin/Han ( Monday )*

(*Traditions* chaps. 7, 8; Sima Qian on Legalism; Xenophon – Cyrus the Great as a Boy)

Persian empire-building (Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid); Zarathustra and religion; Confucius, Daoism, and society; Qing and Han dynasties

Centralized rule in east Asia (Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties); Long distance and local trade;  
Technological innovations

