HIST 105 – DE01D
WORLD CIVILIZATIONS I SYLLABUS

SPRING 2008

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will provide a general understanding of the chief characteristics of human history up to 1500, as exemplified by the traditional cultures of Africa, the Middle East, China, Japan, India, Central Asia, the Americas and Europe. Emphasis will be placed on the institutions, values and interrelationships among people across the globe, and the achievements and contributions of individual civilizations to human history.

INTENDED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CORE COMPETENCIES):

This course has several important overall objectives. First, the student will gain an appreciation for the political, economic, religious, social, racial, and cultural development of the world from pre-history to 1500. (Historical/Societal Analysis) Second, students will learn to write effectively in an expository manner and in a historical context. (Communication) Third, students will develop critical thinking skills by learning to see historical connections over time and space, and by reading, comprehending, and evaluating historical documents and arguments. (Critical Thinking) (Information Literacy) (Technological Literacy) Finally, students will understand and appreciate the enormous diversity of experiences in pre-modern world history. (Community and Workplace)

I. ATTENDANCE

In an online course, attendance has a different meaning than for classes held in real time and in a real place. But it's still important for you to “attend” on a daily basis so that you don’t fall behind in your work. Since you have weekly assignments and responsibilities, if you fall behind, or don’t participate in the discussion forum on a regular basis, or fail to take the tests on time, you will not pass this course. Also, the scope of the course is very broad and the content in many cases unfamiliar. That’s where the Bridging World History Videos (BWH Videos) and the Discussion Forum come in handy. Each will provide you with additional explanation of the key themes in the course, and allow you to participate actively online. Attendance will be “taken” each week through your postings and map exercises, and will be a component of the grading system.

II. THE POINT-COUNT SYSTEM OF EVALUATION

You will earn a grade of A, B+, B, C+, C, D, or F in the course by accumulating enough points by the end of the semester. The assignments are not averaged, but each has a certain point value and your work will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth below. You will therefore be accumulating points based on the quality and the timeliness of your work. Each point that you earn is equal to every
other point, so the more points you earn, the closer to earning the grade that you desire.

A. The total or maximum number of points available during the semester is 375. The minimum number of points required for each grade is:

- A = 330 points
- B+ = 315 points
- B = 300 points
- C+ = 285 points
- C = 265 points
- D = 230 points
- F = 229 or fewer points

Students taking the course on a Pass/Fail basis need to earn 250 points to pass the course.

B. Points may be accumulated the following ways:

EXAMS -- 120 points maximum (60 pts. each)

1. All students will take two take-home exams, Part I and Part II. (see Calendar for dates). They will be sent to you via email and you will generally have one week to complete each exam. If there is interest, I will schedule a “chat” or “review session” time online to help.
2. To help you study for the exams, you should look at the study questions on the topic checklists, review readings, discussions, and videos.
3. The format of the test may be varied, with identification of terms, true-false questions with explanations, essays, map quizzes, and essays as possibilities. For each exam I will give you a detailed explanation of how the exam will be evaluated.
4. In this course, tests are not retaken. Students who do not score well, and therefore do not earn many points, should plan to compensate by earning points in other ways.
5. Students must take both tests to receive any grade in the course.

TOPIC QUIZZES -- 100 points maximum-- 25 points maximum per quiz.

1. There are 4 objective quizzes required during the semester after completing work on topics grouped together (see Course Calendar). The quizzes are based on the assigned readings, the videos, and information gathered from the discussions for each topic. Each quiz is worth a maximum of 25 points, though I may add points as well.
2. Each quiz will be posted online and will consist of a number of multiple-choice or true-false questions, and you will receive one point for each correct answer. You will have two attempts to take each quiz, with the higher of the two scores recorded.
3. You must take all of the quizzes by the due date indicated on the calendar, and each quiz will be made available at a certain date (see Course Calendar for those).
4. There is no make-up available for quizzes, but before each quiz I will send a review focusing your study.

DISCUSSION FORUM (DQs) -- 10 points for each week’s postings maximum = 80 points maximum.

1. You are required to make 8 postings to the Discussion Forum, by responding to a question that I will pose, and also by responding to comments made by fellow students. There are 13 discussion topics (including the Introductory week) for the course, but I will divide you into two groups, Group A and Group B. Each of the two groups will be specifically assigned 4 topic postings, with 4 topics available to all students, for a total of 8 topic postings during the semester (See Course Calendar for specific assigned weeks).
You are responsible for approximately two to three postings per assigned week, though the more actively you participate, the higher your grade.

2. See the guidelines for posting to the Discussion Forum on the website under the Discussion Forum. You will receive a maximum of 10 points per week, based on the criteria explained.

3. It is very important for you to check the Discussion Forum three or four times a week to be an active participant and to stay current with the course.

4. There are due dates for the postings, so be sure to comply with the due dates that are listed on the Course Calendar. **If you do not respond to the postings by the due date, you have lost the opportunity to earn points for that topic.**

5. You can always make additional postings for extra credit.

**MAP LABELING QUIZZES—55 POINTS MAX—5 POINTS EACH X 11**

1. There are 11 Map Quizzes. You will complete a map labeling exercise online for most weeks of the semester. See Course Calendar for due dates.

2. **This is a pass/fail exercise.** If you get more than 60% of the map locations right, you'll get 5 points for each exercise. If you fail to get more than 60% of the locations right, or do not take the map exercise by the due date, you will receive 0 points. No exceptions.

**EXTRA CREDIT — 20 points maximum—5 pts. each (See Extra Credit Link)**

I may sprinkle extra points on tests, papers, quizzes or in any other way, or allow additional quizzes, discussion postings or internet exercises to be used for this purpose. Here's one way to earn some extra points below:

1. **WebTrackers** — Find an interesting website you'd like to share with the class? If so, post the site on the Discussion Forum. Along with the URL of the site, provide some suggestions of what was helpful, informative, inventive, clever about the site, and/or providing good information that helps you understand the topic, or which parts of the site were helpful, and you'll get some points. Posting a website without any explanation is not sufficient. How to make good use of the site will earn you 5 pts. for each. See the specifics on the **Extra Credit** page on the course website. Remember that there is a maximum number of extra credit points that you can earn, so don’t think it’s endless and that you can make up for not doing required work in the course.

2. **Extra DQs** – You can always submit additional postings for those weeks you are not assigned for extra points.

**C. Brief Summary of the Point-Count System:**

2 Exams (60 points each) = 120 points max.

8 DQs (10 points each X 8) = 80 points max.

4 Topic Quizzes (25 points each) = 100 points max.

11 Map Labeling (10 X 5 each) = 55 points max.

Extra-Credit = 20 points max.

**TOTAL = 375 points max.**
III. MONITORING STUDENT PROGRESS

In accordance with college regulations, you will be monitored on a regular basis during the semester via the Webadvisor online system.

It is your responsibility to keep track of your point accumulation in order to know where you stand in the course and to plan to meet the course requirements by the end of the semester. You can view Manage Your Grades to see where you stand at all times during the semester.

IV. INCOMPLETE

An Incomplete designation is available to students who are unable to complete the requirements for a D grade by the end of the semester. In order to qualify for Incomplete the student must:
1. Have already completed 230 points in the course,
2. Be able to achieve D in the course, and
3. Have the professor’s approval and complete an application for Incomplete before the end of the semester.

V. HISTORY DEPARTMENT STUDENT SERVICES

COLLEGE POLICIES:

For information regarding: Brookdale’s Academic Integrity Code, Student Conduct Code, Student Grade Appeal Process. Please refer to the STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG. (http://www.brookdalecc.edu/pages/1.asp)

NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify, must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 or 732-842-4211 (TTY), provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS: Please call the Learning Assistant, Karen Sieben (732) 224-2533 or email: ksieben@brookdalecc.edu. Her office is in MAN 127.

For Technology Help, call 24/7: 877-725-4357.

Your World Civilization professors are committed to providing students with many types of assistance including:

1. Department Web Site—http://www.brookdalecc.edu/fac/history/ Course materials are available on my website for the course. http://ux.brookdalecc.edu/fac/history/Sherri.htm
2. Study groups—contact Learning Assistant for schedule.
3. Writing and Reading assistance: appropriate labs
4. Faculty Mailboxes are located in the Social Science central office area—first floor of MAN building-MAN 111.
5. Department secretary: Eileen Lengyel, 224-2534 (elengyel@brookdalecc.edu)
6. Faculty office hours can be found on a schedule posted on my office door in the History Department (MAN 117b), on my website, or check the Course Calendar.