

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY  
School of Arts and Sciences  
Department of History and Government

History 111, World Civilizations since 1500  
3 credit hours

Instructor:  
Office Hours

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
**or** by appointment

Phone and voice-mail:

E-mail:

**Note 1:** Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in \_\_\_\_\_ or call Mr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301 860-3292.

**Note 2:** After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, students must take and pass the Bowie State University **English Proficiency Examination**. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during the first semester of enrollment at the University.

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course surveys world history from the fifteenth century to the present. It traces the economic, political, social, and cultural development of the major civilizations of the world.

II. **REQUIRED TEXTS:** *Civilization Past & Present* (New York: Pearson/Longman, latest edition), Vol. II

Additional reading materials are *required*, including Maria Carolina de Jesus, Child of the Dark.

Furthermore, members of the class are also expected to read the newspaper, especially international news, at least one day a week, in a daily or weekly paper of

their choice.

### **III. EMERGING ISSUES**

- a. Emphasize the environmental impact, in the past and at the present (including global warming).
- b. Find practical application of issues discussed in class, with regard to our own social environment.

### **IV. GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES**

#### **I. Written and Oral Communications**

- a. Analyze and discuss critical issues and themes in the discipline
- b. Conduct research using historical methods

#### **ii. Critical Analysis and Reasoning**

- a. Apply skills in analysis
- b. Apply logic and common sense in the examination and resolution of tasks

#### **iii. Technological competency**

- a. Apply research skills using websites and connecting links.
- b. Construct presentation using power-point and other visual aids

#### **iv.. Information Literacy**

- a. Identification of key concepts.
- b. Understanding the ethical ramifications of issues in the outline
- c. Understanding relevant socio-economic issues pertaining to society at the present.

### **V. STUDENT OUTCOMES**

- a. To improve our skills in critical and analytical thinking through the analysis of events and of their interpretations, including the interpretations presented in the text and by the instructor. (Competency ii)
- b. To improve our ability to think logically and use common sense; for instance, through the analysis of cause and effect relationships. (competency II)
- c. To enhance our social consciousness, our awareness of what is socially just.

(competency IV)

d. To enable us to better understand and appreciate the contributions of Africans and Asians, both to the development of their own civilizations, and to the world at large. (competency IV)

e. To examine the status and emphasize the contributions of women to all civilizations. (competency IV)

f. To familiarize ourselves with the main currents of change, with historical events and historical periods, from about 1500 to the present. (competency IV)

g. To acquire the broad, general, humanistic knowledge that may be expected of a college graduate in our country.(competency IV)

h. To enable us to orient ourselves in space (by means of basic geographical knowledge), and in time (by means of an understanding of chronological sequences).(competency I)

i. To enable us to acquire a better understanding of our identity as individuals and our identity as members of a culture, through the study of other cultures, and with reference to our own (American, African-American, etc.)(competency II)

j. To gain a better understanding of the image we project as Americans to the world.(competency I)

k. To enhance a taste for reading, thanks to interesting reading materials.(competency IV)

l. To become globally conscious and better aware of world events, through reading and viewing international news.(competency IV)

m. To develop our skills in oral communication, by means of participation in discussions and the presentation of oral reports.(competency I)

n. To develop our skills in written communication through the writing of essays and a careful review of these assignments.(competency I)

o. To establish the relation of the past to our present, and our present to the past.(competency II)

p. To seek practical applications for our computer skills. (competency III)

## VI. INSTRUCTIONAL MODES

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Cooperative learning   | Exercises and Drills   |
| Lectures               | In-class workshops     |
| Class discussion       | Individual conferences |
| Audio-visual materials | Visiting speakers      |

## VII. REQUIREMENTS or GUIDELINES

1. Members of the class are expected to keep abreast of the topics to be discussed in class, in order to participate more effectively. The textbook will be "covered" at the rate of about one chapter and a half per week.
2. Members of the class are expected to attend class and participate in discussions. The rules specified in the Bowie State University Handbook will apply.
3. Members of the class are expected to take all tests and complete all other assignments. There will be occasional quizzes, normally announced in advance, some of which will focus on geography and world news. No make-up tests will be offered, even if the test was missed for legitimate reasons. Furthermore, persons taking the test are expected to show up at the scheduled time. Once the test has been completed the candidate may leave the classroom, and no further candidates will be admitted.
4. Punctuality is expected. Walking in and out of the classroom during the period may distract others. Moreover, attendance is usually taken at the beginning of each class period. Attendance counts!
5. Attendance at academic events, public lectures, cultural happenings on campus may be required or optional. If optional, persons attending these events may earn extra "credit points," to be added to their score on the next test.
6. **No cell-phones, please**

## VIII. EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

Evaluation will be based mainly on the results of three classroom tests and the final examination. The tests will count as 20% each, while the final examination will count as 25% of the total grade. The remaining 15% will be apportioned between quizzes and homework, including group activities.

The final examination will focus on the last segment of the course, but questions from previous tests will be repeated.

The tests usually consist of multiple choice and essay type questions. The criteria for evaluating essays will be explained in detail. Briefly stated, these criteria are:

- a) whether the essay is to the point--whether it pertains to the topic indicated;
- b) whether the instructions to the essay, including the ones regarding length, are followed;
- c) whether the facts are stated clearly and correctly;
- d) whether the arguments are logical and consistent;
- e) whether the organization of the essay is appropriate, i.e. with an introduction and a conclusion, a main body divided into paragraphs, each paragraph introduced by a "lead" or "topic" sentence;
- f) whether the mode of expression--English grammar, syntax, spelling--is appropriate. (Persons feeling insecure about their ability to communicate in English should seek help from tutors and from the instructor).

The **marking scheme** is as follows:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Score of 90 to 100 percent | = A |
| " 80 to 89 "               | = B |
| " 70 to 79 "               | = C |
| " 60 to 69 "               | = D |

The final mark is strictly a matter of computation. Nevertheless, those who show marked **improvement or progress** during the term--if the result of each test exceeds the result obtained on the preceding one--will receive the benefit of a doubt. The rough formula used is  $1(T1) + 1(T2) + 2(T3) + 2(FE)/6$  if the scores on T3 and FE > scores on T1 and T2. In other words, competing with one's self, striving to improve one's self, is more important than competing against others in this course.

Please note that some of the activities in class, including exercises and quizzes, may take place in groups. "Team effort" is encouraged and rewarded, except at test or examination time.

## IX. **COURSE OUTLINE:**

The following is a list of the assignments and topics for each class. Please read the assignments before coming to class. You are expected to bring the textbook to class, heavy as it may be, since it will be referred to and used in completing exercises. You should also refer to the chronological tables and maps at the end of the text.

The instructor reserves the right to modify all assignments, including the rights to add and delete. The interests of the members of the class will be taken into consideration.

Week 1. Discussion of the syllabus or "contract." The role of gender.

**Assignment:** Chapters 16, 19

Week 2: The Columbian Exchange.

Week 3. The Transatlantic slave trade.

**Assignment:** Chapter 17. Video presentation

Week 4. Absolutism, the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

Chapter 16. **TEST 1.**

Week 5. Revolutions in France and Haiti.

**Assignment:** Chapter 17, 22.

Week 6. The Industrial Revolution and Western hegemony.

**Assignment:** Chapter 18.

**TEST 2.**

Week 7, 8 Asian empires

**Assignment:** Chapter 20, 24. Also, "The Communist Manifesto"

Week 9. Imperialism.

**Assignment:** Chapters 27, 31. World wars

Week 10. Totalitarianism and more war

Chapter 28. **TEST 3.**

Week 11. The Russian Revolution. Totalitarianism and racism.

**Assignment:** Chapter 22.

Week 12. Cold war and decolonization

**Assignment:** Chapters 32, 35

Week 13. Identities. Current events.

**Final examination:**

One or more feature films may be shown in class. The films are selected from among "the greatest movies of all times."

**X. ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

**XI. LIST OF RECOMMENDED READINGS** (distributed separately)