



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Shawn Barcroft
Course Title & #:	History 100 — Early World History	Email:	shawn.barcroft@imperial.edu
CRN #s:	21388	Office Hours:	Zoom: Mondays, 12:30 – 2:30 Room 409: Wednesdays 5:15-5:45 Email: TTH, 12:30 – 1:30 And by appointment. See Canvas for the Zoom link
Classroom:	Room 204	Contact:	Email
Class Dates:	2/17/2026 to 6/12/2026	Class Format:	Asynchronous Online/Traditional Online
Class Days:	Wednesdays	Units:	Three
Class Times:	6:00 to 9:10 PM		

Course Description

Early World History is a broad survey of the diverse societies of Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Oceania from prehistory through the 1400s. This course seeks to describe the emergence and development of civilizations, societies, trade, religions and cultures, and to recognize the interconnections between different peoples and across time. This course is the first part in a two-semester survey of world history from prehistoric to present times. Because of the scope of this course, we will be unable to explore any one region or civilization in depth. Instead, we will attempt to look at the history of the world in order to understand the emergence of civilizations, societies, religions and cultures, and to recognize the connections between different peoples and across time. Though an understanding of “what happened when” is critical as a foundation, we will go beyond names and dates. Instead, we will look at the social bonds and conflicts created by culture, religion and trade. We will discuss the patterns of society and government that our ancestors developed in order to meet their desire for political and social stability. By the end of the course, students will understand the main trends in world history from its beginnings until early modern times.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Identify and describe the chief political, social, economic and/or cultural characteristics of important ancient and pre-modern civilizations, cultures, and societies.
- Read, evaluate, and analyze primary and secondary historical sources and display an understanding of these sources competently and persuasively in a written and/or oral report, on topics relevant to early world history.
- Display an understanding of world geography relevant to early world history and successfully explain how the physical and natural environment has both affected and been affected by human societies.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious characteristics of the major societies, civilizations, states and cultures of the world from prehistory to around 1500 CE.
- Describe the patterns of trade and cross-cultural interaction during different eras in world history.
- Explain the origins, basic belief structures, and patterns of expansion of the major world religions before 1500 CE.
- Describe the key scientific and technological developments of ancient and pre-modern world history, and analyze and explain how these scientific and technological innovations diffused throughout different human societies and changed and influenced cultures and civilizations.
- Analyze and describe cultural practices and expressions, such as art, literature, religion and music, as well as patterns of family life and gender relations of ancient and pre-modern societies.
- Exhibit a basic knowledge of world geography and explain how the physical and natural environment has influenced patterns of settlement, the emergence of different types of societies and cultures, and how human use of the environment has contributed to both the success and collapse of civilizations.
- Exhibit awareness of how different people in different times and places have viewed themselves, viewed others, and viewed the world around them.
- Demonstrate an understanding of civilization through multiple analytical categories such as race, class, gender, and ethnicity.
- Demonstrate the ability to read, understand, and interpret primary and secondary historical sources, and to compose an argument, either in a written or oral report, which uses these sources, as appropriate, for support.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Sivers, Von, *Patterns of World History. Volume 1.* 3rd edition, 2017. Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 9780190697310
Note: You may use a newer version of the textbook.
- Large Blue Books for your exams.
- There will also be required additional readings and resources posted in Canvas:
<https://imperial.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods: This course will include 15 to 18 lectures. Lectures will often include information not covered in your readings. Periodically, lecture will also include class discussions requiring your active participation. Students may also be required to read and watch material posted on Canvas. Both outside and in-class writing assignments are required. Reading is expected to be completed during that of the assigned week, see the Course Schedule below. Students **must** take notes during lecture. Please bring a copy of each lecture outline to class. Lecture outlines can be found on Canvas under the Module tab.

Exams: There will be two exams. Each will be worth between 100 and 150 points. Exams will primarily cover lecture material but may also feature questions from your textbook and the Canvas materials. Exams may consist of an essay, short identification, multiple choice, and/or matching questions. I recommend students take notes on all materials discussed and shown in class. The final exam will not be cumulative.

- I will not allow a make-up examination except in instances in which a student has a documented medical emergency.

Map Quizzes: There will be two map quizzes given on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule (below) and on Canvas. The two quizzes will be worth a combined 50 points. You will receive a list of places to identify and a blank map(s) prior to the quiz on Canvas under the Modules tab. **Note:** You will not receive a word bank during quiz.

Reading Quizzes: There will be two reading quizzes. See Canvas for more details. Each quiz will be worth up to 50 points. These quizzes will be completed in class.

Short Papers: There will be three short paper assignments. These papers may analyze historical films, podcasts, news stories, and/or primary source documents. Students need to submit at least two over the course of the semester. Each submission will be worth up to 50 points. If a student submits all three short paper opportunities, **then Paper 1 will be considered extra credit.** This means students will have the potential of earning up to 50 points of extra credit. Assignment details for each paper will be posted in your modules. Students should expect each short paper to be about two or three pages in total length. These assignments will be submitted on Canvas. **Note:** Information covered in these assignments may appear on either Exam 1 or Exam 2.

Please follow the following guidelines for all Short Paper assignments:

- Include your name, the date, the name of the course, and your document's total word count single-spaced in the top left corner.
- The title/headline of your paper should be 12-point Times-New Roman centered type and include the topic of the documents, artifact, and/or film being analyzed. (**Note:** Don't just say "Paper".)
- Body text must be 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, and the document must have one-inch margins.
- Unless directed differently on Canvas, answer the given questions individually in their own numbered paragraph. For example: 1 or 2.
- To receive full credit students should include cited evidence from all the given materials for each Short Paper in their response.

Short Papers **must** be submitted in a Word.doc or PDF format on Canvas. I do not accept individual hardcopies. Please check Canvas for all due dates. **Note:** If you use Google Docs to write your papers you should save your work as a PDF or a Word file before uploading to Canvas. Submitting your assignments in another format may result in a zero. If you do not have access to Word or Google Docs at home then I recommend using the IVC library computers on campus to complete course assignments.

Other important assignment details:

- **Plagiarism, the copying of information from the internet, a similarity score more than 40%, or the use of outside or online sources is not allowed and will result in a zero. Also, as stated below, the use of AI is strictly prohibited and may result in submissions receiving a zero grade.**
- Grading rubrics will be attached to written assignments. I highly recommend students review these rubrics before and after submitting an assignment. If a student does not understand a component on the rubric, it's their responsibility to attend office hours for clarification.
- Assignment due dates are subject to change. Students should carefully check all **due dates** and **close dates** as they might not be the same. Assignments will not be accepted after a close date has passed.



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- All submissions must cite using Chicago Style to receive full credit. (See the Chicago Citation Guide on Canvas for more details.) You may use another citation format for partial citation credit. A failure to cite your quotes, arguments, and details may result in a zero grade.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The quantity of assignments and the listed point values are subject to change. Changes will appear on Canvas. Extra credit assignments will not be given on an individual basis. **Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking to have your final grade rounded up.** Here is a look at the course assignments and grading scale:

Course Assignments	Qty.	Total points	Grading Scale
Map Quizzes	2 x 25	50 points	A: 100 – 90.0%
Short Papers	3 x 50 [^]	100 points	B: 89.9 – 80.0%
Exams	2 x 150	300 points	C: 79.9 – 70.0%
Reading Quizzes	2 x 50	100 points	D: 69.9 – 60.0%
ID Quizzes	3 x 10 [*]	20 points	F: 59.9 – 0%

[^] If a student submits all three then the first submission will be considered extra credit.

^{*} Lowest ID Quiz score is dropped.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence - AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Students should be aware that all written assignments in this class may be scanned for plagiarism or the use of AI in Canvas. The use of AI in this course is strictly prohibited. Students found using any AI tool to potentially enhance their writing without my permission may be given a zero grade on the assignment in question. The use of tools like Microsoft Word or Google Docs to write papers and run spell-check are encouraged and will not result in an automatic zero grade.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.



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Course Policies

- **Unassigned Materials:** The use of unassigned materials is not allowed and will result in a zero grade.
- **Use of AI:** See the section above on Academic Honesty, and the section above on Academic dishonesty.
- **Respect:** You do not have to agree with everything that is said or presented in this class. However, I will not tolerate disrespectful behavior. Everyone is entitled to share his or her opinions without fear of reprimand, so be courteous and civil.
- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students on their phone during lecture may be asked to leave the classroom. They may also be dropped from the course.
- **Recording:** No photographing or recording is allowed without my permission.
- **DO NOT LEAVE THE CLASSROOM ONCE A VIDEO CLIP HAS STARTED PLAYING.**
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property. There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct. Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help. Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.
- **On Attendance:** A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details. Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

Updated 11/2024



IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

The following course schedule is subject to change without prior notice. Changes will appear on Canvas. Content below will appear in one of nine modules posted on Canvas. See Canvas for assignment due and close dates.

Week	Lecture Topic	Reading	Notes
1	Course Introduction		
2	Origins of Human Life to the Agricultural Revolution	Ch. 1 and Ch. 5: “The Americas: Hunters and Foragers, 16,000-600 BCE,” and “Agriculture, Villages, and Urban Life.”	
3	Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt	Ch. 2.	
4	Ancient India—Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism	Ch. 3 and 8.	ID Quiz 1
5	Birth of Chinese Civilization—Xia, Shang, Zhou Chinese Philosophy	Ch. 4.	Map Quiz 1: See Canvas for details.
6	Qin and Han Dynasties		ID Quiz 2
7	Ancient Greece and Persia	Ch. 7: “Interactions between Persia and Greece.”	Map Quiz 2: See Canvas for details.
8	No Class		
9	Exam 1		Bring a large exam book to class.
10	Roman Rise and Fall	Ch. 7: “Interactions between the Persian and Roman Empires,” and “Adaptations to Monotheism and Monism in the Middle East.”	
11	Western Europe: Carolingians to the Vikings	Ch. 11.	Reading Quiz 1: On Early Christian Writers, see Canvas for reading material.
12	Emergence of Islam Golden Age of China—Sui,	Ch. 10 and Ch. 14: “Adaptation to Islam: City-States and Kingdoms in East and Southern Africa,” and “Cultural Encounters: West African Traditions and Islam.”	ID Quiz 3



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13	Golden Age of China—Tang, and Song	Ch. 12: “Interactions and Adaptations: From Buddhism to Neo-Confucian Synthesis in China.”	
14	Korea: Neolithic to Chosen	Ch. 13: “Korea to 1450: Innovation from Above.”	
15	Mongols and the Yuan Dynasty		Reading Quiz 2: Judge Dee, See Canvas for reading materials.
16	Ancient to Premodern Japan Conquest of Mexico and Peru	Ch. 13: “Japan to 1450: Selective Interaction and Adaptation.” Ch. 18.	
17	Exam 2		Bring a large exam book to class.

***Subject to change