

Course: World Cultures

Instructors: Dr. Pamela Smith

Academic Year: 2008-2009

Text: Iftikar, Ahmad; Bradsky, Herbert; and Crafts, Marylee Susan. World Cultures: A Global Mosaic. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2001.

Course Description

Survey of the culture, history, and geography of the peoples of the world (minus Europe and the Americas)

Course Objectives and Philosophy

The study of world cultures will provide an enlightened look at the kaleidoscope of the world's peoples. You will develop an understanding of the physical world in which humans live by learning the major physical features of the world and comparing the different types of map projection. You will explore the diversity of life among the world's peoples by comparing and contrasting cultures, comprehending the rise and fall of nations and civilizations, comparing significant philosophies of famous persons, and assessing the role of citizenship in different cultures. You will accomplish these objectives by becoming familiar with the types of sources that archeologists, historians, geographers, political scientists, etc. use to develop a cultural perspective. Ultimately, by gaining a global perspective the student will be a more complete and competent citizen of the world.

Course Requirements

1. Text
2. Large 3-ring binder
3. Work done in blue or black pen
4. Materials for research project visual (poster board, for example)

Grading Procedure

Your trimester grade will be determined by the following combination of assessment measures.

Trimester Exam: 25%(school requirement)

Tests: 40%

Research Project: 20%

Homework: 15%

Grading Scale

A- to A+ 90-100 D- to D+ 60-69

B- to B+ 80-89 F 0-59

C- to C+ 70-79 FA Failure due to absenteeism

Homework Policy

Homework is a very critical component of the learning process. The following policies are necessary to remain in good standing in this class.

1. There are usually daily homework (reading/writing) assignments. Although time needed for completion varies from student to student, an average estimate is 30 to 40 minutes per night.
2. The trimester research project is done in 5 parts over a period of approximately 5 weeks: topic selection, bibliography, outline, paper, and presentation with visual. As a class we will spend 2 class periods in the library each trimester. Otherwise you are responsible for making time in your schedule to prepare the research project. Directions for each component of the research project will be provided in a separate handout.
3. Whether working on a short-term or extended assignment, it is imperative that you do so on a daily basis.
4. Short-term assignments will be checked simply to see that they have been completed. Failure to do so results in assignment to Academic Help. A homework collection of these assignments should be stored in your 3-ring binder. This will be submitted for a more thorough evaluation after a test that covers the material. The school's grading policy regarding late or missing assignments, as outlined in the student handbook, will be strictly enforced.
5. Since class time is limited, all material on the syllabus cannot be covered during lectures and class discussions. Students are responsible for all material assigned as textbook readings.
6. All submitted assignments must begin with the student's name, the date, the class title, and the period. Those assignments must be neat, complete, and written in blue or black ink. Of course, typed assignments are welcomed, but proper format must be followed.
7. When returned, homework and tests are to be stored in your 3-ring binder.
8. Study groups can be effective. However, when a student submits an assignment, she is stating that the material submitted has been fully comprehended. Therefore, joint submissions and plagiarism are unacceptable.

Classroom Policies

1. Daily prepared attendance is mandatory.
2. You are solely responsible for any material covered or announcements made during your absence.
3. The school's attendance policy will be strictly enforced.
4. Inappropriate, disrespectful, or dishonest behavior is unacceptable.
5. Cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Honor Council.

Welcome to the classroom. Please do not hesitate to ask questions--regardless of how simple you may perceive them to be. I am here to help. Work hard and take pride in all that you do.

Tentative World Cultures Schedule

First Trimester

Week Chapters Sections Topics

- 1 1 All Global Environment
- 2 1 All Global Environment
- 3 1-2 All Test--begin World Today
- 4 2 All World Today
- 5 2 All World Today
- 6 2&3 All Test-- begin Geography & History of Africa
- 7 3 All Geography and Early History of Africa
- 8 3&4 All Test--begin Heritage of Africa
- 9 4 All Oral Presentations--Heritage of Africa
- 10 4 All Test--Heritage of Africa
- 11 Review and Study Groups Exam

Second Trimester

Week Chapters Sections Topics

- 1 5 All Africa in Transition
- 2 5 All Africa in Transition
- 3 6 All Test--Africa in the World Today
- 4 7 All Geography and Early History of South Asia
- 5 7 All Test--Geography/Early History of South Asia
- 6 8 All Heritage of South Asia
- 7 8 All Heritage of South Asia
- 8 8&9 All Test--begin South Asia in Transition
- 9 9 All South Asia in Transition
- 10 9 All Test--South Asia in Transition
- 11 Oral Presentations
- 12 Review and Study Groups Exam

Third Trimester

Week Chapters Sections Topics

- 1 11 All Geography and Heritage of Southwest Asia
- 2 12 All Test--Southwest Asia in Transition
- 3 14 All Australia and Oceania
- 4 14&15 All Test--begin Geography and Heritage of China
- 5 15 All Geography and Heritage of China
- 6 15&16 All Test--begin China Today
- 7 16 All Test--China Today
- 8 17 All Korea
- 9 17&25 All Test--begin Geography/History of Middle East
- 10 25 All Oral Presentations--Geography/ Middle East
- 11 26 All Heritage of the Middle East
- 12 Review and Study Groups Exam

World Cultures Outline

I. Global Environment

A. Exploring the World Around Us

1. Five themes of geography
2. How movement contributes to global interdependence
3. How a region is defined

B. Understanding the Physical World

1. Why map makers created various map projections
2. The four major landforms
3. The factors that influence climate

C. The Meaning of Culture

1. Major elements of culture
2. Central role of the family in society
3. Types of governments and economies developed by ancient societies

D. How Cultures Change

1. Factors that cause cultures to change
2. Reasons why the rate of cultural change has increased
3. Why people have trouble understanding one another's cultures

II. The World Today

A. Patterns of Early Civilization

1. Technologies developed by early people
2. Chief characteristics of a civilization
3. How cultural diffusion influenced early civilization
4. Major civilizations that controlled the world in 1300

B. Shaping the Industrial World

1. Changes that contributed to the growing power of Europe
2. How the Industrial Revolution affected Europe
3. Causes and effect of imperialism
4. How the Cold War shaped the world after World War II

C. The Developing World

1. Main goals of developing nations
2. Problems facing developing nations
3. How underdevelopment contributes to widespread poverty

D. Growing Interdependence

1. How the world is becoming more interdependent
2. Why concern for the environment is increasing
3. Efforts being made to protect human rights

III. Africa

A. Geography and Early History of Africa

1. The shape of the land
 - a. Africa's relative location in the world
 - b. How landforms have influenced movements across Africa
 - c. Natural resources that are imported to African nations

2. Climate and diversity
 - a. How climates differ across Africa
 - b. The ways of life developed by Africans
 - c. How Africa's languages reflect its cultural diversity
3. Early Civilizations of Africa
 - a. The kinds of evidence that help us learn about the past
 - b. How climate changes affected ancient Africa
 - c. Achievements of early African civilizations
- B. Heritage of Africa
 1. Trading states and kingdoms
 - a. Why powerful kingdoms emerged in West Africa
 - b. How trade affected the peoples of East Africa
 - c. How trade encouraged cultural diffusion in Africa
 2. Patterns of life
 - a. The cultural ties that united people in African societies
 - b. The role of women varied in African cultures
 - c. Religion reflected the diversity of Africa
 3. The slave trade
 - a. Why Europeans became interested in Africa
 - b. Millions of Africans were traded as slaves to the Americas
 - c. How the Atlantic slave trade affected Africa
 4. Age of European imperialism
 - a. Europeans carved up Africa into colonies
 - b. Technology helped Europeans to divide Africa
 - c. Africans resisted European imperialism
 - D. The groups that fought for control of Southern Africa
 5. Effects of European rule
 - a. Methods Europeans used to rule their colonies
 - b. Economic changes European rule brought to Africa
 - c. How European rule affected African cultures
 - d. Material improvements Europeans introduced
- C. Africans in Transition
 1. Winning independence
 - a. Nationalism helped to shape modern Africa
 - b. African nations won independence
 - c. How the colonial past affected modern African nations
 2. Steps toward development
 - a. Political challenges that African nations face
 - b. How African nations have tried to solve their economic problems
 - c. The population explosion strains Africa's resources
 3. Changing patterns of life
 - a. Urbanization is affecting African societies
 - b. The lives of women and rural people
 - c. Schools are a source for cultural change
- D. Africa in the World Today

1. Regional and Global Issues
 - a. Goals of the Organization of African Unity; African interdependence
 - b. African nations take an active role in the United Nations
 - c. How African nations responded to Cold War issues
 - d. Africans are using science and technology to solve problems
2. The Republic of South Africa
 - a. Purpose of apartheid
 - b. How apartheid affected the lives of South Africans
 - c. Why the South Africa government changed its policy

IV. South Asia

A. Heritage of South Asia

1. Religious traditions
 - a. Basic Hindu beliefs
 - b. How Hinduism and the caste system are linked
 - c. Similarities and difference between Hinduism and Buddhism
 - d. Buddhism spread to other parts of the world
2. Powerful empires
 - a. Dynasties that united large parts of India
 - b. Why Muslims and Hindus clashed
 - c. Achievements of the Mughal Empire
 - d. Invasion contributed to cultural diversity in South Asia
3. Patterns of life
 - a. Caste system affected life in India
 - b. Role of the village in traditional Indian life
 - c. Structure of the traditional family in India
4. India under British rule
 - a. Why the British were able to win control of India
 - b. How British rule affected India
 - c. Goals pursued by Indian nationalists

B. South Asia in Transition

1. Freedom and partition
 - a. Gandhi helped India win Independence from Britain
 - b. World War II affected the struggle for independence
 - c. Cultural differences that led to partition of India
2. Political challenges
 - a. Organization of the government of India
 - b. Forces that have united Indians and forces that have divided them
 - c. Leaders that have shaped India since Independence
3. Economic development
 - a. Economic goals that Nehru set for India
 - b. Progress Indian industry has made
 - c. India has tried to increase farm output
4. Changing patterns of life
 - a. Technology has changed village life

- b. To what extent the caste system has changed
- c. Social changes taking place in India
- 5. Other nations of South Asia
 - a. Creation of Pakistan and Bangladesh
 - b. Economic progress of Pakistan
 - c. How ethnic diversity has affected Sri Lanka

V. Southeast Asia, Australia, and Oceania

A. Geography and Heritage of Southeast Asia

- 1. The shape of the land
 - a. Landforms and climate have influenced the cultures of Southeast Asia
 - b. Major resources of Southeast Asia
 - c. Southeast Asia is an ethnically diverse region
- 2. Early traditions
 - a. Effect of geography on the history of Southeast Asia
 - b. Kingdoms of Southeast Asia differed from one another
 - c. Other civilizations influenced Southeast Asian kingdoms
- 3. Patterns of life
 - a. Different religious traditions have influenced Southeast Asia
 - b. Rice plays a major role in Southeast Asia
 - c. Family patterns found in Southeast Asia

B. Southeast Asia in Transition

- 1. European influences
 - a. European powers set up colonies in Southeast Asia
 - b. European interest in Southeast Asia grew during the 1800s
 - c. Colonial rule affected the peoples of Southeast Asia
- 2. A new political map
 - a. Nationalism grew in Southeast Asia
 - b. How the nations of Southeast Asia won independence
 - c. Problems faced by the new nations
- 3. War in Southeast Asia
 - a. Role that Ho Chi Minh played in Vietnam
 - b. The United States became involved in the war in Southeast Asia
 - c. Short-term and long-term affects of the war

C. Australia and Oceania

- 1. Geography of Australia and New Zealand
 - a. How geography and climate have affected Australia
 - b. Natural resources that influence the economy in Australia & New Zealand
- 2. Growth of Australia and New Zealand
 - a. Australia's location affected the Aborigines
 - b. Changes brought by Europeans
 - c. How European ideas shaped the government and economics
 - d. Roles that Australia and New Zealand have played in international affairs
- 3. Oceania--Islands of the Pacific
 - a. Geography has influenced the peoples of Oceania

- b. Different traditions have shaped island culture of the Pacific
- c. The effects of recent world events on the peoples of Oceania

VI. East Asia

A. Geography and Heritage of China

- 1. Geographic setting
 - a. Location shaped China's view of the world
 - b. China's population is unevenly distributed
 - c. Rivers have influenced the lives of the Chinese
- 2. Enduring traditions
 - a. Achievements of the Shang dynasty
 - b. The Mandate of Heaven explained changes in dynasties
 - c. Three schools of thought that emerged in China
 - d. The Chinese adapted Buddhism to their own society
- 3. Patterns of life
 - a. Factors that affected a person's status in Chinese society
 - b. The lives of gentry and peasants differed
 - c. Values taught by Chinese families
- 4. Powerful empires
 - a. How the First Emperor united China
 - b. Achievements of Chinese civilization
- C. Contacts China had with other cultures
- 5. Roots of revolution
 - a. China's relations with the West changed in the 1800s
 - b. European nations gained influence in China
 - c. Causes and effects of the "revolution" of 1911

B. China Today

- 1. The People's Republic of China
 - a. Why many Chinese people supported the Communists
 - b. Ideas that influenced Mao Zedong
 - c. How the Communists achieved order
- 2. Economic development
 - a. Obstacles that stood in the way of the modernization of China
 - b. The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution
 - c. Economic policies changed after Mao's leadership ended
- 3. Changing patterns of life
 - a. Communist ideology differs from Confucianism
 - b. Social changes introduced by the Communists
 - c. What China is doing to limit population growth
 - d. Role that education plays in China today
- 4. China and the World
 - a. China's role in the world has changed since 1949
 - b. Why China regarded itself as a model for Third World nations
 - c. Policies that China has adopted toward its neighbors
- 5. Literature and the arts

- a. Political changes have affected Chinese literature and the arts
- b. Traditions that have remained strong in China
- c. How the Chinese Communists have used the arts to teach values

C. Korea

1. Geographic setting

- a. How location has affected Korea
- b. Physical and climate features influence Korean life
- c. Resources that support the economies of North And South Korea

2. Dynamics of change

- a. Chinese culture influenced Korea
- b. Achievements of Korean civilization
- c. How imperialism affected Korea

3. The two Koreas

- a. Cold War rivalries affected Korea
- b. Economic progress made by South Korea
- c. The basic goal that North Korea has pursued

VII. The Middle East

A. Geography and Early History of the Middle East

1. The land and the people

- a. Location has affected the peoples of the Middle East
- b. Main physical regions of the Middle East
- c. Geographic factors that influence population patterns
- d. Ethnic and religious groups that exist in the Middle East

2. Early civilizations

- a. Civilizations that developed in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley
- b. Major achievements of ancient Mesopotamian civilizations
- c. How trade and warfare affected Middle Eastern civilizations
- d. Greek and Roman cultures blended with the cultures of the Middle East

3. Judaism and Christianity

- a. The main religious beliefs of the ancient Hebrews
- b. How Judaism influenced Christianity
- c. The teachings of Jesus
- d. Why Christianity attracted a large following

B. Heritage of the Middle East

1. The world of Islam

- a. Basic teachings of Islam
- b. Why Islam spread rapidly
- c. Why Islam split into different branches
- d. Achievement of Islamic civilization

2. Centuries of Turmoil

- a. Changes that foreign invaders brought to the Middle East
- b. Strengths of the Ottoman Empire
- c. Rivalry of the Ottoman and Safavid empires

3. Patterns of life

- a. Main patterns of life in the Middle East
- b. Typical Middle Eastern city
- 4. Imperialism and nationalism
 - a. Challenges faced by the Ottoman Empire
 - b. Imperialism spurred the growth of nationalism in the Middle East
 - c. Reforms introduced by nationalistic leaders