

HIS 220: The Ancient World

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Office hours: 11-12  
MWF and by  
Appointment

This course concerns developments in the ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean worlds from roughly 3500 B.C. to roughly A.D. 500. In order to impose some thematic coherence on developments over this 4000-year span, we consider them as parts of a single “story”. The story is that of political and cultural consolidation (or unification) over a progressively larger area until we reach the “world-state” of the Roman Empire. Along the way, we will learn a good deal about different peoples and civilizations, but we want always to keep in mind that we are trying to understand a larger “story”. That means we always want to ask and understand what the place of different peoples and civilizations is in the larger story.

The textbook, Nagle’s *Ancient World*, will provide a basic narrative guide. Lectures amplify and supplement the text. Since Nagle does not present his material in terms of the “story” this course emphasizes, it is critical that students pay close attention to the lecture presentations. We will also be reading extensive primary (original) source selections which alone furnish us with direct experience of the ideas and thought patterns of various peoples and periods of the ancient world.

Evaluation is based on the results of three examinations, three papers, and periodic writing assignments and quizzes.

### **Required Books**

Nagle, *The Ancient World* (AW)  
Bailkey and Lim, *Readings in Ancient History* (Readings)  
Sandars, *Epic of Gilgamesh*

### **Class Schedule**

8/14 Introduction

#### **I. Early Civilizations**

8/16 Neolithic Revolution/Sumerian Civilization	AW 1-20
8/18 Emergence of Kingship	Readings 17-20
8/21 <i>Creation Story</i> (and map quiz)	Handout; writing assignment
8/23 <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	<i>Gilgamesh</i> ; writing assignment

8/25 Early Imperialism	AW 10-11, 34-36; Readings 24-32
8/28 Early Egypt	AW 21-31
8/30 <i>Theology of Memphis</i>	Handout; writing assignment
9/1 Egypt through the Middle Kingdom	AW 31-33
9/6 Indo-European Impact	AW 38-42, 76-85
9/8 Hyksos and Egyptian Imperialism	AW 42-50; paper #1 due

9/11 FIRST EXAM

## II. Big Empires and Little Peoples

9/13 Overview 1500-300 B.C.	Readings 48-54; AW 53-58, 61-63, 64-65, 50-52
9/15 Hebrew History in Near Eastern Context	AW 57-60, 65-75; Readings 68-94; writing assignment
9/18 Exile and Creation of Judaism	Readings 94-104
9/20 Greek History Overview/Homer	AW 87-97; Readings 107-120, 130-133; writing assignment
9/22 From Aristocracy to Democracy	AW 97-119, 164-183;
9/25 Athenian Empire	AW 120-140; Readings 151-165
9/27 Civic Problems/Civic Culture	AW 141-164; Readings 165-193; writing assignment
9/29 Socrates/Plato	Readings 200-215, 218-225; paper #2 due

10/2 SECOND EXAM

## III. Toward One World

10/4 Alexander	AW 184-194; Readings 260-269
10/6 Hellenistic World	AW 194-204; 225-234
10/11 Hellenistic Philosophies	AW 205-225; Readings 292-295, 386-393, 473-477; writing assignment
10/13 Rise of Rome	AW 235-256; Readings 303-313, 319-324
10/15 Roman Wars	AW 257-294; Readings 314-319
10/18 Transformation and Crisis	AW 295-329
10/20 Augustus	AW 330-336; Readings 397-414; writing assignment
10/23 The Roman Peace	AW 336-349; Readings 414-423

10/25	The Roman World	AW 349-359, 362-381; paper #3 due
10/27	EXAM #3	
<b>IV. Toward Late Antiquity</b>		
10/30	Religions in the Roman World	AW 357-362; Readings 427-435
11/1	Jesus and Paul	Readings, 485-506; writing assignment
11/3	Pagans and Christians	Readings 506-541
11/6	3 <sup>rd</sup> -century Crisis and Response	AW 381-388; Readings 542-549
11/8	Constantine	AW 388-390; Readings 549-556
11/10	The Christian Empire	AW 394-411; writing assignment
11/13	Late Roman Government and Society	AW 411-419
11/15	Consolidation/Unity, A.D.400	Readings 556-563
11/17	Roman World and World View	Readings 564-571
11/20	Beyond the Roman World	
11/27	Fractures and Fragmentation	AW 420-422, 390-392
11/29	6 <sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond	AW 392-393, 423; Readings 571- 576
12/1	Legacy of the Ancient World	Paper # 4 due
12/4	Review	
12/?	EXAM #4	