

This course concerns developments in the Near Eastern and Mediterranean world from ca. 3500 B.C. to ca. A.D. 500--from the beginnings of civilized life to the collapse of the Roman Empire. For purposes of the stories we want to learn, the course breaks up this 4000-year period into three parts, each with its distinctive theme: 1) 3500-1200 B.C., early civilizations and the development of the tools of government; 2) 1200-300 B.C., Hebrews and Greeks and the search for how best to live, 3) 300 B.C.-A.D. 500, the political and cultural unification of the ancient world. We will encounter a lot of information about a lot of different things over this 4000-year period, but these themes will determine which information is of greater importance. Students will be reminded again and again to keep these themes in mind. Each of these themes will be the topic of a short required paper.

The textbook, The Ancient World, will provide a basic narrative guide. Extensive primary (original) source readings allow direct contact with the ideas and patterns of thought of various peoples and period of the ancient world. Because the lectures present materials and interpretations not in the readings, it is essential that students do not miss class.

There will be two one-hour examinations, a final examination, writing assignments, and periodic quizzes.

#### Required Books

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

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#### Class Schedule

1/14 Introduction

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

1/16	Neolithic Revolution	AW 1-6
1/18	Sumerian Civilization	AW 6-20
1/23	Emergence of Kingship	Readings 17-20
1/25	<u>Creation Story</u> (map quiz)	Handout; writing assignment

1/28 Creation Story

- 1/30 Epic of Gilgamesh Epic of Gilgamesh; writing assignment
- 2/1 The Mesopotamian Outlook Creation Story and Gilgamesh
- 2/4 Methods of Conquest and Control AW 10-11,34-36; Readings, 30-38
- 2/6 Early Egypt AW 21-31
- 2/8 Theology of Memphis handout; writing assignment
- 2/11 Egypt through the Middle Kingdom AW 31-33
- 2/13 Indo-European Impact AW 38-42; 76-85
- 2/15 Hyksos and Egyptian Imperialism AW 42-50; paper #1 due
- 2/18 Eastern Mediterranean/Near Equilibrium, 1500-1200 B.C. Readings 63-65
- 2/20 FIRST EXAM

## II. Hebrews and Greeks

- 2/22 Eastern Mediterranean/Near Eastern Overview, 1200-300 B.C. AW 53-58, 61-63, 64-65, 50-52
- 2/25 Hebrew History in Near Eastern Context AW 57-60; 65-75; Readings 75-86, 90-98
- 2/27 Kings and Prophets Readings 98-103; writing assignment
- 3/1 Exile and Creation of Judaism Readings 103-108
- 3/4 Greek History Overview AW 87-97
- 3/6 Fundamentals of Greek Outlook Readings 127-145; writing assignment
- 3/8 The Polis AW 100-119
- 3/18 From Aristocracy to Democracy AW 97-100, 164-183; Readings 159-168, 203-214; writing assignment
- 3/20 Athenian Empire AW 120-140
- 3/22 Civic Problems/Civic Culture AW 141-164
- 3/25 Socrates Readings 242-252; writing assignment
- 3/27 Plato Readings 252-259; 2d paper due

3/29 EXAM

### III. The Ancient World becomes One World

- 4/1 Alexander and Macedonian Conquest AW 184-194
- 4/3 The Hellenistic World AW 194-234
- 4/5 Hellenistic Philosophies Readings 303-306, 406-414;  
writing assignment
- 4/8 Greeks and Jews in Hellenistic  
World AW 214-217; Readings  
114-120
- 4/10 Rise of Rome AW 235-294
- 4/12 Transformation of the Republic AW 295-329; writing  
assignment
- 4/15 Empire: Practices and Policies AW 330-346, 373-381
- 4/17 Worlds of Roman Empire AW 347-372
- 4/19 Jews and Gentiles in the Roman Empire
- 4/22 Early Christian Movements Readings 465-477, 478-  
486; writing assignment
- 4/24 Pagans and Christians Readings 487-512
- 4/26 Later Roman Empire AW 381-397, 411-419
- 4/29 Christian Roman Empire AW 397-411, 420-24;
- 5/1 Barbarian Settlements Readings 517-527
- 5/3 End of Empire
- 5/6 Review