

HIS 220/CCI 209  
*Ancient World*

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The course considers developments from roughly 3500 B.C. to A.D. 500. More specifically, we will be looking at the period in human history when civilizations first appeared, asking what they were, how they worked, why they existed, why in many cases they ceased to exist, and what enduring traditions and legacies they produced. We will take a global approach to ancient civilizations, considering what happened in India and China as well as in the Near East and the Mediterranean.

The course falls into four chronological phases: early civilizations, 3500-2000 B.C.; new peoples, 2000-1200 B.C.; transformations, 1200-200 B.C.; Rome, Africa, and East Asia, 200 B.C.-A.D. 500.

There will be four important sources of information: our text, *Ancient Civilizations*, which is especially well-grounded in the archaeological evidence, a reader of primary sources, *Readings in the Ancient World* (occasionally supplemented by handouts), pertinent websites, and class lectures. All four sources are important and complementary. It is not possible to omit one or another of the four.

There will be four examinations (one for each of the chronological phases of the course), a number of short writing assignments, and occasional quizzes.

### Books Required

Scarre and Fagan, *Ancient Civilizations* (AC)  
*Readings in the Ancient World* (R)  
Sandars, *Epic of Gilgamesh*

### Class Schedule

|      |                         |   |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 8/19 | Introduction            |   |
| 8/21 | What is Civilization?   | AC 2-11, 516-518; writing assignment          |
| 8/23 | Before Civilization     | AC 59-63, 65-70                               |
| 8/26 | Cities and Civilization | AC 70-84; map quiz                            |
| 8/28 | Kingship                | AC 84-93                                      |
| 8/30 | Sumerian Creation Story | handout;                                      |
| 9/4  | Gilgamesh               | <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> ; writing assignment |
| 9/6  | Imperialism             | AC 93-102                                     |
| 9/9  | Egypt                   | AC 104-118                                    |
| 9/11 | Kingship                | AC 118-131; <i>Theology of Memphis</i>        |
| 9/13 | Harrapan Civilization   | AC 148-154; websites                          |

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| 9/16  | Harappan Cities   | AC 154-165                               |
| 9/18  | EXAM 1  |  |
| 9/20  | Chinese Civilization--Background                          | AC 173-178                               |
| 9/23  | Shang and Zhou Dynasties                                  | AC 179-195                               |
| 9/25  | Egypt and Mesopotamia, c. 2000-1600 B.C.                  | AC 131-133, 201-210; R 17-20, 30-38      |
| 9/27  | Indo-Europeans  | handout (Brhadaranyaka Upanishad)        |
| 9/30  | Hittites  | AC 210-211; website                      |
| 10/2  | Hyksos  | AC 133-134                               |
| 10/4  | Nubians   | AC 341-345                               |
| 10/7  | Cretans and Greeks  | AC 246-269; R 128-145                    |
| 10/9  | New Kingdom Egypt   | AC 134-141                               |
| 10/11 | Age of Empires  | AC 212-219; R 63-65                      |
| 10/16 | World of Ramses II  | video                                    |
| 10/18 | EXAM 2  |  |
| 10/21 | Overview: Transformations or Adaptations of Civilizations |  |
| 10/23 | Zhou Dynasty  | AC 195-196, 382-385; handout (Confucius) |
| 10/25 | Sea Peoples and Philistines                               | AC 221-229                               |
| 10/28 | Near Eastern Empires                                      | AC 229-235; handout (Assyrian texts)     |
| 10/30 | Near Eastern Empires                                      | AC 236-241; handout (Zoroastrian texts)  |
| 11/1  | Hebrews in Near Eastern Context                           | R 75-98                                  |
| 11/4  | The Hebrew Experience                                     | R 70-75                                  |
| 11/6  | Greeks  | AC 274-286; R 145-151                    |
| 11/8  | Greek Adaptations   | AC 286-289; website                      |
| 11/11 | Greece and Persia   | R 185-199                                |
| 11/13 | The Athenian Experience                                   | AC 289-300; R 209-233, 242-259           |
| 11/15 | Hellenistic Resolution                                    | AC 300-302; R 296-306                    |
| 11/18 | EXAM 3  |  |
| 11/20 | Final Syntheses   |  |
| 11/22 | Han China   | AC 389-395                               |
| 11/25 | Han China   | AC 395-398; handout (Wang Mang)          |
| 11/27 | Imperial Rome   | AC 307-309; R 343-348, 363-370           |
| 12/2  | Imperial Rome   | AC 309-320; R 427-438; 415-423           |
| 12/4  | Roman World (and Persia)                                  | AC 320-331; R 458-501                    |
| 12/6  | Meroe   | AC 141-144, 349-352                      |
| 12/9  | Meroe/Aksum   | AC 353-359                               |
| 12/   | EXAM 4  |  |