

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
History of the Ancient World

Course Blackboard site: <http://wtma.blackboard.com>

Required Text

- The History of the Ancient World, Susan Wise Bauer. ISBN 9780393059748
- The Landmark Herodotus: The Histories
- The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War
- Greek Lives, Plutarch, trans. Robin Waterfield
- Roman Lives, Plutarch, trans. Robin Waterfield

Course Description

A survey of ancient cultures from the earliest written records through the removal of the last Roman “emperor” in 476 AD, with special attention to the interaction between humans and their environment and the relationship of philosophy to the development of states. Highlights include the fall of Ur; the conquest of Troy; the Republic of Rome; the Han Dynasty; and the fall of Rome.

Written Assignments

- *Little Exams:* There will be four short papers, no longer than two pages each. Students will select one of three topics on which to write. 7.5% of final grade each.
- *Medium Exams:* There will be two longer exams, no longer than four pages each. Students will select two of five topics on which to write. 12.5% of final grade each.
- *Comprehensive Final Exams:* There will be two long comprehensive exams, no longer than six pages each. Students will select three of six topics on which to write. 17.5% of final grade each.

Quizzes and Discussion Questions

- *Weekly Quizzes:* Quizzes will consist of map identification, and item significance identification. Students’ resources may be used. 5% of the final grade, total.
- *Weekly Discussion Questions:* Discussion questions will be drawn from the text. Each student must write a substantive reply to the question, and substantively respond to two other students’ responses within 48 hours. 5% of the final grade, total.

Course Work

Weekly Quizzes

Discussion Questions

Little Exams—4

Medium Exams—2

Comprehensive Final Exams—2

Total

Percentage

5

5

7.5 each (total 30%)

12.5 each (total 25%)

17.5 each (total 35%)

100

Example Schedule

Ancient History Schedule

Week	Chapters	Assignment	Topic
0	--	Introduction	Orientation
1	1, 2, 3	Quiz/DQ	Origin of Kingship, Earliest Story, Rise of Aristocracy
2	4, 5, 6	Quiz/DQ	Creation of Empire, Age of Iron, Philosopher King
3	7, 8, 9	Quiz/DQ	Written Records, War Chronicles, Civil War
4	10, 11, 12	Little Exam	Epic Hero, Victory Over Death, Reformer
5	13, 14, 15	Quiz/DQ	Military Dictator, Planned Cities, Collapse of Empire
6	16, 17, 18	Quiz/DQ	Barbarian Invasion, Monotheist, Environmental Disaster
7	19, 20, 21	Quiz/DQ	Battle for Reunification, Mixing Bowl, Xia Overthrow
8	22, 23, 24	Medium Exam	Hammurabi's Empire, Hyksos Seize Egypt, King Minos
9	25, 26, 27	Quiz/DQ	Harappan Disintegration, Rise of Hittites, Expelled Hyksos
10	28, 29, 30	Quiz/DQ	Usurpation & Revenge, Contest, Shifting Capitals
11	31, 32, 33	Quiz/DQ	Mycenaeans, Struggle of Gods, Wars & Marriages
Thanksgiving Week			
12	34, 35, 36	Little Exam	Greatest Battle, Battle for Troy, First King of China
13	37, 38, 39	Quiz/DQ	Rig Veda, Wheel Turns Again, End of the New Kingdom
14	40, 41, 42	Quiz/DQ	Dark Ages of Greece and Mesopotamia, Fall of the Shang
Holiday Break			
Holiday Break			
15	43, 44, 45	Quiz/DQ	Mandate of Heaven, Bharata War, Son of David
16	46, 47, 48	Quiz/DQ	Eastern Zhou, Assyrian Renaissance, New Peoples
17	Finals Week	Comprehensive Final	No lecture
18	49, 50, 51	Quiz/DQ	Trading Posts & Colonies, Old Enemies, Assyria & Babylon
19	52, 53, 54	Quiz/DQ	Spectacular Defeat, Decline of the King, Assyrians in Egypt

20	55, 56, 57	Little Exam	Medes and Persians, Tyranny, Beginnings & End of Empire
21	58, 59, 60	Quiz/DQ	Brief Empire, Cyrus the Great, Republic of Rome
22	61, 62, 63	Quiz/DQ	Kingdoms & Reformers, Art of War, Persian Empire
23	64, 65, 66	Quiz/DQ	Persian Wars, Peloponnesian Wars, First Sack of Rome
24	67, 68, 69	Medium Exam	Rise of the Ch'in, Macedonian Conquerors, Rome's Grasp
25	70, 71, 72	Quiz/DQ	Alexander; Mauryan Epiphany; Second Dynasty
Spring Break			
26	73, 74, 75	Quiz/DQ	Wars of the Sons, Seleucid Conquerors, Between East & West
27	76, 77, 78	Quiz/DQ	Breaking the System, Problems of Prosperity, New Men
28	79, 80, 81	Quiz/DQ	Empire, Eclipse and Restoration, Problem of Succession
29	82, 83, 84	Little Exam	Roman World, Children on the Throne, Inherited Power
30	85	Quiz/DQ	Savior of the Empire
31		Quiz/DQ	Fall of Rome
32		Quiz/DQ	Fall of Rome
33		Quiz/DQ	476 AD
34		Comprehensive Final	No lecture

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
History of the Medieval World

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text

Bauer, Susan Wise. *The History of the Medieval World: From the Conversion of Constantine to the First Crusade* New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010 (for short, “HMW”) 9780393059755

Course Description:

A survey of the medieval world roughly from the fall of the Roman Empire through the First Crusade, covering the disintegration of the Roman empire, the rise of the Holy Roman empire, the dynasties of China, India, Japan, and the Korean Peninsula, the origins of the modern nation-state, and the rediscovery of classical thinking that led to the Renaissance. The class will focus on the ways in which the pre-modern world was prepared for the development of the modern world.

Written Assignments:

- *Discussion Questions:* One discussion question will be drawn from the material every other week and due prior to class on Wednesday. Students need to respond to only one question, and each response will be shared with the class. Each discussion question will be graded on a scale of 10 points. Discussion Questions will count for 5% of student’s total grade.
- *Reading Notes:* Students will learn a format to prepare reading notes and these will be due every other week prior to class on Wednesday. Reading notes will be graded on a scale of 10 points. Reading notes will count for 5% of the student’s total grade.
- *Short Response Paper:* These papers will be 3-5 pages in length and cover a question presented in longer depth and with more thought. Each paper will be worth 5% of the student’s final grade.
- *Long Response Paper:* This paper will be 5-7 pages in length and it may either cover a question in depth more thoroughly or be a discussion of an important primary source material mentioned in class or in the text. This paper will be worth 10% of the student’s final grade.

Quizzes and Tests:

- *Weekly Reading Quizzes:* On Friday of each week students will be responsible for a weekly reading quiz covering key terms, concepts, and map identifications in that week’s reading. Reading Quizzes will be open book. Reading Quizzes will be on a 10 point scale and count for 5% of student’s total grade.
- *Mid-Term Exams:* There will be two mid-term exams covering the reading material in the class, for that half of the semester up until the mid-term. Each mid-term will be worth 10% of the student’s final grade. The mid-term will include identifications, short responses and a short essay. The mid-terms will be closed book and timed.

- Midterm One, Mid-November (covering HMW Chapters 1-21)
- Midterm Two, Mid-March (covering HMW Chapters 42-65)
- *Final Exams*: There will be two final exams, one during January exam week and one during May exam week. Each exam will cover the semester material for that semester and include short responses, short essays and the choice of a long essay. The essay on the final exam will draw material from the whole year. The final exams will be closed book and timed. Each exam will count towards 15% of the final grade.

Example Schedule:

Discussion Topics	Weekly Reading Assignment	Weekly Written Assignment
One Empire, Under God; Seeking the Mandate of Heaven; An Empire of the Mind	HMW Chapters 1, 2, 3	Reading Quiz
The Persian Threat; The Apostate; Earthquake and Invasion	HMW Chapters 4, 5, 6	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
Refounding the Kingdom; The Catholic Church	HMW Chapters 7, 8	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
Excommunicated; Cracked in Two; The Sack of Rome	HMW Chapters 9, 10, 11	Short Response #1
One Nature Versus Two; Seeking a Homeland	HMW Chapters 12, 13	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
The Gupta Decline; Northern Ambitions; the Huns	HMW 14, 15, 16	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
Attila; Orthodoxy	HMW 17, 18	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
The High Kings; the End of the Roman Myth	HMW 19, 20	Short Response #2
The Ostrogoth, Byzantium	HMW 21, 22	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
Aspirations; Resentment	HMW 23, 24	Mid-Term Exam
Elected Kings; Invasion and Eruption; the Americas	HMW 25, 26, 27	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
Thanksgiving - No Class		

Great and Holy Majesty; Pestilence; The Heavenly Sovereign; Reunification; The South Indian Kings	HMW 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
Two Emperors; The Mayors of the Palaces; Gregory the Great	HMW 33, 34, 35	Short Response #3
The Persian Crusade; the Prophet; Tang Dominance	HMW 36, 37, 38	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
Christmas Break – No Class		
New Year’s Break - No Class		
The Tribe of Faith; the Intersection; The Troubles of Empire	HMW 39, 40, 41	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
The Big Review	HMW Chapters 1-41	No Assignment
Exam Week		Term Exam
Law and Language; Creating the Past; The Days of the Empress	HMW 42, 43, 44	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
Paths into Europe; The Kailasa of the South; Purifications; The Abbasids	HMW 45, 46, 47, 48	Short Response #4
Charlemagne; The An Lushan Rebellion	HMW 49, 50	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
Imperator et Augustus; The New Sennacherib; Castle Lords and Regents	HMW 51, 52, 53	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
The Triumph of the Outsiders; the Third Dynasty	HMW 54, 55	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
The Vikings; Long-Lived Kings; Foreign and Domestic Relations	HMW 56, 57, 58	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
The Second Caliphate; The Great Army of Vikings; Struggle for the Iron Crown	HMW 59, 60, 61	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes

Kampaku; Basileus; The Creation of Normandy; The Kingdom of Germany	HMW 62, 63, 64, 65	Mid-Term Exam
Spring Break – No Class		
The Turn of the Wheel; The Capture of Baghdad	HMW 66, 67, 68	Short Response #5
Kings of England; Baptisms of the Rus; The Holy Roman Emperor	HMW 69, 70, 71	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
The Hardship of Sacred War; Basil the Bulgur-Slayer; Defending the Mandate	HMW 72, 73, 74	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
The New Found Land; Schism; Danish Domination	HMW 75, 76, 77	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
The Norman Conquest; The Kings of Spain; The arrival of the Turks	HMW 78, 79, 80	Reading Quiz/Reading Notes
The Loss of the Song; Repentance at Canossa; The Call	HMW 81, 82, 83	Long Response Paper
Fighting for Jerusalem; Aftershocks	HMW 84, 85	Reading Quiz/Discussion Question
The Big Review	HMW Chapters 42-85	No Assignment
Exam Week		

Well-Trained Mind Academy
History of the Renaissance and Early Modern World

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s):

- Pre-Modern East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History, Volume I: To 1800, 2nd Edition, Patricia Buckley Ebrey, Anne Walthall and James Palais
- The Mughal Empire (The New Cambridge History of India) Reprint Edition, John Richards
- America: A Concise History, Vol. 1: To 1877, 6th edition, James A. Henretta and Rebecca Edwards
- Early Modern Europe: An Oxford History, 1st Edition, Euan Camero

Course Description:

A survey of world history from the capture of Constantinople until 1800, covering the European Renaissance, the Reformation, European explorations in the New World, the rise of slavery and African resistance, the Elizabeth Age, unification and isolation in Japan and China, the Moghul Empire of India, Ottoman threats to the West, the Enlightenment, the American Revolution and establishment of the United States, the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror, the foundations of the British empire, and the increasing influence of industrialization.

Written Assignments:

- *Thinking Prompts:* Thinking prompts will engage with the material and themes from recent weeks in the course. These tasks will often ask the student to consider primary documents, reflect on a larger theme, or debate a topic of contention -- some of these will be submitted individually, while others will be posted to the class discussion board.
- *Reading Notes:* We cover quite a bit of reading in this class. In order to help students read actively and retain information, students will keep a reading notebook in which they take notes on the assigned materials. Reading notes will be graded for completion, earning either 0 (incomplete) or 10 (complete) points. Reading notes will count for 10% of the student's total grade.
- *Short Response Essays (3):* These essays will be 2-4 pages in length and cover a question relevant to the current course material. These essays will be open book/open notes. These essays will be worth 15% of the student's final grade (5% each), and will be graded on both content and presentation.
- *Long Response Essay (1):* This essay will be 5-7 pages in length and will allow the student to develop an in-depth analysis of some aspect of Renaissance and Early Modern history. This essay will be open book/ notes. This essay will be worth 15% of the student's final grade.

Quizzes and Tests:

- *Reading Quizzes:* Every few weeks students will be responsible for a reading quiz covering key terms, concepts, and map identifications covered since the last reading quiz. **Reading Quizzes will be open book/notes.** Reading Quizzes will be graded on a 10-point scale and count for 5% of student's total grade.
- *Midterm Exams:* There will be two mid-term exams (one each semester) covering the reading, discussion board, and lecture material in the class, for that half of the semester up until the mid-term. Each midterm will be worth 10% of the student's final grade. The midterm will include matching questions, short responses (1-3 sentences) and a short essay (2-3 paragraphs). The midterms will be closed book and timed.
- *Final Exams:* There will be two final exams (one each semester). Each exam will cover the reading, discussion board, and lecture materials covered that semester and include matching questions, short responses, and a long-essay. The long-essay on the final exam will draw material from the whole year, and will be distributed prior to the exam date (so that students may pre-write their essay response if they wish, using their notes and books). Excluding the essay response, the final exams will be closed book and timed. Each exam will count towards 15% of the final grade.

Grade Breakdown:

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|-----------------------------|------|
| • Thinking Prompts | 5% |
| • Reading Notes: | 10% |
| • Short Response Essays: | 15% |
| • Long Response Essay: | 10% |
| • Reading Quizzes: | 10% |
| • Fall Midterm Exam: | 10% |
| • Spring Midterm Exam: | 10% |
| • Fall Final Exam: | 15% |
| • <u>Spring Final Exam:</u> | 15% |
| • Total: | 100% |

Assignments:

Assignment Submission: The Blackboard interface can only read certain file types. Be sure to watch this video tutorial on how to submit assignments:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTuNkP-fZs&feature=youtu.be>

Assignments not submitted in the correct format will receive a 0!

*Reading notes will be submitted via Google docs, so that the instructor can see updates to them in real-time. Students unwilling or unable to use Google docs for this task may use the Blackboard journal feature.

Delayed Students:

I am happy to have you in our class!

- **Assignments:** You will complete the same assignments as your peers, using the same schedule and due dates. If there is a reason why this won't work for your family, please let me know within the first two weeks of class.
- **Exit Tickets:** Your thoughts and contributions are important to our success, and I want to be sure to give you the opportunity to share those with us. Students who

watch recordings of class will be expected to complete an “Exit Ticket” in lieu of attendance. Delayed/absent students will always complete this weekly task via the discussion board on Blackboard. These responses will not receive letter grades; failure to complete a weekly post *or* attend the weekly class session will be counted as an absence from class. The Exit Ticket for a week must be completed by the week’s end (Sunday night at 11:59 PM) in order to be counted for credit. Each exit ticket will follow the same format, in which you post a short response that includes the following:

- A summary of the **three** most interesting things that you learned from the week’s material (reading, lecture, or class discussion), and
 - At least **one response** to the material **or one question** about the material that you might have.
- Please be sure to title your posts with your name and the week number; e.g. “John James Week 20.”

Textbooks and Readings:

It is important that you arrive to class prepared to learn and share. This means that you must have your textbook, paper, and something to write with/take notes on when you enter class. You should also have completed any required readings or assignments in advance of class. Failure to do so will detract from your experience in our class, as well as result in an uncomfortable conversation with me!

Schedule:

The course schedule is loaded as a separate document to Blackboard.

**Homework assignments are due before the start of our class for the week, unless otherwise noted.