

**Course Code & No. - Section:** HIST 300 - Section 3  
**Course Title (Credits):** Civilization (3)  
**Term & Year:** Fall / 2013  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 80062

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert King  
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**Office:** PRIM 205  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** TR 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 p.m.  
**Location:** Prim Library 214

**Prerequisites** (from Catalog): ENVS 200, ENVS 205  
**Corequisites** (from Catalog): None

### Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive review of world history from the “Big Bang” to the present, employing large interlocking movements of “Big History” to cover all aspects of human culture and civilization. The traditional chronological periods from the Stone Age to the present are reviewed through the connecting factors of chance encounters, kinship, friendship, worship, rivalry, enmity, economic exchange, ecological exchange, political and military cooperation and competition. Fulfills the U.S. Constitution requirement.

### Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic grasp of the chronological dimensions of history;
2. Understand basic historiography with a concentration on the Big History and materialist approaches;
3. Develop a structural understanding of history and apply that understanding consistently and systematically to questions of historical change;
4. Recognize any serious gaps in his/her general grasp of the historical process.

### Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Classroom participation leading up to a midterm and a final exam;
2. A research project approved by the instructor in advance;
3. A final classroom presentation related to the research project.

### Instructional Strategies

This course will be a combination of lecture and discussion based upon close reading of the text. Discussion will become increasingly important as we move further into the material.

**Required Texts**

Instructor will provide.

**Recommended Texts**

- Harman, Chris. *A People's History of the World: From the Stone Age to the New Millennium*. Verso, 2008.
- Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2005.
- Perry, Marvin. *Western Civilization: A Brief History, Volume II*. Wadsworth Publishing, 2010.

**Videos**

- Christian, David. *TED Lecture* on Big History.
- National Geographic presentation of Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.
- Constructing An Empire: Ancient Egypt
- The Corporation*, dir. Mark Achbar, 2004.

**Attendance**

Attendance in so concentrated a course will be especially important. Any missed classes must be made up in order to pass the course. If you miss 6 classes, you fail the course, regardless of standing academic performance. If you miss five courses, you will drop a letter grade. As well, regular tardiness is basically equivalent to an absence in class (2 x tardy = 1 absence). Once class begins, all members of the class will be expected to remain for the duration of the class.

**Class Requirements**

Food will not be permitted in this class. Always come prepared with your textbooks and necessary materials to take notes. I strongly discourage the use of computers for note-taking. If you need to use a computer to take notes, please first ask for permission. In addition, there will be no use of cell phones during class, including texting. If you are seen using a cell phone for any reason without prior permission, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the session. We will be using our texts frequently in class; therefore, please bring them to each meeting.

**Prim Library Resources**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just the internet) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either onsite or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Prim Library has many resources which are helpful for your research. You may find the following information helpful:

Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles):  
Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your research are EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, and ProQuest.

Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

For any books not housed at SNC, you can use inter-library loan (ILL) to borrow books from major university libraries, free of charge. Speak with someone at the front desk at the Prim Library for help.

## **Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**

### **The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### **Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

### **Grading Policy**

Grading will be based upon written work, presentations, the midterm and final exam, and classroom participation. Although exams will be the primary means of grade assessment, improvement from the midterm to the final can be very important in terms of the final grade. A simple average of the grades from the exams, presentations, and participation will be the baseline for the final grade.

## Grading Scale

Exams = 70% of course grade

Presentation = 20%

Participation = 10%

100 – 98 % = A+

97 – 90% = A

89 – 88% = B+

87 – 80% = B

And so on...

## ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu), office in Prim Library: PL-304.

## The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

## The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

## The Core Themes

Liberal Arts                      Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial                  Thinking Sustainability

## Class Schedule

| Date   | Topic  | Homework Due |
|--------|--|--------------|
| T 8/19 | Introduction : Social Metabolic Reproduction |              |

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
|               | (SMR) ; What is Capital ?   |   |
| R 8/21        | Big History; Time Scales; Materialist Framework on History; Evolution and the Question of Historical Change | David Christian video   |
| T 8/26        | Pre-Hominid Life ; Guns, Germs and Steel (Yali's Question) ; Hunter-Gatherer SMR                            | Lockard, Roots of Humanity ; <b>Quiz on SMR</b>   |
| R 8/28        | Hunter Gatherer SMR, Cont'd   | Moran & Lockard   |
| T 9/2         | Pastoral Nomadism and The Aryans ; Cow's Milk   |   |
| R 9/4         | Agricultural Revolution   | The Agricultural Revolution in World History ; National Geographic : Guns, Germs, and Steel, pt. 1                      |
| T 9/9         | Consequences of Agricultural Revolution; The Ancient World; City-State SMR; Cradle of Civilization;         | <b>Hunter-Gatherer and Agricultural SMR charts due</b> ; Agriculture Ending the World As We Know It                     |
| R 9/11        | City-State SMR, cont'd. ; Egypt & Harappa   | Harappa and Sanitation ; Lockard, The Emergence of Cities and States  |
| T 9/16        | The Classical World ; Ideology ; The Hebrews, Taoism, Buddhism, Confucianism ; The Bhagavad-Gita            | Ideology and the Ordering of Society  |
| R 9/18        | Hellenistic Greece and Persia ; China and The Han ; Imperialism as SMR                                      | <b>Ideology Quiz</b> ; Pericles Funeral Oration ; The Greek City States ; EROI handout (Homer-Dixon), A Stone's Journey |
| T 9/23        | Rome and Empire ; Are City-States By Necessity Imperial ?; The Physics and Morals of Empire                 | <b>City-State SMR Quiz</b> ; Aristides The Roman Oration  |
| R 9/25        | Rome's Collapse: From Republic to Empire  | Harman People's History ; Introduction to Collapse  |
| T 9/30        | Spartacus and the Question of Social Revolution; Reform   | Just Like The Roman Empire, Well, Not Quite ; Nat Geo Guns, Germs, Steel, pt. 2   |
| R 10/2        | Midterm Review  |   |
| <b>T 10/7</b> | <b>Midterm Exam</b>   | <b>Midterm Exam</b>   |
| R 10/9        | Legacies of Greece and Rome: Subject, Labor, Land   |   |
| T 10/14       | Feudal SMR  |   |
| R 10/16       | Political Economy   | Harman, European Feudalism; Land-Tenure   |
| T 10/21       | Primitive Accumulation and Colonialism  | <b>Feudal SMR Quiz</b> ; Harman, cont'd. ; Capitalism Is A Way of Life  |
| R 10/23       | Capital SMR   | History and Dynamics of Capitalism ; The Long Journey Toward Capitalism   |
| T 10/28       | Renaissance ; Liberalism, Humanism, and Modern  | <b>1-2 pg. Reaction paper on Capitalism due</b> ; Wallerstein ;   |

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
|              | Subjectivity   | National Geographic : Guns, Germs and Steel, pt. 3 |
| R 10/30      | Scientific Revolution and Empirical Sense-Data   | Galileo, Critique of Biblical Authority            |
| T 11/4       | Enlightenment and French Revolution; The Masses  | What is Enlightenment ?                            |
| R 11/6       | Declaration of the Rights of Man ; Declaration By the Representatives of the United States of America and the Constitution of the U.S.A. |  |
| T 11/11      | Industrial Revolution and Wage Labor   | The Wealth of Nations                              |
| R 11/13      | 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Events  | Film   |
| T 11/18      | 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Events  |  |
| R 11/20      | Globalism and Imperialism  | Immanuel Wallerstein handout                       |
| T – 11/25-27 | <b>THANKSGIVING</b>  |  |
| T 12/2       | Financialization of Global Economy and Future Trends   | Michael Hudson handout                             |
| R 12/4       | Final Review   |  |
| T 12/9       | Reading Day  |  |
| Finals Week  | <b>Exam TBD</b>  |  |