

**UNI 221: WORLD CIVILIZATIONS & GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS - I****Basic Information:**

Schedule:	<u>Lectures:</u> Tuesdays 12:00-14:00 & Thursdays, 12:00-13:00
Venue:	-
Instructor & office hours:	Aysegul Cimen ( <a href="mailto:aysegulcimen@std.sehir.edu.tr">aysegulcimen@std.sehir.edu.tr</a> ) Wednesdays 10:00-12:00, or by appointment
Textbook:	Robert Tignor et al., <i>Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: From the Beginnings of Mankind to the Present</i> (Norton, 2013; 4th edition) [henceforth WTWA].
Assessment:	Mid-term exam: 30 % Final exam: 40 % Homework assignments: 20 % Attendance & participation: 10 %

**Course Description:**

World Civilizations & Global Encounters is a two-semester compulsory university course providing a cross-cultural overview of world history from ancient to modern times. The course proceeds chronologically, but has the objective of exploring crucial themes of human activity from a global perspective. The course traces the diversity of human civilizations in terms of their historical, cultural, political and economic formation with an emphasis on their interactions, similarities and differences. The ultimate aim of the course is to reflect on the concept of historical change and its connotations for the present day.

The first semester of the course will start with a discussion of some fundamental concepts such as civilization and society. A comparative analysis of different civilizations categorized under the ancient and the medieval worlds will follow. The aim will be to provide a broad and cross-cultural overview of lines and elements connecting and separating different geographies.

**Format:**

Each week there will be two lectures. The lectures and overall course material will largely follow the textbook by Tignor et al., *WTWA*. We will ask the students to attend the lectures with their class and reading notes as well as the assigned primary/secondary source documents from the textbook.

We will make announcements to keep you update regarding the course, lectures, homework assignments and exams through the LMS. Hence, use your university email address and be sure that you receive LMS announcements. If required, we will distribute any extra course material electronically and upload them to the LMS Dropbox folder.

**Textbook:**

You can either purchase a hard-copy of your textbook from the campus bookstore or alternatively a digital, downloadable copy from the publisher's website:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Worlds-Together-Worlds-Apart/>

**Attendance Requirements:**

Attendance at lectures is mandatory. Be advised that **less than 80 % attendance at the lectures will result in DIRECT FAILURE**. Indeed, last semester, around 10% of the registered students failed from this course simply because they do not follow this important rule. So, attend your lectures regularly.

Absences will be excused **ONLY** in the case of illness or dire emergency, for which you must present an **official written** excuse to your instructor. In such cases of absences, without exception, please send an email

to your instructor immediately (preferably before the lecture), explaining the reason for your absence. If you have a medical report, also send its scanned version.

**Also note that there will no make-ups for homework assignments.** You have to submit your homework at the time as instructed. Thus, read homework assignment sheets carefully and consult your instructor if you have any questions.

Finally, ALL students must attend only those sections for which they are officially registered. DO NOT attend other sessions at any time without making official registration; such attendances will not be counted.

#### **Homework assignments:**

There will be **FOUR homework assignments** throughout the semester. In these exercises, you will be asked to write short papers on certain selected topics, problems or primary sources related to the lectures and readings. Each homework, worth 5 points of your total grade, will be assigned at least a week prior to its submission deadline, which are indicated below under the course schedule. All these assignments will be announced electronically through the LMS.

Students will submit their completed assignments electronically to be processed by an anti-plagiarism program called Turnitin ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)), which is going to work with our LMS system. Further instructions on this particular kind of submission process will be given during the first weeks of the semester. Also see the “Academic Misconduct” section below.

#### **Make-up examinations:**

You are responsible for taking the midterm and final examinations at the appointed time. Do not ask for exceptional treatment! **Do not ask for a make-up examination, except in the case of a health problem, which you must document with an official written excuse.** It is the student’s responsibility to take the make-up exam at the time and place that the instructor specifies. **NOTE: ONLY MEDICAL REPORTS TAKEN FROM A HOSPITAL (NOT FROM A PRIVATE DOCTOR OR CLINIC) WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR MAKE-UP EXAMS.**

Regarding the Resit/Bütünleme Exam, it will be given ONLY to the students who meet one of the following conditions:

- a) students who failed the class with a D- or F grade
- b) students whose written petitions or reports (for being absent in the final exam due to a medical or personal reason) are accepted by their faculty boards

#### **Additional Class Policies:**

I will start and end my lectures on time, and I expect you to arrive on time and stay until the end of class. Disruptions --including late arrival, early departure, talking to friends during lecture, taking calls on cell phones, text messaging, surfing online-- are disrespectful and distracting to both the professor and your fellow students. Any repeated such disruptive behavior may be cause for dismissal from class. Cell phones must be turned off during class time.

#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

The term ‘academic misconduct’ includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with written assignments and examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. **Keep in mind:** I have to report any academic misconduct to the Committee.

Copying a person’s work or writing (in any form) without proper citation constitutes plagiarism and it is a serious offence. In this respect, particularly in your homework assignments, **NEVER EVER** attempt to copy a friend’s homework or anything you find on the internet. Always use your own sentences and wording as this semester all written assignments will be automatically checked by the Turnitin program for the authenticity of your work. This particular program is very efficient and easily find any copied material. Accordingly, **if such a plagiarized homework is detected, it will not only be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct, but also it will result in DIRECT FAILURE from this course!!**

If you have any questions at all about what constitutes plagiarism or about the consequences of academic misconduct, please come and talk to me.

### **Study Suggestions:**

- Do each week's reading **before** that week's classes. Go over your notes after each class. Number the pages of your notes, and cross-reference them with your textbook book.
- Use the **atlas**; as well as the **focus questions, maps, timelines, glossary and other internet resources** of your textbook as study aids. Your textbook provides very useful study materials. Be sure you utilize them regularly during your readings:  
<http://www.norton.com/college/history/worlds-together-worlds-apart4/welcome.aspx>
- Above all, **keep up with the reading**. There is a large amount of diverse information in this course; you cannot hope to master it by cramming at the last minute.
- In case you have any questions regarding the lectures and course materials, or if there is a gap in your notes or a concept that you just cannot figure out, please consult me.

### **RESERVE CLAUSE:**

I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet the learning outcome objectives, to compensate for missed classes or schedule changes, or for similar legitimate reasons. Students will be notified of any such changes to the syllabus in adequate time to adjust to those changes.

## **WEEKLY PROGRAM**

### **Week 1:**

27 September (Tu): Introduction to the course

29 September (Th): Creation myths and current theoretical approaches to human origins

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 1, pp. 3-23.

### **Week 2:**

4 October (Tu): Beginnings of food production: From animal husbandry & horticulture to agriculture

6 October (Th): The first towns: The seedbeds of civilization

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 1, pp. 24-40.

### **Week 3: 4000-2000 BCE**

11 October (Tu): The great valley civilizations - I: Mesopotamia

13 October (Th): The great valley civilizations - II: India

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 2, pp. 43-82.

(HOMEWORK #1 assignment)

### **Week 4: 4000-2000 BCE**

18 October (Tu): The great valley civilizations - III: Egypt

20 October (Th): The great valley civilizations - IV: China

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 2, pp. 43-82.

(submit HOMEWORK #1 on **20 October**)

### **Week 5: 2000-1200 BCE**

25 October (Tu): The great valley civilizations compared

27 October (Th): Nomads, territorial states and micro-societies - I

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 2, pp. 43-82

### **Week 6: 2000-1200 BCE**

1 November (Tu): Nomads, territorial states and micro-societies - II

3 November (Th): Nomads, territorial states and micro-societies - III

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 3, pp. 85-110.

### **Week 7: 2000-1200 BCE**

8 November (Tu): Nomads, territorial states and micro-societies - IV

10 November (Th): Review

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 3, pp. 111-122.

**\*\*\*MIDTERM: 11 NOVEMBER 2016\*\*\***  
***Time and Venue TBA***

**Week 8: 1250-325 BCE**

15 November (Tu): The first empires in Afro-Eurasia - I

17 November (Th): The first empires in Afro-Eurasia - II

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 4, pp. 125-158.  
(HOMEWORK #2 assignment)

**Week 9: 1000-350 BCE**

22 November (Tu): Worlds Turned Inside Out - I

24 November (Th): Worlds Turned Inside Out - II

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 5, pp. 161-181  
(submit HOMEWORK #2 on **24 November**)

**Week 10: 350 BCE-250 CE**

29 November (Tu): Common cultures in Sub-saharan Africa and the Americas

1 December (Th): The emergence of a cosmopolitan world

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 5, pp. 182-199.  
(HOMEWORK #3 assignment)

**Week 11: 350 BCE-250 CE**

6 December (Tu): Converging Influences in Central and South Asia

8 December (Th): China and Rome: How empires are built and administered

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 6, pp. 203-236.  
(submit HOMEWORK #3 on **8 December**)

**Week 12: 300 BCE-300 CE**

13 December (Tu): Han Dynasty China and Imperial Rome compared

15 December (Th): The Rise of Universal Religions – I: Christianity and Roman Empire

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 7, pp. 241-277.  
(HOMEWORK #4 assignment)

**Week 13: 300-600 CE**

20 December (Tu): The Rise of Universal Religions – II: The spread of Buddhism

22 December (Th): The Rise of Universal Religions – III: The origins and spread of Islam

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 8, pp. 281-317.  
(submit HOMEWORK #4 on **22 December**)

**Week 14: 600-1000 CE**

27 December (Tu): The Rise of Universal Religions – IV: Islamic Empires and the Christian West

29 December (Th): Review

Readings: WTWA, Chapter 9, pp. 321-359.

**Final Exam: TBA**

HAVE A NICE SEMESTER!