

Course Title: Course Title: History/Religion 304: The Ancient World (3 credits)

Catalog Course Description:

Students survey the history of the ancient Mediterranean world by examining the Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine civilizations. The historical and artistic accomplishments of these ancient peoples are highlighted, with particular attention given to the development of religious thought and philosophical inquiry, archeological research, and museum studies. 3 credits.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Each Brandman University degree program has specific program learning outcomes (PLOs) which represent the most important aspects of the program. Through the use of curriculum maps, faculty have determined the level of learning for each PLO: Introductory (I); Practice (P); and Mastery (M) level. This course aligns and supports student learning at Undergraduate Level

Prerequisites:

Restrictions: None

Essential Equipment and Facilities

A. Students must have the ability to access both the Brandman website and the Blackboard portal to their class site. During the first class meeting, each student must demonstrate an ability to log on and access these and other key locations indicated by the professor. For those students accessing the web from home, it is recommended that either Windows Explorer or Mozilla Fire Fox be used as their internet browser. Both are available as free downloads. The University is now using Microsoft Office version 2007 on all its computers, and if students are using an earlier version of MS Office, they may need the free conversion software available at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en> JavaScript is also required for courses, and students should ensure JavaScript is enabled in their browser.

1. **Required Text:** Winks, Robin and Susan P. Mattern-Parkes. *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A. D. 600*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. ISBN 9780195155624
2. Nagle, Brendan D. and Stanley M. Burstein. *The Ancient World: Readings in Social and Cultural History*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010. ISBN 9780205691876

Brandman online bookstore: www.brandmanuniversity.bkstr.com

On-line Brandman library resources: <http://www1.chapman.edu/library/centers/index.html>

Course Learning Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to a comparative and analytical consideration of ancient peoples and their societies. In particular, the course focuses on the mythological and religious foundations of antiquity leading to the development of philosophical inquiry, particularly among the Greeks. In the historical context of significant events, students will explore the influential nature of the western religious/ethical traditions as the fundamental basis for societal organizations, social values, and political and economic developments of modern times.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Analyze the economic, social and political features of at least two cultures from the ancient world.
- Describe at least five landmark events and the impact on subsequent history of each.
- Discuss and evaluate the religious/ethical/philosophical construct of at least two ancient civilizations.
- Identify at least five famous individuals of the ancient world and explain the importance of each.
- Explain at least four significant concepts/examples from the ancient world that have been passed on to us as foundation elements of our cultural heritage.
- Construct a chart, diagram or visual representation on the contributions to world history on one of the following civilizations: Hellenic, Hellenistic or Roman.

Major Study Units:

1. Pre-history, archaeology, Neolithic culture, origins of writing
2. Comparative mythology of the Ancient Near East
3. Kingdoms and mighty empires of Mesopotamia and Palestine
4. Political, cultural and religious life of Ancient Egypt
5. Greek religion, philosophy, politics, and society
6. Alexander's empire and the Hellenistic world
7. Roman Republic and Empire
8. Rise of Christianity
9. Fall of Rome and the beginning of the Dark Ages

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Physical environment

- Climatic factors
- Topography
- Resources
- River valleys

2. Archeological record

- Pre-history
- Neolithic cultures
- Emerging cultural areas

3. Early civilizations

- Technological advances
- Beginnings of writing
- Timelines and key dates
- Leadership and society

4. Religion, mythology and beliefs

- Tigris-Euphrates river valley cultures
- Nile valley: Egypt
- Syrian/Palestine/ Asia Minor cultures

5. Empires and kingdoms

- Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria, Persia
- Egyptian Empire
- Hebrew, Hittite, Syrian, Phoenician cultures and states
- Crete and the coming of the Greeks

6. Classical Greece

- Background and politics
- Philosophy and religion
- Society and citizenship
- War and peace
- End of Classical Age

7. Alexander and the Hellenistic world

- Life and contributions
- Blending of Greek and Oriental cultures

8. The Roman civilization

- Growth of the Republic
- Values and beliefs
- Emergence of Empire
- Contributions and impact
- Coming of Christianity
- Problems of Empire
- Decline and Fall in the West: Empire Lives in the East

Blended Instructional Strategies: The course consists of two main elements. The first and foremost is the in class, face-to-face direct instruction element. This remains the core of our course and is a required element of successful completion of HISU/REL 304.

The second element is the BB portion of the course. It is also required of the student to participate in the BB features of the course as enumerated and described on Blackboard. Note the *topic* refers to the week's lesson on BB and in class. *Responsibility* means what the student completes applying BB to the lesson. Use your notebook/journal and/or the Discussion feature to critique the websites visited in the course of the class. Class credit is given for sharing the information in class and in writing your Reflection Essay requirements. **Note: Items may change as class unfolds. Always check with the instructor.**

Blended Student Performance Requirements:

These are the same as for the course requirements. You must complete all coursework according to the timelines and directions given for each assignment. You are required to participate in the Discussion Board questions/inquiries for each week including the last Week 8 prompt. These are of course, specific to Blackboard.

Blended Class Policies: Students are required to access Blackboard for each week of instruction and to complete required coursework as directed.

Attendance and other Class Policies:

Class participation is required. Emergency or special circumstance reasons for absence must be approved by the instructor. In the event of an emergency absence, make up work must be arranged with the instructor. Non-emergency absences will result in a final grade drop of one letter grade per absence after the second absence. Part of attendance is promptness to class and remaining the entire class meeting time. Tardiness and/or leaving class before dismissal will result in a five point loss off the final grade for each occurrence.

Methods of Evaluation for Determining Grades:

Class participation and Discussion Board activities 40 points total possible

Reflection Essays 10 points each Total of 30 points possible

Class Presentations including Week 7 30 points

Critical Analysis Book Report or Short Historical Essay Writing Paper (Optional) 10 points

Mid-Term and Final 20 points

130 Points Total

Responsibility: As a learning community of scholars, Brandman University emphasizes the ethical responsibility of all its members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Academic integrity, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Harassment are three areas that warrant special attention and should be understood and complied with by everyone in the University whether student or employee. These

policies are clearly stated in the General Information section of the *Brandman University Catalog* available at: <http://www.brandman.edu/catalog/current/>

Class by Class outline: Note: Items may change as class unfolds. Always check with the instructor.

Week 1:

Topic-Introduction to course, review documents, announcements, assignments. Study and respond to initial discussion question for the week. Be prepared to share in class.

Responsibility-Obtain texts, study first required weekly reading. Begin completion of assignments as described in timeline of due dates. Access recommended websites. Briefly explain selected visited websites in your journal. Be prepared to share in class.

Week 2:

Topic-Summarize the main geographic features of the Near/Middle East. Be prepared to identify them on a map of the area. Describe the rise of civilization in the Nile and T and E river valleys.

Responsibility-Study pages assigned for Week 2. Visit website on Egyptian Book of the Dead. Copy 10 of its major teachings in your notebook/journal. Respond to the Discussion question posted on BB. Prepare to contribute to the class participation topic on the Egyptian belief in the afterlife as a result of your research on the Book of the Dead.

Week 3:

Topic-Describe the Land between the Rivers, the Fertile Crescent. Explain the rise of civilization in Mesopotamia and its contributions to history. Compare and contrast its features and ways of life to that of ancient Egypt.

Responsibility-Search the website on the Code of Hammurabi. Select and copy four of its laws. For each law you selected, identify the issue or principle of law that was addressed. You may post your response on BB and/or in your journal/notebook for class discussion. Speculate on the concepts of equality, social justice and social structure implied in the Law Codes of Hammurabi.

Continue the weekly reading assignments handed out to you the first week of class.

Optional: Check out the recommended websites listed for you. For extra class credit, briefly explain your findings in class. Keep a record of your research in your notebook.

Week 4:

Topic-Present an overview of the civilizations and the contributions of each that rose in the Levant. Emphasize the Kingdom of the Hebrews. Introduce Minoan and Mycenaean Civilization.

Responsibility-Keep up with the weekly readings and the written assignments as per course requirements. I require a hard copy of all written work as well as the course notebook/journal. Use BB for the Discussion item below.

For Discussion, compare and contrast the Ten Commandments of the Hebrews with the Sermon on the Mount of Jesus. Explain how they are similar and how they are different. Assess how you can account for the differences considering the strong Jewish tradition and background of Jesus. Use the websites and/or the materials handed out in class.

Week 5:

Mid-term essays. Be sure to follow the format of essay writing given as a document and in class.

Week 6:

Topic: Trace the rise of the Greek city-states and the world of the Hellenes. Analyze life in Athens and Sparta: Pluralistic vs. Monolithic societies. Narrate the dramatic history of the Persian Wars and the growth of democracy in Athens. Explain what eventually happened to the city-states in relation to the rise of Macedonia; Philip and Alexander. Evaluate the contributions of Hellenistic Civilization to the modern world.

Responsibility-View the film, *Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*. List and describe each. Identify the civilization that each represents. Answer the Discussion question provided for this week. View the PowerPoint and/or websites recommended on Alexander the Great. Select what you believe is his greatest contribution to history and explain your choice. Take notes and be ready to share in class your findings.

Reminder: Be prepared for your class presentation next week.

Week 7

Topic-Class presentations on Ancient Roman Civilization

Responsibility-Keep up on readings, and written assignments and weekly BB Discussion items. Follow the directions provided at the beginning of the course for you Week 7 oral presentation.

Optional: Check out these websites. Provide feedback on Discussion or in your notebook/journal and in class on what you found. Extra credit.

Week 8

Topic-Outline the rise of the Roman Republic and the coming of the Empire period. Explain the *Pax Romana* and the contributions of the Roman Civilization to world history. Describe the causes of the Roman Empire.

Responsibility-Visit the websites posted for you. Identify two features of Roman life in each of the areas of economics, social life and politics. In Discussion, comment on how Christianity changed the daily life of the Romans toward the end of the empire.

View the film, *The Romans*. Be able to identify the chief features and contributions of the Romans to world history.

Complete Final Exam.