

# SYLLABUS HIST 2321.902.23436

## WORLD CIVILIZATION I

Spring 2026  
T 12:30-13:45  
Madla 205

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Lara

Office Location: CAB 318C

Office Hours: Tuesday 15:30-17:30; Wednesday 14:00-15:00

Other times are available by appointment.

Email: [slara@tamusa.edu](mailto:slara@tamusa.edu)

Telephone: 210-784-2809



### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the political, social, cultural, religious, economic, and intellectual history of the world from the beginning of recorded history to the end of the 1500s. This course will be selective in its regional and temporal case studies. The course examines major cultural regions of the world in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe, and their global interactions over time. Themes include myth, the spread of ancient civilizations, development of world religions, trade, gender and power, and a study of these civilizations as foundations for the modern world.

### LEARNING GOALS

**Upon successful completion of this course, students will:**

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence;
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources;
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on world history from the beginning of recorded history until the 16th Century; and
4. Develop analytical writing skills.

### COURSE MATERIALS

1. Tignor, Adelman, Aron, et al., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, Vol. 1, 6th ed. (Recommended)
2. *Gilgamesh: A New Rendering in English Verse*, rendered by David Ferry. FSG, 1992. ISBN 9781466885028
3. Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*. Dover, 1995. ISBN 9780486287621

There will be other short primary source reading assignments throughout the semester from the text or they will be provided on Blackboard.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance 10%

(3) Exams 60%

Ancient Texts Gilgamesh Quiz & Prometheus Bound Quiz 20%

Quizzes: 10%

Evaluation/Grading Scale:

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

Below 60 = F

Attendance (10%): I take attendance every class period. The course meets twice per week, so up to 2 absences are allowed. Being absent more than that will affect your attendance grade and make it difficult for you to do well in the course.

Exams (60 %): There will be 3 non-cumulative exams for this course that are scheduled on the syllabus. Exams will consist of multiple choice, True/False, short answers and essays. We will spend time in class reviewing for these exams, as well as discussing study methods and test-taking strategies. A study guide for each exam will be provided. Make-up exams must be taken within a week of the original exam. It is your responsibility to contact me for scheduling a make-up exam at the testing center or during office hours.

Ancient texts (20%): In-class quizzes based on the works, Gilgamesh and Prometheus Bound.

Quizzes (10%): There will be quizzes to assess your knowledge of the content prior to the unit exams.

## **OTHER**

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site please check it for weekly announcements. I do not post lecture notes online—you must attend class and take your own notes. If you are absent, you will need to get lecture notes from someone else in the course.

## READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE<sup>1</sup>

### Week 1: INTRODUCTION Ch. 1, 2 “Rivers, Cities, and First States, 3500-2000 BCE”

Class meets January 20



1. Introduction *Welcome; syllabus distribution*
2. Start lecture on Mesopotamia & Egypt
3. Read first 30 pages Gilgamesh (tablet 1-tablet 4)

### Week 2: “Rivers, Cities, and First States, 3500-2000 BCE”

Class Meets January 27



1. Read Gilgamesh next 30 pages before come to class (tablet 4-tablet 11)
2. Lecture Mesopotamia & Egypt

---

<sup>1</sup> The Instructor reserves the right to modify the readings and assignments of the course as needed.

3. Read for class: Early law codes, Hammurabi's Code & the Ten Commandments. What issues do these codes attempt to legislate and what types of social distinctions (class, gender) do these codes reveal?
4. Watch Clip on Book of the Dead; The Book of the Dead for class discussion (BB)

## Week 3: Nomads, Territorial States and Microsocieties 2000-1200 BCE, Ch. 3

Class meets February 3



1. Finish reading Gilgamesh before come to class (tablet 11-12)
2. Lecture Territorial States of Mesopotamia/Egypt; start First Empires lecture
3. Gilgamesh Quiz (10 questions based on reading) followed by discussion of reading and wrapping up

## Week 4: First Empires and Common Cultures in Afro-Eurasia, 1250-325 BCE, Ch. 4

Class meets February 10



1. Lecture on The Neo-Assyrian and Persian Empires, Greeks, Phoenicians, Israelites
2. Quiz 1

## Week 5: Exam 1

Class meets February 17

1. Exam 1: Exam 1: Bring Scantron Form No. 882-E, a "green" book, and a number 2 pencil



Week 6: Worlds Turned Inside Out, 1000-350 BCE, Ch. 5



Class meets February 24

1. Lecture on the Axial Age: Confucius, Daoism, South Asia & Varna System; Jainism; Buddhism
2. Major ideas: what is the axial age? Who are these philosophers and religious leaders. Read for preparation: be able to compare similarities and differences between thinkers, what do you know about the political context for each thinker, what is radical about their ideas?
3. Start Prometheus Bound reading, first half (1-23 pgs)

Week 7: Greek Culture, Prometheus Bound

Class meets March 3



1. Finish Prometheus Bound reading before coming to class (24-47); Prometheus Bound Quiz today and discussion

Week 8: Spring Break: No class March 10

Week 9: Han Dynasty China & Imperial Rome, 300 BCE-300 CE, Ch 7

Class meets March 17



1. Lecture on Globalizing Empires: The Roman Empire
2. Major Ideas: Compare similarities and differences between Han China and Rome to analyzing the political and domestic order

Week 10: The Rise of Universalizing Religions, 300-600 CE, Ch. 8

Class Meets March 24



1. Lecture on Universalizing Religions

Week 11: Finish the Rise of Universalizing Religions, 300-600 CE, Ch. 8

Class meets March 31

1. Quiz 2
2. Lecture on The Transformation of Hinduism

Week 12: Exam 2

Class Meets April 7

Week 13: New Empires and Common Cultures, 600-1000 CE, Ch 9

Class Meets April 14



1. Lecture on Islam & the Emergence of European Christendom
2. Before class watch documentary on Sacred Journeys

Week 14: Becoming “The World,” 1000-1300 CE, Ch 10; Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia, 1300-1500, Ch 11

Class meets April 21



1. Lecture on Developing Maritime Trade, Sub-Saharan Africa & Americas, and Mongol Transformation of Afro-Eurasia
2. Lecture on The Black Death & Western Christendom
3. Quiz 3

Week 15: Exam 3

Class Meets April 28

1. \*Exam 3



# Texas A&M University San Antonio Important Policies and Resources



## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

### University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at [helpdesk@tamusa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamusa.edu) or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

### Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the website or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

### Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing

[tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784- 1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.

The [TELUS Student Support App](#) provides a variety of mental health resources to include 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

## Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our](#)

[website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

## Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

## Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the **Student Services tab**. Click on **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an **Online Appointment**. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

## Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their

performance in the course, is urged to [submit a CARE report for support](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

## Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

## Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

## The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

## Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this

statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu). Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

## Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784- 2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18



years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamusa.edu) or call (210) 784-2636.

## Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

### Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

### Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).

## Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.

## Artificial Intelligence Policy

### Option 1: No Use of Generative AI Permitted HIST 2321.902

This assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring

a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.