

YALOVA UNIVERSITY-DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-2021-2022

Course Name/Code	: History of Civilizations– CIR 101
Instructor	: N. Nevra Esentürk, Assoc. Prof.
Course Hours	: Wednesday, 10:00-13:00 (Online Classes)
Office Hours	: Tuesday, 14:00-16:00
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Aim of The Course

The main objective of this introductory course is to present a different reading of the world history with a specific focus on the roots of the modern international society as we know today. In doing so, the instructor will try to simplify many historical events in order to avoid distractions of unnecessary historical details. The instructor will ask the students to take a critical stance toward history and urge them to understand that the history we know may well be one of many alternative readings. During the semester, the instructor will ask rhetorical questions to students to help them realize the make-up of heavily Western-oriented interpretation of world political history.

Note: This is basically the introduction phase of a four-semester process. This course will lay down the framework until 1648 Westphalian Accords. The course outcomes will be complete after taking the following three semesters. The contemporary world politics of the 20th century will be evaluated in the sophomore year courses.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. Understand the meaning of historical determinism and avoid it
2. Realize that the modern world is a culmination of many geographical areas
3. Be capable of simplifying complex historical events through cause-effect analysis
4. Pinpoint major turning points in world history and relate them in their geographical setting
5. Have an understanding about the roots of the international society and create linkages between certain behavioral patterns of today and their historical counterparts
6. Realize that the key concept of legitimacy shaped the behavioral patterns of different civilizations

Method

The teaching method is mainly based on lectures. In order to increase student interest the instructor may ask questions for bonuses. Power Point presentations as well as student input from the textbook will be crucial in order to reach course outcomes.

Textbooks

1. A History of the Modern World to 1815, R. R. Palmer, J. Colton, L. Kramer (McGraw Hill, 2007).
2. The Evolution of International Society, Adam Watson (Routledge, 1997).
3. History: From the Dawn of Civilization to the Present Day, Adam Hart-Davis, (London, New York, Melbourne, Munich, and Delhi: Dorling Kindersley, 2012).

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Schedule Changes:

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including: assignments, case studies, timetable, examinations, etc., in order to accommodate the needs of the class as a whole and fulfill the goals of the course.

Content of the Course

Week	Unit	Topic
Week 1	History, Geography	Introduction and Critical Discussions
Week 2	Roots of International Society	Western and other roots of International Society
Week 3	Sumer, Assyria and Ancient Mesopotamia	The original state and empire; core vs. periphery pattern
Week 4	Persia, Classical Greece, Macedonian Impact	Rise of empire, rise of Mediterranean, east-west linkages
Week 5	India and Egypt	Inputs from other civilizations, beyond Mesop. And Medit.
Week 6	Roman Empire	Climax of classical empire
Week 7	Islamic System, Byzantine Empire	Adaptation of many traditions
Week 8	MIDTERM	
Week 9	Transition to European State System	Medieval Europe, Early and Middle Ages
Week 10	The Early Rise of Europe	High Middle Ages
Week 11	European Upheaval	Renaissance in Italy and Europe
Week 12	Seeking Hegemony in Europe	Habsburg bid for dominance and reactions
Week 13	Protestant Reformation and Age of Explorations	100 years Wars and Results
Week 14	Scientific Revolution and Age of Enlightenment	Scientific Revolution

Evaluation Methods and Tools

Examinations will cover material presented in class and in the textbook.

A summary of the grading follows:

Midterm: 40% -Final Exam: 60%

Class Participation and Homework

Students are encouraged to ask questions to clarify understanding and to discuss and debate the theories, principles, and concepts from the text, case studies, and lectures. Students will be expected to participate in class and will be called upon on a regular basis.

To be successful in the course, the student should complete all homework assignments and should expect to spend a minimum of 3-4 hours per week on homework and other class projects.