

**Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College**

Course Title: World History to 1500
Prefix and Course Number: HIST 106

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Articulate that history is interpretive and that workable historical narratives can be constructed from published narratives, scholarly websites, primary written documents, oral history, film, art, music and archaeology.
- Articulate a sense of Historical Mindedness: that is, striving to understand earlier times and societies through their own values and assumptions, not those of the present.
- Identify and analyze from a global perspective the cultural, economic and political connections and differences of societies up to 1500.
- Identify and describe the tenets, geographic scope, and social significance of the major faith traditions, including, but not limited to Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam.
- Identify and describe the relationship between the state and the individual among world societies before 1500.

Course Outline:

- I. Deep history-500 B.C.E.
 - A. Introduction: what history is
 - B. The Agricultural Revolutions
 - C. Emergence of the First Societies
 - D. Rise of the State
 - E. Mesopotamia and Egypt
- II. 500 B.C.E.-500 C.E. The Classical Era
 - A. Greco-Persian Wars
 - B. Classical Greece
 - C. Alexander and the Hellenistic Era
 - D. Comparing Empires: Rome, China, India
 - E. South Asian Religion
 - F. Monotheism in the Middle East
 - G. Slavery and Society
- III. 500-C.E.-1500 C.E. The Age of Connections
 - A. The Americas
 - 1. Mesoamerica
 - 2. The Andes
 - 3. North America
 - B. Africa

1. East Africa and Swahili Civilization
2. Trade and Empire in West Africa
- C. East Asia
 1. Reemergence of a Unified China
 2. China and the Eurasian World Economy
 3. China and Buddhism
 4. Korea, Vietnam, and Japan
- D. Europe
 1. Christian Divergences between East and West
 2. Western Christendom in the Wake of Roman Collapse
 3. Social, political Life in Western Europe, 500-1300
 4. Eastern Christendom
 - a. The Byzantine State
 - b. The Byzantine Church
- E. South Asia and the Middle East
 1. India
 2. The Birth of Islam
 - a. An Arab Empire
 - b. Islam and India
 - c. Anatolia, West Africa, and Spain
- F. The Crusades
- G. The Mongol Empire
 1. China, Persia, Russia vs. the Mongols
 2. The Mongol Empire as a Eurasian Network
- H. The Plague: A Eurasian Pandemic
- I. European State Building
 1. Nation/State Building
 2. The Renaissance
- J. World Societies in the late Middle Ages
 1. Comparing World Societies as of the 15th century
 2. Commercial Exchanges across the Indian Ocean
 3. Commercial Exchanges across Eurasia
 4. First Maritime Explorations