

HIS 1011-1

World Civilizations II

Department of History & Political Science • Point Loma Nazarene University

3 Units • Spring 2026

Course	HIS 1011-1: World Civilizations II (3 units)
Section	1
Term	Spring 2026
Meeting Day & Time	Mondays, 5:30–6:45 p.m.
Location	See Canvas / Workday for room assignment
Instructor	Paul Hadjipieris, Ed.D.
Email	phadjipi@pointloma.edu
Learning Platform	Canvas (log in with PLNU Active Directory credentials)

Course Description

This course is a survey of world societies from the era of European voyages of discovery to the formation of a global civilization in the late twentieth century. While discussing a wide array of places and times, we will focus on themes that explore the connections between societies. These themes include the development and influence of ideas and ideologies; the impact of various forms of political and religious organization; and the causes and consequences of both violence and non-violence. Underlying all of these themes is a consistent question: How does this add to our understanding of the world as we know it today?

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is grounded in multiple learning theories that challenge patterns of inequality in the college classroom. Adams and Love (2009) provide a framework from which to analyze and address the complexities of teaching and learning in diverse classrooms. The model encourages deep reflection about teaching and challenges me to make informed pedagogical decisions with a goal toward eliminating barriers to student learning that result from common ideologies and practices that privilege some students and exclude others.

Teaching Strategy

This course will be taught using a variety of teaching methods, from collaborative group work to the analysis of primary documents. It is designed to build both the writing and analytical skills you need to engage with the critical issues that have driven world events from 1500 to the present. The main goals of this course are not only to help you interpret historical documents, but also to think critically about how and why events transpired as they did. Ultimately, I want you to enjoy yourself, challenge one another, think twice about your worldview, and provide evidence-based reasons for the positions you hold.

This course will be action-oriented, designed to support, strengthen, accelerate, and enhance your knowledge, skills, and comprehension of this period. I am more interested in how you think than in your ability to memorize names, dates, and places. Each week we will seek to answer, deconstruct, and wrestle with several Big Essential Questions. Please begin to consider the Essential Questions below, as they map onto each week and align with the class material.

Big Essential Questions

- Is there ever such a thing as a “just” war?
- How do decisions, actions, and consequences vary depending on the perspectives of the people involved?
- How does conflict lead to change?
- How would we define a utopian society?
- When does a government have the right to restrict the freedoms of its people?
- Is freedom still free when it emancipates some at the expense of others?

Inclusion Statement

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationality. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me early so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Course Expectations

What I expect of you	What you can expect of me
Be informed. Read this syllabus carefully and completely so you understand the course structure and expectations.	Enthusiasm. To be prepared for each class and to bring my enthusiasm for teaching to every learning interaction.
Be attuned. Keep up with the readings and assignments, as each one builds on the last.	Responsiveness. To respond to emails within 24 hours. Those who know me know I usually reply faster. Emails received on weekends or while I am traveling may take longer.
Be ethical. Maintain a good attitude and honest, ethical principles toward me, your classmates, and the course. Please read the PLNU Principles of Community and Conduct Code.	Timely feedback. To make every effort to return graded assignments within one week of the submission date.
Act with integrity. Bring an honest, fair, responsible, respectful, trustworthy, and courageous effort to all academic work and collaboration. Please read the PLNU Policy on Integrity of Scholarship.	Integrity. To uphold integrity standards and create an atmosphere that fosters active learning, creativity, critical thinking, and honest collaboration.

What I expect of you	What you can expect of me
Be flexible. Occasionally my schedule is affected by unavoidable work travel, which may require last-minute office-hour rescheduling.	Reasonable accommodation. To extend understanding for situations that arise, while not making exceptions for one person that are unavailable to everyone else in the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze significant primary texts concerning world civilizations from the 1500s to the present.
2. Evaluate and articulate the diversity of human experience across a range of historical periods.
3. Use a historical perspective to understand the world today and address contemporary problems and issues.
4. Critically evaluate, in groups, several of the major beliefs, ideologies, and values that have influenced the modern world.
5. Assess your own culture and the cultures of others within the context of globalization since 1500.
6. Examine historical developments with particular emphasis on values and ethical choices, in light of being global citizens.

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

General Education Mission Statement

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.

Course Assessments & Grading

Canvas (Learning Management System): All course materials, assignments, and submissions are managed in Canvas. Log in with your PLNU Active Directory credentials.

Summary of Grade Criteria

Assignment	Weight
Online Interactive Lessons on Canvas (x13)	40%

Assignment	Weight
Final Project: Historical Investigation	20%
Ignite Talk (x2)	20%
Attendance & Engagement	20%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	B	C	D	F
90–100%	80–89%	70–79%	60–69%	59% and below

Grading Procedure and Feedback

You will be provided with rubrics for all of your assignments, and we will take time in class to review how to engage with a rubric correctly. Please read my feedback carefully, as it will greatly help you do well in this class. When I see that you are trying hard and responding thoughtfully to my commentary, you will do well. I am not worried about wrong answers; I am interested in the effort and thought that go into your work. A vital part of learning is making mistakes and growing from them.

Attendance and Participation

We will be building a learning community in our class, and the design of the course will allow you to engage with the material and with one another in a safe and supportive environment. I do not take formal attendance; however, to be successful and do well on the weekly assignments, you will need to be present. If you are unable to attend for any reason, you will have the opportunity to complete equivalent work through Canvas so that you are not disadvantaged. If you are experiencing any issues at all, please contact me right away so that we can discuss options to support you.

Late or Missing Assignments

All work is submitted via Canvas, and automatic reminders will be sent to assist you in your planning. A major outcome for this course is to support you in becoming a self-directed learner; accordingly, I will work with you directly to balance this course with your other commitments. If you miss or are late for a deadline, I will schedule a meeting with you so that we can work together to ensure your success in this course.

Historical Activities

The Historical Activities give you the opportunity to take field trips of your choosing. You can experience various aspects of history in the places where they actually happened, watch historical films, or hear guest speakers, and then reflect on those experiences. Detailed information will be given in class and on Canvas.

Course Text

Please [click here](#) to access scanned pages of the course text.

Course Policies

All students can and should succeed in this course, so please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you. Please speak with me as soon as possible if any problems arise or if you have questions about how to succeed in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

Please talk with me as soon as possible if, for whatever reason, you are having trouble completing your work, so that we can find the best solution. All assignments are to be submitted by the beginning of the class session in which they are due, unless otherwise indicated on Canvas. Incompletes will be assigned only in extremely unusual circumstances. There are no make-up quizzes or online discussions, since those are designed to help you come prepared to class. If papers, projects, or activities are turned in late, they will be subject to a 10% penalty per day. Please ask me for more information if you believe you will need to turn in an assignment late.

Laptops and Cell Phones

Please use a device that will support your learning. This course is a technology-enhanced curriculum, and you will complete much of your work in Canvas. If you have any technology issues, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can devise a plan together.

Final Examination Policy

This course does not have a final exam. Your culminating work is the Final Project: Historical Investigation.

University Policies

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the U.S. Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of the kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

Students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications, or auxiliary aids and services. At PLNU, these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an academic adjustment plan (AP). The DRC will email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If a student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member may file a written report that could result in de-enrollment. If absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. Students are expected to do two hours of preparation for each hour spent in class.

Please note: all communication outside of class will be sent to your PLNU email account. It is absolutely necessary that you regularly check your email and Canvas for any announcements regarding this class.

Campus Resources

PLNU Tutorial Center

The PLNU Tutorial Center offers free support for undergraduate students, including tutoring, test-taking techniques, and writing assistance. Schedule appointments 24 hours in advance. See more at pointloma.edu/offices/tutorial-services.

The Wellness Center

The Wellness Center provides medical, counseling, and nutrition services for undergraduate students. It is located on the first floor of Nicholson Commons. Contact: sdwellnesscenter@pointloma.edu or (619) 849-2574. In an emergency after hours, call 911 and PLNU Public Safety at (619) 849-2525. See more at pointloma.edu/offices/wellness-center.

Title IX at PLNU

PLNU strives to provide a learning environment free from unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment. Detailed information on policies and reporting processes is available at pointloma.edu/title-ix. As your instructor, I have a mandatory reporting responsibility and am required to share information I receive regarding sexual harassment or discrimination with PLNU's Title IX Coordinator. Students can receive confidential support from the Wellness Center (619-849-2574) or campus pastors in the Office of Spiritual Development (619-849-2655).

Course Outline — Spring 2026

Our class meets on **Mondays, 5:30–6:45 p.m.** Each week we will engage the Big Essential Questions through readings, primary-source analysis, and discussion.

Date	Session	Theme & Focus
Jan 12	Welcome + Week 1	Introduction to World Civilization & Global Exploration
Jan 20	Week 2	Reformation, Scientific Revolution, and Enlightenment
Jan 26	Week 3	The “New” World and the Atlantic World
Feb 2	Week 4	Political and Social Change in East Asia and the Islamic Empires
Feb 9	Week 5	The American and French Revolutions
Feb 16	Week 6	Global Human Rights Movements
Feb 23	Week 7	Industrialization and Nationalism
Mar 2	Week 8	Nationalism and Imperialism
Mar 9	Week 9	The Age of Imperialism and the Road to War
Mar 16	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess / Easter Break — No Class (confirm exact week on the official PLNU calendar)</i>
Mar 23	Week 10	From World War I to the Second World War
Mar 30	Week 11	World War II
Apr 6	Week 12	The Cold War and the Late Twentieth Century
Apr 13	Week 13	Globalization and Our World Today
Apr 20	Week 14	Final Project Presentations — Historical Investigation Due

Note: This schedule follows the official PLNU Spring 2026 Academic Calendar (classes begin January 12, 2026). The Spring Recess / Easter Break week, the final-project due date, and any campus holidays should be confirmed against the official calendar and are subject to change. Any adjustments will be announced in class and on Canvas.