HIS 1010: WORLD CIVILIZATIONS I
Fall 2026

Instructor: Professor William Wood
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Hours: Generally, between 1:30 and 5:00, M/F; T/R 8-11:00 (or anytime you can catch me)

Course Objectives and Outcomes

As the twenty-first century progresses, we find ourselves living in an increasingly interdependent world. How has this come about and why is it important? In this course we will examine the development of cross-civilizational exchange from the fairly isolated civilizations of antiquity to the dawning of truly world-wide interaction at the beginning of the sixteenth century. We will look for how things have stayed the same ("tradition"), as well as how change has come about, especially via encounters with other societies. In so doing we will emphasize Western Civilization, while not overlooking the developments and contributions of other cultures around the globe. (In other words, in learning about the past you have an opportunity to engage in study abroad on the cheap—engaging with different cultures and different ways humans look at and understand the world without leaving our campus. What a deal!)

Our official learning outcomes are that students will be able to:

1. analyze significant primary texts concerning early world civilizations.
2. evaluate political, geographic, economic, social, cultural, religious, and intellectual institutions, structures, and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. identify and analyze traditions of citizenship and governmental responsibilities to citizens.
4. develop effective communication skills by sharing their interpretations of the past in a variety of written and/or oral assignments.
5. examine historical developments with a particular emphasis on values and ethical choices, in light of being responsible citizens. And finally…

General Education Learning Outcome #2C
Students who complete this GE course will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts**.** Assessed with a signature assignment (essay question).

Text

McNeill, J.R. *The Webs of Humankind: A World History*. **Seagull Second Edition**. Volume **One**. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2024.

Assignments and Expectations

1. Regular class attendance is essential for your success in this course and is therefore **REQUIRED.** Common courtesy dictates that you let me know in advance if you must miss a class for an excused absence as described in the current catalog. **Note that you will automatically lose 5 points for each unexcused absence**. In addition, there will be a **50 point "bonus" deduction (approximately one full letter grade) should you compile seven absences for any reason (both excused and unexcused).**

2. You will be expected to complete the reading assignments listed in your course calendar before coming to class.

3. Throughout the semester I will be using the "InQuizitive" feature supplied by the textbook publisher Norton. This online homework will quiz you over the assigned reading and will be due before the start of class, often (but not always) at the beginning of the week. You will access this feature through Canvas.

4. Two Mid-terms and a final examination (see calendar for dates and times) will be given. You must take these on the day and time listed. **No exceptions to accommodate travel plans will be considered. Don't even ask!**

5. Classroom participation is important and therefore will have significant impact on your grade in this course. This includes primarily contributions to classroom discussions, but also, for those on the shy side, "alertness." It is an entirely subjective evaluation based on how I feel about you. Deal with it. Be advised that I do **NOT** allow the use of **computers** or **any other electronic devices** (cell phones, i-Anything, etc.) in this class. Should you choose to ignore this policy your grade will suffer accordingly. As an additional check I will give random "pop" quizzes, at the beginning, middle, and/or end of class—just to mess with you. Again, deal with it.

6. Enrichment Projects: All students will complete several additional projects and exercises throughout the semester to enhance their history skills. This includes, most significantly, visiting the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park and viewing specific exhibits (see instructions on Canvas). If, for some reason, you are unable to visit this museum, I will provide an online alternative. **However, you MUST notify me of your request for this option by November 11** (the day of the second mid-term exam).

7. The course grade will be calculated approximately as follows:

Mid-term Exam I	20%
Mid-term Exam II	20%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance & Participation	15%
Projects/Tutorials/Exercises	5%
InQuizitive Homework	10%

8. **Note well:** Academic dishonesty on any exam, quiz or assignment in this class will result in your failure of the entire course— don't even think about it!

9. All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who have submitted appropriate documentation to the Educational Access Center (EAC) and may need accommodations should discuss options with the EAC during the first two weeks of class. The EAC, at the request of the student, will then contact the instructor with suggested classroom strategies and recommended academic accommodations for this course. Approved documentation must be on file in the EAC prior to the beginning of the semester.

Course Calendar

(Note: This is a best guess only. You will be held responsible for any changes made and announced in class, including handouts and additional readings).

Day	Date	Topic	Readings
M	AUG 31	Course Introduction	None Assigned
W	SEPT 2	History Why and How	WH: xxxiv-xlvii
F	SEPT 4	Agriculture & Neolithic Revolution	WH: 34-54
M	SEPT 7	**Labor Day—No Class**	
W	SEPT 9	Herders	WH: 59-79; *97ff*
F	SEPT 11	Complex Society	WH: 79-95
M	SEPT 14	Mesopotamia	WH: 101-132
W	SEPT 16	Hebrews	WH: 126-128
F	SEPT 18	Indus Valley	WH: 132-140
M	SEPT 21	Ancient Egypt	WH: 146-167
W	SEPT 23	Early India	WH: 167-178
F	SEPT 25	Rise of Buddhism	WH: 178-186
M	SEPT 28	Persia and early Greece	WH: 192-201
W	SEPT 30	Classical Greece	WH: 201-217
F	OCT 2	Alexander and Hellenism	WH: 218-228
M	OCT 5	*Catch-up/Review*	
W	OCT 7	**Mid-term Exam I**	
F	OCT 9	Early East Asia	WH: 235-254
M	OCT 12	Confucius and Chinese Thought	WH: 254-261
W	OCT 14	Classical China	WH: 261-274
F	OCT 16	Roman Republic	WH: 282-301
M	OCT 19	Pax Romana	WH: 302-312
W	OCT 21	Christ and Christianity	WH: 312-320
F	OCT 23	**NO CLASS—Fall Break**	
M	OCT 26	Frontiers: Africa	WH: 329-348
W	OCT 28	Frontiers: Europe	WH: 348-364
F	OCT 30	Isolation: Americas	WH: 371-401/409
M	NOV 2	Fall of Rome in the West	WH: 415-431
W	NOV 4	Byzantium and the East	WH: 432-441
F	NOV 6	Muhammad and Islam	WH: 441-449

M	NOV 9	Islamic Conquest	WH: 449-457
W	NOV 11	**Mid-term Exam II**	
F	NOV 13	Tang & Song China	WH: 464-488
M	NOV 16	East Asian Web	WH: 488-493
W	NOV 18	Mongol Empire	WH: 494-503
F	NOV 20	India	WH: 510-528
M	NOV 23	Indian Ocean World and Trade	WH: 528-548
W	NOV 25	**NO CLASS**	
F	NOV 27	**NO CLASS**	
M	NOV 30	West End: Politics	WH: 555-571
W	DEC 2	West End: Conflicts	WH: 572-584
F	DEC 4	West End: Economy & Culture	WH: 584-594
M	DEC 7	Crisis and Recovery	WH: 594-598
W	DEC 9	Exploration & Convergence	WH: 652-676
F	DEC 11	*Catch-up/Review*	

Final Exam: Section 3 (11:00) – Friday, December 18, 10:30-1:00
Section 4 (12:15) – Monday, December 14, 10:30-1:00

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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Foundational Explorations Mission

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 culture.

Department of History and Political Science Mission:

As followers of Christ, the Department of History and Political Science promotes wisdom and scholarship about historical contexts and political systems, so that graduates can become local and global leaders in the service of Christ and humanity.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY⊛

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY ⊛

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US 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, and/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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Final Examination Policy⊛

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.