

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**HIST 101H:  
World Civilization I - Honors**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: **HIST 101H- World Civilization I -- Honors**
- B. New or Modified Course: **Modified Course**
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall                      Year: 2024
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2025
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours:                      Lecture: 3  
   Laboratory: 0  
   Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. ☒ Prerequisite (s): Placement into ENGL111 English Composition I with ENGL070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher
- I. Additional Fees: None

**II. Catalog Description**

Placement into ENGL111 English Composition I with ENGL070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher

In HIST101, students will learn about the history of the world, beginning with the first surviving written records (~3000 BCE) and ending in 1500 CE, which many consider to be the beginning of the modern period. We will approach premodern history from a global perspective, with focus on non-European cultures, religions, and empires. This course asks students to consider how humans perceived and remembered themselves and their communities in the premodern era. Students will also be challenged to consider how perceptions of the natural world, law, religious precepts, philosophical perspectives, gender constructs, the environment, the administration of power, and constructions of identity shaped the development of the major civilizations of the ancient world. Finally,

students will consider how 21st century articulations of the premodern past are often inaccurate, misleading, and even weaponized to serve modern political agendas and ideological ends.

### III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The Honors section of the course will provide an opportunity for students interested in premodern history to engage more deeply with the topic, gaining both methodological skills and content knowledge. Many honors students are interested in taking history survey courses at the honors level but are limited in the choices available to them. In addition, there are not many honors courses that offer students the opportunity to study content from the premodern era with honors level rigor. This course would give students the opportunity to study geographical areas and chronological periods that are currently underrepresented in the Honors College curriculum. Students who successfully complete HIST101 Honors will be prepared to engage in original, responsible, and critical historical research in their future academic career.
- B. This course does not have a lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a History / Humanities general education course.

### IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities, History, and Global and Cultural Awareness.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for a Liberal Arts, A.A.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### V. Outline of Course Content

This course explores the following topics:

- A. An introduction to the discipline of history and the historiography of the study of “Civilization”
- B. The emergence of human records, consciousness, and tribal identity
- C. The development of writing and its impact on human memory
- D. Early creation narratives and the human impulse to understand the cosmos
- E. Domestic labor and gender roles in premodern societies
- F. Early law codes and the rise of urban centers
- G. Philosophy and the self in the Axial Age
- H. Bureaucracy, meritocracy, and education in Premodern China
- I. Democracy, Republicanism, and political experimentation in the early Mediterranean
- J. The rise of empires and global economic communities
- K. The emergence of monotheistic and proselytizing religions

- L. The empires of premodern Mesoamerica
- M. The peoples of Pre-Columbian North America and the Caribbean
- N. Autonomy and trade in premodern West Africa
- O. The rise of feudalism, local power, and warring states in Europe and Japan
- P. Religious warfare in the Medieval Mediterranean
- Q. Exploration and cross-cultural encounter at the end of the Middle Ages

## VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and locate primary and secondary sources to be used in explaining the past. (GE 1, 7, IL,\*)
2. Research historical questions with appropriate methodologies and then logically, persuasively, and responsibly state findings in a written analysis. (GE 1, 7)
3. Articulate clear, independent, and logical reasoning regarding historical problems (GE1, 5, 7)
4. Analyze evidence in order to evaluate historical events and their connection to the present. (GE 7\*)
5. Compare and contrast features of various cultures and historical periods (GE 7, 8)  
\*embedded critical thinking

### B. Assessment Instruments

1. research paper
2. projects
3. exams
4. presentations
5. discussion questions
6. class participation

## VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. tests
- D. presentations

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers

- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study
- G. primary source analysis papers
- H. student lead discussion

#### VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. suggested textbook
- B. primary sources
- C. journals
- D. reviews
- E. audio sources
- F. web sources

#### IX. Resources

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

Textbook: Jeremy Adelman, Elizabeth Pollard, and Robert Tignor. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, Vol. 1, with Sources (7th edition). New York: W.W. Norton Publishing Company, 2024.

X. Check One: ☒ Honors Course ☐ Honors Options ☐ N/A

The Honors version of HIST101 offers students the opportunity to explore global premodern history in a research seminar format, which relies more heavily on student-led discussion and less on traditional lectures than the non-Honors version of the course. The students in HIST101 Honors will be challenged to analyze historical sources and synthesize modern academic scholarship to a greater extent than their counterparts in HIST101.