

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Humanities & Social Sciences

Programme: International History

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: World Cultural History

Course Code: HIST 4103

Total Hours: 160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 15

Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credit 16 UK CATS credits

8 ECTS credits

4 UK credits

Course Description:

This course surveys ancient cultures from the Bronze and Iron Ages, introducing students to the rich diversity of early civilisations and the parallels in their development. Students will explore how politics, religion, art, trade and beliefs influenced these civilisations, shaping their societies and cultures. Through analysis of both material and textual evidence, students will learn to engage critically with primary and secondary sources, enhancing their understanding of key historical processes, including the rise of states, the formation of empires and constructions of identity in the ancient world. The course will emphasize the study of early state formation, trade networks, and cross-cultural interactions, while fostering critical thinking and skills of historical analysis.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To study a range of themes in international history from the early Bronze Age to around 200 CE.
- To engage with the interaction of politics, arts, ideologies and the economy in shaping the development of material culture across a range of different societies.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history.
- To foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:

4AI; 4BI; 4CI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Critically read both primary and secondary sources at an introductory level.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how cultural processes vary across time and space, and how these processes interact with other social, political and economic developments.
- Demonstrates broad communication skills (including digital literacy) in deploying ideas and information to in a range of different formats and media.

Indicative Content:

- Historical overview of cultures of the Bronze and Iron Ages
- Using archaeology and associated fields in the study of ancient history
- An introduction to historiographical debates around the subject
- Women and Gender in the Ancient World
- Trade, Conflict, Material Culture, Religion, Slavery, Resource management and Politics of early world civilizations

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Feng, L. (2013) *Early China: A Social and Cultural History*. Cambridge University Press.
- Frankopan, P. (2023) *The Earth Transformed*. Bloomsbury.
- Graeber, D. and Wengrow, D. (2021) *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*. Penguin.
- Scarre, C., Fagan, B. and Golden, C. (2021) *Ancient Civilizations. 5th Ed*. Routledge.
- Wright, R. (2010) *The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society*. Cambridge University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	