

COURSE OUTLINE

HIST-121

The Ancient World

(Prehistory to the Middle Ages)

3 Semester Hours

(History and Social and Behavioral Science Core)

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The student will be able to describe the history and development of early world civilizations through the 13th century. The student will be able to identify and analyze the major political, economic, and intellectual movements that influenced these civilizations. The student will be able to analyze and discuss, from primary and secondary sources, the impact of Middle Eastern, Asian, African, and Classical cultures had on Western Civilization. This course was formerly HIST-101. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Major Course Goals

1. To identify the major centers of early civilizations.
2. To describe the economic and social conditions leading to the neolithic revolution.
3. To describe the "hearths" of the ancient world.
4. To describe the characteristics of the development of civilizations.
5. To compare and contrast the various ancient civilizations in terms of their unique institutions.
6. To analyze the ancient civilizations of Africa, Asia, India, and the Middle East.
7. To analyze and evaluate the possible influence of African and Near Eastern culture on Greece.
8. To describe the characteristics of Greek and Roman culture.
9. To evaluate the impact of Roman and Christian culture on Europe.
10. To describe the rise of Islam.
11. To evaluate the relationship of Islamic culture to that of Eastern and Western Europe.
12. To describe the institutions and culture of the Middle Ages.

Major Topics

- I. Old Stone Age to New Stone Age
 - A. Economic and Social Structure of Food Gatherers
 - B. Development of agriculture
 - C. Locations of Such Development

- II. Civilizations
 - A. Characteristics of Civilizations
 - 1. Economy
 - 2. Institutions
 - 3. Development of writing
 - 4. Transition to urban life
 - B. Locations of Early Civilizations
 - C. Characteristics of These Civilizations

- III. Interaction Among Cultures
 - A. Mesopotamia and Egypt
 - B. Isolation vs. Expansion
 - C. Development of a Mediterranean World

- IV. Ancient Greece

- V. Ancient Rome

- VI. Byzantine Culture

- VII. Arabia and Islam
 - A. Characteristics of Islam
 - B. Arabic Expansion
 - C. Influence of Arabic and Islamic Culture on Europe

- VIII. The Middle Ages

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty and will include specified reading assignments and written exams.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 2,500 words of formal writing.

Other Course Information:

This course is a core general education course and is also a social science and arts and sciences elective.