

HIS 101
Ancient Mesopotamia to Early Modern Europe

Summer Session-I

Satisfies: GLO, SBS

Instructor: Nathan Greenhaw

Online Synchronous

In this course, we will trace the rise and fall of empires, the clash of civilizations, and the formation of Mediterranean and European societies from antiquity to 1789. Students will examine primary and secondary historical sources from the ancient world (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome), the Middle Ages (Latin, Greek, and Muslim kingdoms), and early modern Europe (England, France, and more) to develop the tools necessary for basic historical investigation: formulating questions, examining, gathering, and interpreting evidence, communicating your thoughts and findings to others, and ultimately organizing your work into coherent hypotheses that add something new to the conversation. In doing so, we will trace the evolution of ideas on empire, religion, culture, science, government, and even “civilization” itself to show how pre-modern peoples viewed their world and interacted with those around them. This exploration will also help students to understand how the pre-modern period was not a time marred by decline or stagnation, as has been so often articulated in previous centuries, but rather an era of immense intellectual, social, political, and cultural transformation that has shaped our world in the present day. Course expectations will be the following: students will meet for online synchronous lectures each week, accompanied by a recitation dedicated to reading and examining primary sources. Grades will be based on participation in both lecture and recitation, weekly responses to the material discussed in recitation on Brightspace, and a midterm essay and final paper.