

HST122 - Course Syllabus

Portland Community College | 12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland, OR 97219 | (971) 722-6111

Course Information

- **Course Title:** World History, Medieval and Early Modern
- **Course Number:** HST 122
- **CRN:**
- **Term:** Winter 2025
- **Class Meetings:**
- **Class Location:** Sylvania Campus
- **Credit Hours:** 4
- **Prerequisites:** WR 115, RD 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement test scores.

Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Chris Brooks, PhD
- **Email:** christopher.brooks3@pcc.edu
- **Phone:** 971-722-4094 (email preferred)
- **Office Hours:**
- **Office Location:** Sylvania, SS 201, office T

Response from Instructor

Emails sent on weekdays will be answered within 24 hours. Emails sent over the weekend or holiday will be answered by the following scheduled school day at the latest.

Course Description

Explores the history of the medieval and early modern world from 1000 CE to 1750 CE. Includes historical topics drawn from among the early modern histories of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania, focusing on interactions between peoples, states, and cultures.

Intended Outcomes for the Course

1. Apply methods of inquiry and analysis to examine social contexts and the diversity of human thought and experience.

2. Articulate and interpret an understanding of key historical facts and events in the medieval and early modern world.
3. Identify the influence of culturally based practices, values, and beliefs to analyze how historically defined meanings of difference affect human behavior.
4. Identify and investigate historical theses, evaluate information and its sources, and use appropriate reasoning to construct evidence-based arguments on historical issues.
5. Construct a well-organized historical argument using effective, appropriate, and accurate language.

For more information, please go to the [Course Content and Outcome Guide](#) for this course.

Course Topics

1. The state of the world in 1000 CE
2. Empires and Imperialism after 1000 CE.
3. World Religions.
4. Exploration and Conquest.
5. The Concept of Race and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.
6. Global Empires.
7. Gender and other systems of social hierarchy.
8. War and conflict.
9. Developments in science and technology.
10. The emergence of the “modern” world.

Instructional Materials

Textbook

None - all of the readings are available for free in D2L.

Supplies

A device capable of accessing D2L, preferably a computer of some kind (it makes it much easier to read and complete assignments in comparison to using a phone!)

Software

Word processing software (Google Docs, MS Word, etc.)

Instructional Approach

During our in-person class meetings, we will divide our time between lectures and discussions. Discussions will focus on primary sources, i.e., documents written at the time in history.

Readings and assignments are organized in weekly modules in D2L. There is no commercial textbook. Instead, the equivalent of a textbook takes the form of written lectures that cover the history we study this term in parallel to the classroom lectures. Most weeks will also include at least one primary source reading to be completed before class.

Grades and Learning Outcomes

The overall grade is based on four short writing assignments, called historical analysis assignments, one full-length (about four pages, double-spaced) essay, and eight annotation assignments in which the class will take notes on historical documents using a tool built into D2L called Hypothesis. The point totals possible for each assignment are outlined below:

- Historical analysis assignments (x4) - 30 points each
- Essay - 80 points
- Annotations (x8)- 5 points each
- Total points possible: 240

There are no exams or quizzes.

There is one extra credit assignment worth up to 20 points. Topics and all associated requirements are available in D2L in the weekly modules and will be discussed in class.

In addition, attendance is reflected in the grade. Missing two or fewer class meetings will result in a 2.5% bonus to the overall grade. There is no effect on the grade for missing three or four meetings. Missing five or more meetings will result in a 2.5% deduction from the overall grade, and in extreme cases (e.g. missing half or more class meetings) may result in a failing grade in the class.

The final grade is determined by the percentage of points earned out of the total possible:

- A: 90 - 100%
- B: 80 - 89%
- C: 70 - 79%
- D: 60 - 69%
- F: Under 60%

See also the college's [Grading Guidelines](#)

Course Schedule

Note: each week, you should read the lectures corresponding to that week's topics. Those are available in D2L in the weekly modules. See below for the topics and additional primary source (i.e. written at the time in history) readings.

Week 1:

Topics: Introduction, The World in 1000 CE, The Crusades

Primary Source Annotation: Pope Urban II's Speech at Clermont

Week 2:

Topics: Empires and States: China, the Middle East, Mesoamerica, Europe

Primary Source Annotation: Song Chinese Governance and European Feudalism

Assignment Due: Historical Analysis #1

Week 3:

Topics: Empires and Imperialism: The Mongol Empire, The Ming Dynasty, The "Gunpowder Revolution," **Elite Culture in Islamic Empires**

Primary Source Annotation: **Letters Between Sultan Selim I and Shah Ismail I**

Week 4

Topics: World Religions: The Abrahamic Faiths, Hinduism & Buddhism, **Religious Dissent**, Neo-Confucianism

Primary Source Annotation:, **Poetry of Kabir**

Assignment Due: Historical Analysis #2

Week 5

Topics: Exploration and Conquest: The Spanish Invasion of the Americas, the Zheng He Expeditions

Primary Source Annotation: The Overall Survey of the Ocean's Shores

Week 6:

Topics: Race and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Primary Source Annotation: The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano

Assignment Due: Historical Analysis #3

Week 7:

Topics: Empires and Trade: Qing China, European Trade Empires, **Material Culture in Edo Japan**

Primary Source Annotation: England's Treasure by Foreign Trade, On the Duties of an Official

Week 8:

Topics: Gender and Social Hierarchy: Case studies in Women's history, the Caste System, the European Estates

Assignment Due: Essay

Week 9:

Topics: War and Conflict: **The Mughal Empire**, the European Wars of Religion, War in West Africa

Primary Source Annotation: **Autobiography of Babur**

Week 10

Topics: Science and Technology: Chinese Technology and Eurasian Diffusion, the European Scientific Revolution, Science and Society

Assignment Due: Historical Analysis #4

Finals Week

Late work accepted

Additional Notes

Attendance and Late Assignments

Attendance is a required part of the class. If you can't make it to a class meeting, please let me know as soon as possible. Please review the grade implications of attendance and absences under "Grades and Learning Outcomes," above.

There is an automatic grace period of one week for late assignments. Assignments turned in more than one week late will be marked down by 10%. The absolute final due date for all assignments in the class is midnight on the Wednesday of finals week.

Accessible Education and Disability Resources

To request academic accommodations for a disability, please contact a counselor in Accessible Education and Disability Resources on any PCC campus. Office locations, phone numbers and additional information can be located on the AEDR website at <https://www.pcc.edu/disability/>. I am committed to honoring accommodations arranged through the AEDR office, but I ask

students with accommodations to approach me as soon as possible during the term to discuss them.

Withdrawal from the Course

It is your responsibility to officially withdraw from this course if you decide not to finish it. Please review the college's grading policy and drop deadlines:

- Academic calendar: <http://www.pcc.edu/registration/academic-calendar.html>
- Grading policy: <http://www.pcc.edu/registration/grading-policy/>.

Academic Integrity & AI Policy

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. Engaging in these activities will result in, at minimum, a failing grade in the assignment, as well as the possibility of failing the class outright. Furthermore, cheating or plagiarism may result in further disciplinary action by the college. You may find the college's Academic Integrity Policy and Student Code of Conduct at:

<http://www.pcc.edu/edserv/academic/integrity.htm>.
<https://www.pcc.edu/student-conduct/conduct/>

The use of AI (ChatGPT, etc.) to generate content for assignments constitutes a form of plagiarism. It is acceptable to use AI as a writing aid (i.e. to edit your own writing for clarity and grammar), but not to generate the answers to topic questions. If you use AI to edit your writing, please include a note with your assignment when turning it in.

Flexibility

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional, weather or class situations.

Title IX Statement

Title IX Statement: Portland Community College is committed to creating and fostering a learning and working environment based on open communication and mutual respect. If you believe you have encountered sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at (971) 722-5840 or equity.inclusion@pcc.edu.

Sanctuary Status

PCC is a sanctuary college. For more information and resources, see www.pcc.edu/resources/undocumented-students/.