

**Prof. André Lambelet**

Office: 306 Chapman Hall

Office tel.: 346-2854

Email: lambelet@uoregon.edu

Office hours: M 14:00-16:00

W 14:00-15:00

...and by appt.

**HC231H**

Fall 2003

MWF 11:00-11:50, MWF 13:00-13:50

## SYLLABUS

In this course, we will explore the origins of civilization from the early human societies in the Near East to the culture of Europe in the early middle ages. We will examine evolution within European societies, but we will also work comparatively, looking at the diverse external influences, particularly from the Mediterranean, that helped shape what we know as Europe. Our themes will include contact, conflict, and cross-fertilization between civilizations.

One set of aims will be to gain an understanding of each society we study: its political and legal institutions; its social order, including class and gender divisions; its economy and the division of labor; and its cultural forms. We will try to understand how people in these societies lived their daily lives, but we will also try to understand what each society held up as the “good life”—in religion, philosophy, politics, and art.

Another set of aims will be to develop an appreciation for historical questions and methods. How and why do societies change and evolve? What constitutes historical evidence? What is important about the past? How does the past shape our present and our future? An important goal for this course is to develop the skills to articulate these questions—and answers to them—orally and in writing.

Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Discussions will be based on reading of primary materials. These readings will include: the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, selections from Plato's *Republic*, Thucydides' Peloponnesian War, Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis*, the Bible, the Koran, Augustine's *Confessions*, and the *Song of Roland*.

### Course requirements:

Careful and thoughtful reading of assigned material is a must—as is participation in class discussion, group assignments, and occasional exercises. Reading is to be completed before the beginning of the class for which it is assigned. Written assignments (more on those later) are to be completed on time: they are due at the beginning of the class for which they are assigned. Late papers will not be accepted (barring genuine and serious extenuating circumstances).

A note on the syllabus: Please be advised that reading assignments are *subject to change*—particularly in the second half of the course..

### Written assignments:

Two substantial papers will be assigned: one near the middle of the term, one towards the end of the term. In addition, you will be required to write five short responses to course readings. (The responses count toward your preparation and participation grade.)

There will be a written final.

I strongly recommend that you pick up a style guide (Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*, for

instance). Even good, experienced writers can use the occasional pointer.

**Grading:**

Preparation and participation: 30 percent

First paper: 20 percent

Second Paper: 30 percent

Final: 20 percent

**Academic integrity:**

It should go without saying that the work you present is your own. Please see this web site for the University's policy on academic integrity: <http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm> . If you have any questions, ask! Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse for academic misconduct.

**Required Texts:**

Texts marked **UOB** are available at the University of Oregon Bookstore, at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Kincaid; texts marked **MK** may be purchased at:

Mother Kali's Books  
720 E 13th Ave  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 343-4864

Stearns, Peter N. *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity*. 4th ed. New York: Longman, 2002. (**UOB**)

*HC231H Course Reader*. Selections are indicated by \* on the reading list. (**UOB**)

*The Epic of Gilgamesh: The Babylonian Epic Poem and Other Texts in Akkadian and Sumerian*. Translated by Andrew George. Penguin, 2003. (**MK**)

Augustine of Hippo. *Confessions*. Translated by R. S. Pine-Coffin. Penguin Classics, 1961. (**MK**)

Euripides. *Euripides IV*. Edited by David Grene and Richmond Lattimore. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968. (**MK**)

*The Koran*. Translated by N. J. Dawood. 5th ed: Penguin USA, 2000. (**MK**)

*The Song of Roland*. Translated by Glyn S. Burgess. Penguin Books, 1990. (**MK**)

Bible (preferred edition: King James, but any that contains both the OT and the NT will do)

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**HC231H / Lambelet**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Writing
1	Sep. 29	Introduction		
	Oct. 1	Reading History	Borges, "Pierre Menard, Author of the <i>Quixote</i> "*	Response to material handed out Sep. 29.
	Oct. 3		Manguel, "Reading Shadows"* Tuchman, "In Search of History"*	
2	Oct. 6	Words and artifacts	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> , 1-54 (Introduction highly recommended) Background: Stearns, 1-31	
	Oct. 8		<i>Gilgamesh</i> , 54-100	
	Oct. 10	Rules to live by	"Daily Life"* "Laws of Hammurabi"*	
3	Oct. 13		Genesis, 1-4, 6-9, 11, 22 Exodus 1-25, 32-34 Recommended: Genesis 12-21, to get the rest of the story (more or less);	
	Oct. 15		"The Great Learning (Daxue)"* "Legalists and militarists"* Background: Stearns, 33-80 (esp. 33-59)	
	Oct. 17		Job (entire)	
4	Oct. 20	Outsiders and dissenters	Socrates' Defense (Apology)* Background: Stearns, 81-103	First paragraph due (details to follow)
	Oct. 22		Plato: "The Equality of Women"* Plato: "The Allegory of the Cave"* On reserve (optional): Elaine Fantham et al., "Women in Classical Athens: Heroines and Housewives"	
	Oct. 24		Euripides, <i>Iphigenia at Aulis</i>	
5	Oct. 27		Finish <i>Iphigenia</i>	
	Oct. 29	Thinking of history	Thucydides: "Book I: Introduction"* "Pericles' Funeral Oration" * "The Plague" * "The Mytilenian Debate" *	
	Oct. 31		Film	
6	Nov. 3		Polybius, <i>The Histories</i> * Background: Stearns, 104-128	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Writing
	Nov. 5	Upheaval and transition	Tacitus, "A Treatise on the Situation, Manners, and Inhabitants of Germany"* "On Military Matters"*	Paper due
	Nov. 7		New Testament (selections TBA)	
7	Nov. 10		Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (selections TBA)	
	Nov. 12		<i>Confessions</i> (cont.)	
	Nov. 14		Einhard, "Life of Charlemagne"* Michel Rouche, "Private Life Conquers States and Society"*	
8	Nov. 17	The birth of Islam	The Koran (selections TBA) Background: Stearns, 129-161	
	Nov. 19	Golden Age of Islam	More from the Koran (TBA) Background: Stearns, 162-183	
	Nov. 21	A clash of civilizations?	"Abd Al-Jabbar's account of how Christ's Religion was Falsified by the Adoption of Roman Customs"*	
9	Nov. 24		<i>Song of Roland</i> (pages TBA) Background: Stearns, 199-218	
	Nov. 26		<i>Song of Roland</i> (cont.)	
	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Holiday	NO CLASS	
10	Dec. 1		Marco Polo: On the Tartars ( <a href="http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mpolo44-46.html">http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mpolo44-46.html</a> )	Writing: Second paper due
	Dec. 3	Trying others	Bernard Gui, <i>Manual of the Inquisitor</i> *	
	Dec. 5	The end of the world?	Matteo Villani's <i>Description of the Plague in Florence</i> *	