

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

## HIST 101 History of Civilizations I Sample Course Outline Panama Program

### **Course Description:**

This course seeks to provide students with information about relevant characters, major events and general characteristics of different civilizations (culture, society, economy) through the course of time. The course intends to develop their understanding the definition of concepts such as Global History, Civilization, Society, Culture, Pre- History, Ancient History, and Medieval History. More specifically, we will focus on the major events of the Stone Age, Early and Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and early Modernity. Within this context, students will learn about the politics, society, economy, and cultural expressions and development of some of the best-known civilizations of the period studied.

Lectures will be supported by presentations and chosen videos. The former will point out important concepts and names, complementing there with maps and illustrations (portraits and scene paintings, tables, etc). The latter will help the students to perceive and place themselves among major aspects of daily life. In addition, it will help to see the modern distortions of the past.

### **General Education Outcomes:**

Students will demonstrate competency in the three University of Louisville General Education History content areas by showing their ability to:

- a) Communicate an understanding of the process of historical change and the significance of place and time. Through examinations and map exercises, students will demonstrate that they possess a sense of change and continuity over historical time and demonstrate that they possess the ability to place historical events within a relevant historical context.
- b) Communicate an understanding of the creation, development, and changing nature of historical knowledge and the importance of historical documentation. Through examinations and map exercises, students will demonstrate their understanding of historical arguments and evidence and demonstrate that they possess the necessary skills to document historical events and phenomena.
- c) Construct and communicate a historical argument employing historical facts. Through examinations and assignments, students will demonstrate their ability to construct and defend an argument interpreting the human past based on appropriate historical evidence.

### **Course Topics:**

Introduction to the class on History of Civilizations

Understanding general ideas:

- a) Defining concepts: Global History, Civilization, Society, Culture, Pre-History, Ancient History, and Medieval History.
- b) Presenting main questions to be answered during the course: What is a civilization? What is development? What is culture?
- c) Presenting rules
- d) Teaching how to present history papers

The Ice Age, Stone Age and the global spreading of the humankind

Presentation on the development of human society during the Ice Age

Neolithic and Bronze Age

Presentations on the Neolithic and the Bronze Age

First settlements and cities

Jericho

Sumerians and Akkadians Mandatory Reading:

The first major civilizations of the Bronze Age

Presentation on the Bronze age in Egypt, China, Mesopotamia,

India Presentation on the Minoans (Cretan), the Myceneans and the

Hittites The “People of the Sea”

The Iron Age: New empires in Mesopotamia, the Phoenicians, Egypt and the Zhou Dynasty

Presentations on the Assyrians and the new Babylonian empires. The situation of Egypt and the Phoenicians

The emergence of the Chinese Zhou Dynasty and African civilizations

Persia and Greece

Presentation on Persia Presentation on the Macedonians

Rome and Asia

The Rise of

Rome The

Republic

The Empire until

Constantine India and China

## Rome II and Persians, Byzantines and Arabs

The Western and the Eastern Roman Empire Germanic Invaders  
Justinian and the Byzantine Empire  
The re-emergence of the Persians  
The Arabs and Islam

## Medieval Europe, Middle East and Asia

Abbasids, Seljuk, Turks and  
Mongols Normans and Britain

The Crusades  
Byzantium II  
Film: The Kingdom of Heaven

## Medieval Europe, Middle East and Asia

## The Renaissance

The Fall of Byzantium in 1453  
The creation of the “modern states”: Ottomans, England, France and  
Spain Renaissance: Art, philosophy, and Machiavelli.  
The discovery of the  
Americas Film: The  
Messenger