This introductory survey covers the dawn of civilization to roughly 1960. We will begin with ancient civilizations, and explore medieval Europe and Asia, and end at the Cold War and decolonization. Students will be expected to improve their ability to read and interpret primary sources and synthetize their meaning and implication in the context of course lectures. Major themes and questions of the course center on but are not limited to 1) the development and variety of political communities, 2) the development of cultural identities, 3) the trajectory of human relationships with the natural world.

The course is made of a series of primary texts supplemented by lectures. There are three responses and two exams. Responses will be a short reflection on some of the primary sources from the previous week, synthetizing what mean in the context of lectures. Exams will consist of four essay questions, of which you are to choose two essays for a total of 4-5 (single spaced) pages. Students are expected to attend every lecture having read the text that corresponds to that date and be ready to discuss the reading in the last 45 minutes to half hour of class.

Primary sources are from Peter Stearns, World History in Documents (New York: NYU, 2008). You can freely search for the documents online, and if you have a hard time accessing one, I will upload it. Secondary source readings will be posted on Latte corresponding to the week. While it is not required, you can feel free to read Bulliet and Crossley eds., Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History.

The Ancient World

M July 6 – The Earliest Civilizations
T July 7 – Ancient South Asia: China and India
W Jul 8 – Ancient Greece
Th Jul 9 – Civilizations of the Americas

Responses 1 Due by July 12.

The Medieval World

M Jul 13 – Ancient Rome: Republic, Empire, Collapse
T Jul 14 – German Barbarians, Byzantium, Holy Roman Empire
W Jul 15 – Medieval Europe: Culture, Church, Society
Th Jul 16 – Medieval Middle East: Sasanid Empire, Muhammad and the Caliphs

Response 2 Due by July 19

M Jul 20 – Late Medieval: Expansions and Conquests
T Jul 21 – The Chinese Empire
W Jul 22 – Early Japan

**MIDTERM EXAM DUE JULY 26 BY MIDNIGHT**

**Early Modern World**

M Jul 27 – Revolutions: France and United States
T Jul 28 – Industrialization, Nation Building
W Jul 29 – Slave Trade and the World Economy
Th Jul 30 – Revolutions and Imperial Mandates

**Response 3 Due by August 2**

**The Modern World**

M Aug 3 – World War One: The Clash of Empires
T Aug 4 – Interwar Period to World War 2: The Clash of Nations
W Aug 5 – Post-War Reconstruction and the Neo-Liberal Moment
Th Aug 6 – The Cold War and Decolonization

**FINAL EXAM**