

History 2206: Origins of Great Traditions  
Fall 2019

Dr. Ryan Ronnenberg

Social Science 3010

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6:15 pm

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Office Hours: 4 to 5 pm Tuesday/Thursday and by appointment

**[Electronic Communications.** The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.** ]

### Course Description

“A systematic examination of five centers of civilization in Afro-Eurasia during their defining moments. The course focuses on the historical contexts that gave rise to China’s classical philosophies, India’s transcendental world view, the Judeo-Christian-Islamic synthesis, African mytho-religious systems of thought and the emergence of Latin-European culture in the West. Content emphasizes cross-cultural influences and connections.”

### Course Objectives:

This course is, at its core, an attempt to convey a sense of both the enormous diversity of, and extensive common ground between, some of world history's most prominent religious and philosophical traditions. We will explore South Asia's Hindu and Buddhist traditions; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the Levant; thematic coherence in African traditions south of the Saharan Desert; and the Hellenic tradition and its modern legacies. We will do so through close investigation of primary documents, thereby introducing students to historical close reading techniques.

By the end of the course, students will:

- Read and Interpret primary sources.
- Using primary sources to support arguments about the five major intellectual traditions discussed in class.

### Required Texts:

Tutuola, Amos, *The Palm Wine Drinkard and My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*, New York: Grove Press, 1994.

Andrea, Alfred J. and Overfield, James H., *The Human Record: Sources of Global History, Vol. I: To 1500*, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 2011. Other editions are acceptable.

#### Assessment:

This course will assess your knowledge and skills in three, equally-weighted essay examinations. Attendance and participation will decide marginal cases.

#### Grading Scale

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A - (89.5% and up)

B - (79.5-89.49%)

C - (69.5-79.49%)

D - (59.5-69.49%)

F - (59.49% and below)

I—Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair's office.

Note: Late written work of all kinds will result in a 10% grade reduction, increasing by 10% weekly.

Attendance is mandatory and solely the student's responsibility. Success in the course will largely depend upon regular attendance and participation in class. Nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

#### Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. See the full [KSU Codes of Conduct](#). You may wish to consult <http://plagiarism.org/>

#### ADA Compliance:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, <http://sds.kennesaw.edu/>

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: [sds@kennesaw.edu](mailto:sds@kennesaw.edu)

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [470-578-7361](tel:470-578-7361)

Additional [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

## Tentative Schedule

### Weeks 1 and 2

Introductions, What is it that Historians do, anyway?, Tradition?

Readings: Herodotus, T.S. Eliot

### Weeks 3 and 4

Defining Religion, Introducing South Asian Traditions

Reading: Clifford Geertz; Rig Veda, Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads (*Human Record*)

### Weeks 5 and 6

India (Continued), Buddhism, Introducing China, Confucius

Readings: (*Human Record*) Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Law, The Poison Arrow, Confucian Analects

### Weeks 7 and 8

China (Continued), Daoism, Legalism

Readings: (*Human Record*) Selections from the Dao de Jing, The Two Handles

## First Midterm Exam

### Weeks 9 and 10

Introducing the Religions of the book, Judaism, Christianity

Readings: Human Record: Genesis, Deuteronomy, Gospel of Matthew, Paul's Epistle to Romans

Weeks 11 and 12

Christianity Continued, Islam

Readings: Find collected readings online

### **Second Midterm Exam**

Weeks 13 and 14

Introducing 'African' Cultural Traditions, Social structure, spirituality

Readings: *Palm Wind Drinkard*

### **Fall Break November 25 to December 1**

Weeks 15 and 16

Hellenic Thought

Reading: Human Record: Homer's *The Odyssey*, Plato's Apology, Pericles' Funeral Oration, The Bacchae

### **Final Exam**

**Changes to this syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Any substantive changes which impact grade calculations or grading will be announced in writing using D2L and will be emailed to the class. If you have concerns about announced changes, please contact the instructor and ask for clarification before the end of the semester.**