

## **The International College of Economics and Finance Provisional Syllabus for World History**

**This is a provisional version of the syllabus. Changes are possible.**

Lecturer: Simon Skempton

Class teachers: Simon Skempton, Krister Sairsingh, Yuri Zaretsky, Alexander Koryagin

### **Course description**

World History is a two semester course which covers the major events and developments in the history of human kind.

- The course material is introduced through both original historical texts and secondary sources
- The time period covered begins with emergence of the first civilizations in the river valleys and ends in the present day
- The course covers major developments around the globe including Europe, Americas and Asia
- The course includes the discussion of the leading intellectual movements and ideas that have had an impact on the development of human societies

### **Teaching objectives**

The course aims at giving students:

- The ability to critically analyse information and incorporate it appropriately into a well-supported argument
- The understanding of the basic patterns of social explanation
- A basic command of historical material: key events, personalities, trends/developments
- Understanding of how the present world order came about

### **Teaching methods**

The following methods and forms of study are used in the course:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Consultations with teachers
- Self study with literature
- Use of Internet resources

During each semester students will make an oral presentation and write 2 essays (3–4 pp.).

### **Grade determination**

There will be an intermediate examination at the end of the first semester and final examination at the end of the second semester. During each semester an oral presentation and two 3-4-page

essays on assigned topics will be required of each student. Attendance and active participation in the weekly seminars are required. The final grade will consist of:

- I semester 40%
  - Participation in seminars 5%
  - Written assignments (Essays) 20%
  - Examinations 75%
- II semester 60%
  - Participation in seminars 5%
  - Written assignments (Essays) 20%
  - Examinations 75%

### **Essential reading**

The essential reading material for each class can be found in the information system.

### **Supplementary reading**

1. Fukuyama, F., *The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*. (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011)
2. Clark, G. *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World* (Princeton University Press, 2008)
3. Bulliet, Crossley, Headrick, Hirsch, Johnson, Northrup, *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005)
4. Reilly, K. (ed.), *Worlds of History: a Comparative Reader: Volume One: To 1550 / Volume Two: Since 1400* (Boston: Bedford / St. Martins, 2010)

### **Internet resources and databases**

1. Primary source collection  
[http://college.cengage.com/history/research\\_companion/primary\\_sources/world/bullietteaip3e/index.html](http://college.cengage.com/history/research_companion/primary_sources/world/bullietteaip3e/index.html)
2. Political maps of Europe (1464-2006).  
<http://home.zonnet.nl/gerardvonhebel/index.htm#homeknop>
3. Public domain historical sources.  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/>
4. Interactive historical maps  
<http://mappinghistory.uoregon.edu/>
5. A comprehensive catalogue of educational resources  
<http://www.besthistorysites.net/>
6. World History: Patterns of Interaction  
<http://www.owasso.k12.ok.us/webpages/gyankey/resources.cfm?subpage=825140>
7. Presentations for Earth and it's Peoples textbook:  
<http://www.owasso.k12.ok.us/webpages/gyankey/aphandouts.cfm?subpage=171799>

### **Course outline**

#### **First Semester**

##### **1. Methodology and approaches to history**

- Cyclical and linear models of history
- Approaches to history: theology, hermeneutics, positivism, dialectics
- Objectivity, evidence and sources in historical science

Literature:

1. *Philosophy of History* by Daniel Little  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/history/>
2. *Philosophy of History* by A. Jensen  
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/history/>
3. Marquis de Condorcet. *Progress of the Human Mind*. (Condorcet.pdf)
4. Peter Singer and Bryan Magee. *Hegel and Marx*. (Singer.pdf)  
Also available as video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxjnG1X510A> (Parts 1-5)<sup>1</sup>
5. Paul Fry. *Ways In and Out of the Hermeneutic Circle*.  
Also available as MP3 audio or MOV video at <http://oyc.yale.edu/english/engl-300/lecture-3> – you only need parts 1-6 (00:00-37:20)

## 2. From Ape to Human

- Continuity between Chimpanzees and early humans: sex and violence
- Biologically based cultural practices: fertility control
- Transition from hunter-gatherer to agricultural communities

Literature

1. Wyman R., *Global Problems of Population Growth*  
Also available as MP3 audio or MOV video at <http://oyc.yale.edu/molecular-cellular-and-developmental-biology/mcdb-150#sessions> – Lectures 1-5
2. *The Origins of Political Order*, Part 1: chapters 2, 3, 4

## 3. Origins of Agriculture and First River-Valley Civilizations

- The earliest river valley civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley.
- Technological and social (e.g. labour organization) responses to environmental challenges.
- Contrasting social and political systems and the reasons for their emergence.

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 1
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.1-80
3. *The Origins of Political Order*, Part 2: chapters 6, 7, 8, 9

## 4. China 2000-221BC

---

<sup>1</sup> Singer/Magee full video:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxjnG1X510A>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDjXBr3RtKk>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYX9UP55ISc>

Part 4: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-Eg\\_fLP-5U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-Eg_fLP-5U)

Part 5: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbwZwOwy\\_n0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbwZwOwy_n0)

- Political and social differences between the Shang and Zhou periods.
- Ideas of political legitimacy. Legalism, Confucianism, Taoism, and what these philosophies say about ancient Chinese culture and society.

Literature:

1. *The Origins of Political Order*, Part 2: chapters 6, 7, 8, 9
2. *The Earth and its Peoples*, chapter 2
3. *Worlds of History*, pp. 122-148.

## 5. Ancient Israel

- Historical approach to the Old Testament

Literature:

1. Hayes, C. *Introduction to the Old Testament*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-145>
2. *The Earth and its Peoples*, chapter 3

## 6. Ancient Greece

- Geographical influences on the emergence of city-states.
- The effects on society of the development of certain military formations.
- Intellectual innovations.
- Differences between Athenian and Spartan societies.
- Impact of Macedonian conquests on the Eastern Mediterranean.

Literature:

1. Kagan, D. *Introduction to Ancient Greek History*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/classics/clcv-205#sessions>
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 3
3. *Worlds of History*, pp.102-121

## 7. Classical Greek Philosophy

- Origins of Greek philosophy
- Political philosophy of the Plato and Aristotle

Literature:

1. Smith, S. *Introduction to Political Philosophy*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/political-science/plsc-114#sessions>
2. Plato. *Republic*
3. Aristotle. *Athenian constitution*

## 8. Ancient India

- The structure of Indian society and the reasons for its emergence.
- Religious developments (the Vedic religion and later Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism) and their role in maintaining and challenging aspects of Indian culture.

- The Mauryan Empire.

Literature:

1. *The Origins of Political Order*, Part 2: chapters 10, 11, 12
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 4
3. *Worlds of History*, pp.81-101, 198-211

## 9. Ancient Rome

- The Roman republic.
- Imperial expansion; the conquests of Italy, Carthage, and the whole Mediterranean.
- The spread of Christianity and the reasons for it. The fall of the empire.

Literature:

1. Freedman, P. *The Early Middle Ages, 284–1000*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-210#sessions>
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 5
3. *Worlds of History*, pp.149-163, pp.231,233, pp.243-249

## 10. The Emergence of Christianity

- Historical approach to the New Testament
- Culture of early Christian communities

Literature:

1. Martin, D. *Introduction to the New Testament History and Literature*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-152#sessions>
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 5?
3. *Worlds of History*?

## 11. The Rise of Islam

- The rise of Islam. Mohamed and the emergence of the Umma.
- The nature of Islam and its political and cultural influence.
- The rise of the Caliphate and the reasons for its eventual fall.
- The Arabic conquests. Urbanization and the development of Islamic culture.

Literature:

4. Freedman, P. *The Early Middle Ages, 284–1000*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1238/hist-210>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1239/hist-210>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1240/hist-210>
5. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 8
6. *Worlds of History*, pp.259-271, pp.289-292

## 12. Christian Europe 600-1200

- The emergence of Christian Europe.

- The Byzantine Empire. Early mediaeval Western Europe.
- The Carolingian dynasty.
- Kievan Rus.
- The revival of the West.
- The crusades.

Literature:

1. Freedman, P. *The Early Middle Ages, 284–1000*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-210#sessions>
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 9
3. *Worlds of History*, pp.281-283, 350-386

### 13. China and East Asia 600-1200

- The Tang and Song periods.
- The roles of Confucianism and Buddhism in China and other East Asian nations.
- Technological and economic advances in the Song period.
- Emergence of Korea, Japan, and Vietnam as unified states.

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 10
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.254-258, 296-304

### 14. The Mongolian Empire

- How Mongolian rule spread rapidly across Eurasia.
- How the empire was governed.
- The Golden Horde and the Il-Khan: the impact of Mongolian rule on Russia and the Middle East.

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 12
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.391-397, 413-431

### 15. The Latin West 1200-1500

- Social changes and technological developments.
- The Black Death and its social consequences.
- The rise of trading cities.
- Cultural developments and the emergence of universities.
- The relationship between religious and secular authorities.

Literature:

1. Snowden, F. *Epidemics in Western Society Since 1600*  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-234#sessions>
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 14
3. *Worlds of History*, pp.432-455, 479-480-, 497-498

## **16. Maritime Revolution**

- The Maritime Revolution.
- The emergence of Spain and Portugal as unified states.
- The economic, religious and technological reasons for the Spanish and Portuguese voyages of discovery and conquest.

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 15
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.547-594

## **Second Semester**

### **17. Transformations in Europe, 1500–1750**

- Reformation
- Counter-reformation
- The Scientific Revolution
- Absolutism
- English and Dutch parliamentarism

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 16
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.653-664, 710-729

### **13. Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean, 1500–1750**

- The Ottoman Empire
- The Safavid Empire
- The Mughal Empire

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 19
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.644-652,

### **14. Northern Eurasia, 1500–1800**

- Japanese Reunification
- The Later Ming and Early Qing Empires
- The Russian Empire

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 21
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.638-641

### **15. Revolutionary Changes in the Atlantic World, 1750–1850**

- Prelude to Revolution: The Eighteenth-Century Crisis
- The American Revolution, 1775–1800

- The French Revolution, 1789–1815

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 21
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.752-771

## **16. The Early Industrial Revolution, 1760–1851**

- Causes of the Industrial Revolution
- The Technological Revolution
- The Impact of the Early Industrial Revolution
- New Economic and Political Ideas
- Industrialization and the Nonindustrial World

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 22
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.792-808

## **17. Nation Building and Economic Transformation in the Americas, 1800–1890**

- Independence in Latin America, 1800–1830
- The Problem of Order, 1825–1890
- The Challenge of Social and Economic Change

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 23
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.772-776

## **18. Africa, India, Australasia, 1750–1870**

- Changes and Exchanges in Africa
- India Under British Rule
- Britain's Eastern Empire

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 24

## **19. The New Power Balance, 1850-1900**

- Socialism and labour movements
- Nationalism and the unification of Italy and Germany
- The great powers of Europe, 1871-1900

Literature:

1. *The Earth and its Peoples*, chapter 26

## **20. The New Imperialism, 1869–1914**



- The New Imperialism: Motives and Methods
- The Scramble for Africa
- Asia and Western Dominance
- Imperialism in Latin America
- The World Economy and the Global Environment

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 27
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.826-867

## **21. The Crisis of the Imperial Order, 1900–1929**

- Origins of the Crisis in Europe and the Middle East
- The “Great War” and the Russian Revolutions, 1914–1918
- Peace and Dislocation in Europe, 1919–1929
- China and Japan: Contrasting Destinies
- The New Middle East
- Society, Culture, and Technology in the Industrialized World

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 28
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.903-941

## **22. The Collapse of the Old Order, 1929–1949**

- The Stalin Revolution
- The Depression
- The Rise of Fascism
- East Asia, 1931–1945
- The Second World War
- The Character of Warfare

Literature:

1. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 29
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.942-980

## **23. The Cold War and Decolonization**

- The Cold War
- Decolonization and nation building
- Beyond a bipolar world

Literature:

1. *The Earth and its Peoples*, chapter 31
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.981-1018

**Distribution of hours (to be revised)**

#	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours		Self study
			Lectures	Seminars	
1.	Origins of Agriculture and First River-Valley Civilizations	8	2	2	4
2.	China 2000-221BC	8	2	2	4
3.	Ancient Greece	8	2	2	4
4.	Ancient India	8	2	2	4
5.	Ancient Rome	8	2	2	4
6.	The Rise of Islam	8	2	2	4
7.	Christian Europe 600-1200	8	2	2	4
8.	China and East Asia 600-1200	8	2	2	4
9.	The Mongolian Empire	8	2	2	4
10.	The Latin West 1200-1500	8	2	2	4
11.	Maritime Revolution	8	2	2	4
12.	Transformations in Europe, 1500–1750	8	2	2	4
13.	Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean, 1500–1750	8	2	2	4
14.	Northern Eurasia, 1500–1800	8	2	2	4
15.	Revolutionary Changes in the Atlantic World, 1750–1850	8	2	2	4
16.	The Early Industrial Revolution, 1760–1851	8	2	2	4
17.	Nation Building and Economic Transformation in the Americas, 1800–1890	8	2	2	4
18.	Africa, India, Australasia, 1750–1870	8	2	2	4
19.	The New Power Balance, 1850-1900	8	2	2	4
20.	The New Imperialism, 1869–1914	8	2	2	4
21.	The Crisis of the Imperial Order, 1900–1929	8	2	2	4
22.	The Collapse of the Old Order, 1929–1949	8	2	2	4
23.	The Cold War and Decolonization	8	2	2	4
Total:		216	68	68	80

**Extracurricular material**

1. Philip J. Adler, Randall Lee Pouwels, *World Civilizations* (Wadsworth Publishing, 2005)
2. Adams et al. *Experiencing World History* (New York University Press, 2000)

## Yale knowledgebase

1. Methodological introduction
  - a. Foundations of Modern Social Theory  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/sociology/socy-151>
  - b. The Impact of Evolutionary Thought on the Social Sciences:  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/198/eeb-122>
2. Animals and humans: primitive societies
  - a. From Ape to Human  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/672/mcdb-150>
  - b. When Humans Were Scarce  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/673/mcdb-150>
3. Israel
  - a. New Testament  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-145>
4. Ancient Greece
  - a. Rise of The Polis  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/156/clcv-205>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/155/clcv-205>
5. Greek philosophy
  - a. Plato, Apology  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/770/plsc-114>
  - b. Plato, Crito  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/771/plsc-114>
  - c. Plato, Republic  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/773/plsc-114>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/775/plsc-114>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/776/plsc-114>
  - d. Aristotle  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/777/plsc-114>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/779/plsc-114>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/781/plsc-114>
6. Hellenism (+Rome)
7. Christianity
  - a. New Testament  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-152>
  - b. Constantine and the Early Church  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1168/hist-210>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1169/hist-210>
8. Collapse of Rome, early Europe  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-210#sessions>
9. Islam  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1238/hist-210>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1239/hist-210>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/1240/hist-210>

10. Renaissance
11. Machiavelli. Prince
  - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/783/plsc-114>
  - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/784/plsc-114>
12. Reformation
13. Absolutism VS Parliamentarism
  - a. French absolutism
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/571/hist-202> [+/-]
  - b. Britain and Nehterlands
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/572/hist-202> [+/-]
  - c. Effects of the Glorious Revolution
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/352/hist-251>
14. Hobbes, Locke
  - a. Hobbes
  - b. <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/786/plsc-114>
  - c. <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/788/plsc-114>  
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/789/plsc-114>
  - d. Locke
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/790/plsc-114>
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/791/plsc-114>
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/792/plsc-114>
  - e. Social Contract
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/802/plsc-118>
  - f. Utilitarianism
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/803/plsc-118>
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/804/plsc-118>
15. Enlightenment: Rousseau, Kant
  - a. Rousseau
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/793/plsc-114>
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/794/plsc-114>
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/795/plsc-114>
16. French Revolution, American Revolution
  - a. Enlightenment in France
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/571/hist-202> [so-so]
  - b. French revolution
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/575/hist-202> [so-so]
  - c. American revolution
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-116>
17. Napoleon
  - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/576/hist-202> [so-so]
18. Romanticism?
19. Hegel
20. Industrial Revolution
  - a. England, Britain, and the World: Economic Development, 1660-1720
    - <http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/351/hist-251>
  - b. In France

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/577/hist-202> [so-so]

21. Demographic transition

a. Malthusian trap

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/675/mcdb-150>

b. Demographic Transition in Europe

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/676/mcdb-150>

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/677/mcdb-150>

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/678/mcdb-150>

c.

22. Liberals VS Socialists

23. Marx

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/808/plsc-118>

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/809/plsc-118>

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/810/plsc-118>

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/811/plsc-118>

24. The new imperialism

<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/365/hist-276> [excellent lecture]

25. WWI

Courses of interest:

- List of all courses: <http://oyc.yale.edu/courses>
- [Introduction to Ancient Greek History](#)
- [The American Revolution](#)
- [The Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1845-1877](#)
- [European Civilization, 1648-1945](#)
- [Epidemics in Western Society Since 1600](#)
- [Early Modern England: Politics, Religion, and Society under the Tudors and Stuarts](#)
- [France Since 1871](#)
- [The Early Middle Ages, 284–1000](#)
- [Global Problems of Population Growth](#)
- [Introduction to Political Philosophy](#)
- [The Moral Foundations of Politics](#)
- [Capitalism: Success, Crisis, and Reform](#)
- [Introduction to the Old Testament \(Hebrew Bible\)](#)
- [Introduction to the New Testament History and Literature](#)
- [Principles of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior](#)
- [Introduction to Theory of Literature](#)
- [Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature](#)
- [The Psychology, Biology and Politics of Food](#)