

WORLD INTELLECTUAL HISTORY SYLLABUS

Lecturers: Dominic Rubin

Class teachers: Dominic Rubin, Alexandra Tsareva, Alexander Koryagin

Course description

The course has no prerequisites.

World Intellectual History is a two semester course which covers the history of the leading intellectual trends and ideas that have had an impact on the development of the cultures and civilizations of the world.

- The course material is introduced through both original historical texts and secondary sources
- The time period covered begins with emergence of the first civilizations and ends in the present day
- The course covers major developments around the globe including Europe, Asia and the Americas

Teaching objectives

The course aims at giving students:

- Understanding of the origins and development of the ideas that inform the cultures and civilizations that constitute the present world order
- The ability to critically analyse information and incorporate it appropriately into a well-supported argument

The course contributes in the development of the following general competencies:

- a) critical awareness of the assumptions and conditions that lie behind scientific theories and arguments;
- b) identification the scientific nature of the problems in the professional field;
- c) solving problems in professional sphere based on analysis and synthesis;
- d) information processing: finding, evaluating and using information from various sources, necessary to solve scientific and professional problems (including those on the basis of a systematic approach).

Teaching methods

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

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Consultations with teachers
- Self study with assigned literature

Assessment

There will be an intermediate examination at the end of the first semester and final examination at the end of the second semester. Attendance, active participation in the weekly seminars are required. Sample materials for knowledge assessment are available in ICEF Information system at <https://icef-info.hse.ru>.

Grade determination

The final grade will consist of:

- I semester
 - Seminar attendance and performance 15%

- Essay 20%
- Winter exam 65%
- II semester
 - Seminar attendance and performance 15%
 - Essay 20%
 - Spring exam 65%

Each semester is worth 50% of the grade for the whole course.

$$G=0,5 (0.2*G_{\text{essay1}}+0.15*G_{\text{seminar1}}+0.65*G_{\text{exam1}})+0, 5 (0.2*G_{\text{essay2}}+0.15*G_{\text{seminar2}}+0.65*G_{\text{exam2}})$$

Note: in order to get full marks for the seminar participation students need to actively participate in the class discussions, to demonstrate familiarity with assigned readings and lecture material, including being prepared to answer the questions that the class teacher may pose.

All grades are given initially out of 100. The final grades are also transferred to 10- and 5-points grades in accordance with the ICEF Grading Regulations (par.3) available at https://icef-info.hse.ru/goto_icef_file_29833_download.html

Retakes are organized in accordance with the HSE Interim and Ongoing Assessment Regulations (incl. Annex 8 for ICEF). Grade determination after retakes is done in accordance with ICEF Grading Regulations (par. 5) available at https://icef-info.hse.ru/goto_icef_file_29833_download.html

Main reading

1. Reilly, K. *Worlds of History, Volume I: To 1550: A Comparative Reader*, (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010).
2. Reilly, K. *Worlds of History, Volume II: Since 1400: A Comparative Reader*, (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010).
3. Lecture notes.
4. Bulliet, Crossley, Headrick, Hirsch, Johnson, Northrup, *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History* (2005).
5. Russell B. *History of Western Philosophy* (1945).
6. Spielvogel J. *Western Civilization. Volume II: Since 1300* (5th Edition—2003).
7. Tarnas R. *The Passion of the Western Mind* (1991).

Web-resources

<http://info-icef.hse.ru>

Course outline

The outline below is tentative and may be subject to change, check the weekly assignments on info-icef.hse.ru. Lectures and seminars are not substitutes for the work students do at home. Students who do not do the readings should not expect to get a good mark for the course!

FIRST SEMESTER: Intellectual Origins and Foundations of the Civilizations of the World

1. Introduction

- What is intellectual history?

- Origin of the state, writing and culture; the first civilizations: Mesopotamia and Egypt. The role of religion and myth in the first states.

Reading:

1. Collini *et al*, 'What is Intellectual History?', *History Today* 35:10
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 1
3. Fukuyama, *The Origins of Political Order*, Part 1: chapter 5
4. *Worlds of History I*: 2.2, 2.3

2. Ancient China

- Main features of Daoism, Confucianism and Legalism

Reading:

1. Chapters 2 (Confucius), 6 (Daoism) and 9 (Legalism) from Karyn Lai's *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy* (excerpts).
2. *Worlds of History*, pp. 122-148.
3. *The Origins of Political Order*, Part 2: chapter 7
4. *The Earth and its Peoples*, chapter 2

3. Ancient India

- The Vedic religion and early Hinduism
- Basic Buddhist concepts

Reading:

1. *The Earth and Its People's*, ch.6
2. *Worlds of History*, chs. 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3
3. *Introduction to Buddhism*, by Peter Harvey (excerpts)

4. Monotheism: the Judaic crucible.

- Zoroastrianism; history of Israel & Judah; the compilation of the Hebrew Bible; the rise of the Jewish diaspora; the spread of Judaism round the Mediterranean; the 'Judaizing' God-fearing movement among gentiles; Messianic hopes; the Maccabees; the Jesus movement

Reading:

1. Lecture notes.
2. Extra sources and reading: *The Religion of Israel from its beginnings to the Babylonian Exile*, Yehezkel Kaufmann; *Scribal Culture and the Makings of the Hebrew Bible*, Karel van der Toorn.
3. *Worlds of History, vol. 1*. ch.6, sections 5-7: Judaism and the Bible – History, Law and Psalms; Judaism and the Bible – Prophecy and the Apocalypse; the Christian Bible: Jesus according to Matthew.

5. Classical Greek Civilization

- The emergence of Greek philosophy and civilization; the Homeric heroic age; the age of the polis; Plato and Aristotle. Logos vs myth. Euthyphro: the critique of religion. The Republic: a state based on Reason (the ideas) versus democracy. Aristotle: ethics as self-actualization.

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 5.
2. *Worlds of History*, vol. 1. ch.3. sections 6-8. Aristotle, The Athenian Constitution: Territorial Sovereignty; Thucydides, The Funeral Oration of Pericles; Plato, The Republic.
3. Plato, The Euthyphro (selections).

6. Hellenistic Civilization

- The universalization of Greek thought; the development and spread of the four schools of thought (emphasis on Stoicism and Epicureanism); Jewish Hellenism: Philo. The clash between Hellenism and Judaism: the Maccabees.

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 6.
2. *Earth and Its People's*, ch. 4.
3. Bertrand Russell, *History of Western Philosophy*, Bk. 1, Part 3.
4. Extracts from Philo's allegorical commentary on the Torah.

7. The emergence and spread of Christianity

- From Jesus to Christ. The changing face of Jesus from Matthew to John. Early Christianities: Pauline and Johannine; the Didache; Tertullian; Arianism; the Cappadocian Church Fathers; Nicea and the dogma of the Trinity. Christianity becomes an imperial religion.

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 7.
2. The changing faces of Jesus, Geza Vermes. Christian beginnings: from Nazareth to Nicea, Geza Vermes.
3. Selections from John; letters of Paul; the Nicene Creed; the Didache; Tertullian; Church fathers on the divine-humanity of Christ.
4. *Worlds of History*, ch. 6.7, 6.8

8. The emergence and spread of Islam.

- Arabia before Muhammad. The life and mission of Muhammad. The Qur'anic revelations: Meccan and Medinan. Law, poetry and apocalypse in the Qur'an. The figure of Abraham; the Jewish and Arabian prophets in the Qur'an. Muhammad's relations with Jews, Christians and polytheists. The four caliphs. The shi'/sunni split. The umayyads. The abassids. The spread of Islam into formerly Persian and Byzantine territories. The development of the sunna and Islamic political structures.

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 8.
2. No god but God: the origins, evolution and future of Islam. Islam: a short history, Karen Armstrong. Selection from the Qur'an and Hadith.
3. *Worlds of History*, vol. 1. ch.7. section 6 and 7. Selections from the Koran.

9. Medieval Christian civilization, East and West.

- The Christian ecumene. Pope and emperor. Monasticism. The East-West schism: the emergence of “Eastern Orthodoxy” and “Roman Catholicism”. The idea of Western Caesaropapism and Eastern Papocaesarism. The Christianization of the Slavs. The place of Aquinas in Western theology; the place of Palamas in Eastern theology (hesychasm; the divine energies).

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 9.
2. *Earth and Its People's*, ch.9.

10. Medieval Hindu Thought.

- The Bhakhti and Vaishnavite movements. Monistic and dualistic systems among medieval Hindu philosophers and mystics (advaita, dvaita).

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 10.
2. Bartley, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*, chs. 1, 10, 11.
3. Surendranath Dasgupta, *A History of Indian Philosophy*, vol.4.ch.29: Controversy between the dualists and the monists.

11. Buddhism and Confucianism in China

- How did Mahayana Buddhism interact with the native Chinese ideologies of Confucianism and Daoism?
- Main features of Chan / Zen.

Reading:

1. Harvey, P. *An Introduction To Buddhism*. (Cambridge, 2013), chapter 7.
2. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 10
3. *Worlds of History*, ch.7.4

12. Medieval Islamic civilization.

- Classic Islamic philosophy (kalam, falsafa). Philosophy and practice of science. The influence of Ibn Rushd (Averroes) on Western science, theology and philosophy. The development of Sufism. Al-Ghazali, Ibn Arabi, Suhrawardi. The role of Islamic scholars (ulema) in Islamic empires; the relationship between orthodox religion and mysticism.

Reading:

1. Lecture Notes 12.
2. Fazlur Rahman: *Islam*. Chapters on philosophy; Reza Aslan: *No god but God*. Chapter on Sufism.
3. *The Vision of Islam*, William Chittick and Sachiko Murata. Chapter 6: the Intellectual Schools; Ch.8. The historical manifestation of Ihsan.

SECOND SEMESTER: Modernity

1. The Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution in 16th and 17th Century Europe.

Reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Russell, *History of Western Philosophy*, Book 3, part 1, chapters 1-7 (pp.453-500)
3. *Worlds of History*, pp.653-664, 710-729

2. Medieval-early modern Islamic politics: Caliphate and empire.

Primary reading:

1. Lecture Notes
2. Handout on Ibn Khaldun
3. *Earth and Its Peoples*, ch. 19.
4. *Worlds of History*, ch. 17.3

3. The Enlightenment

Reading:

1. Spielvogel, *Western Civilization*, Chapter 17
2. *Worlds of History*, pp.752-771
3. *The Earth and Its Peoples*, chapter 21

4. Romanticism and the Counter-Enlightenment

Reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, extracts from ch.VI

5. Political modernity in the Islamic world

Reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Pankaj Mishra: From *The Ruins of Empire*, ch.2: ‘The strange odyssey of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani

6. Political Ideologies in 19th Century Europe: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and Nationalism

Reading:

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

7. Modernity in Asia: China and Japan

Reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Pankaj Mishra: From *The Ruins of Empire*, ch.3. ‘‘Ling Qichao’s China and the fate of Asia.’’

8. Modernity in Russia: between Asia and Europe

Reading:

1. Lecture notes

9. Modernity in India: the anti-colonial struggle

Primary reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Pankaj Mishra. *From the ruins of Asia*. Ch.5. “Rabindranath Tagore in East Asia, the man from the lost country.”
3. Wendy Doniger. *The Hindus: an alternative history*. Selections from: Chs 21-22.

10. World Communism

Reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Extracts from Marx, Lenin, Mao *et al*

11. Late Capitalism and ‘Post-Modernity’

Primary reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, chapter on ‘The Postmodern Mind’

12. Globalization and the World Today

Primary reading:

1. Lecture notes
2. *Worlds of History*, Chapter 28.

13. Final Revision

No reading assignment for this class.

Distribution of hours

#	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours		Self study
			Lectures	Seminars	
1.	Introduction	8	2	2	4
2.	Ancient China	8	2	2	4
3.	Origins of Buddhism in India	8	2	2	4
4.	Monotheism	8	2	2	4
5.	Classical Greek Civilisation	8	2	2	4
6.	Hellenism	8	2	2	4
7.	Early Christianities	8	2	2	4
8.	The emergence and spread of Islam	8	2	2	4
9.	Medieval Christian civilization, East and West	8	2	2	4
10.	Medieval Indian philosophy	8	2	2	4
11.	Buddhism and Confucianism in China	8	2	2	4
12.	Medieval Islamic civilization	8	2	2	4

13.	Revision	8	2	2	4
14.	The Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution in 16 th and 17 th Century Europe	8	2	2	4
15.	Medieval-early modern Islamic politics: Caliphate and empire	8	2	2	4
16.	The Enlightenment	8	2	2	4
17.	Romanticism and the Counter-Enlightenment	8	2	2	4
18.	Political modernity in the Islamic world	8	2	2	4
19.	Political Ideologies in 19 th Century Europe: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and Nationalism	8	2	2	4
20.	Modernity in Asia: China and Japan	8	2	2	4
21.	Modernity in Russia: between Asia and Europe	8	2	2	4
22.	Modernity in India: the anti-colonial struggle	8	2	2	4
23.	World Communism	8	2	2	4
24.	Late Capitalism and 'Post-Modernity'	8	2	2	4
25.	Globalization and the World Today	8	2	2	4
26.	Final Revision	8	2	2	4
27.	#	8	2	2	4
<i>Total:</i>		<u>216</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>108</u>