Does the world have a history? This course is based on an affirmative answer to the question. A history of the world must be more than a mere compendium of facts about disparate societies and traditions. In this course students study the interactions among far-flung civilizations in ancient and medieval times. However, for most of the period considered in this course, those interactions were quite limited. Therefore, a coherent account of human history as a whole before the modern era emerges in large measure from comparisons among independently developing societies, and from a search for common patterns of development. Both similarities and important differences receive due attention. Topics include: the change from hunter-gatherer societies to sedentary agriculture; the rise of cities, social stratification, and the beginnings of written culture and organized religion; the complex civilizations and empires of West Asia, East Asia, Africa, Mesoamerica, and Europe; gender relations across civilizations in the ancient world; and the beginnings of technological and cultural divergence in the medieval world.

B. Course Effective Dates: 08/24/2002 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. To acquire and improve writing and communication skills by submitting essays that require the organization, analysis, synthesis, and explanation of historical facts and original argumentation.
2. To acquire familiarity with the main themes and events of world history, from its beginnings to 1500 C.E., as outlined in the course description.
3. To practice critical and analytical skills on historical theories, controversies, and debates as well as on primary sources.
4. To understand and be able to explain the historical significance of both primary and secondary sources.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

G. Special Information

None