COURSE DESCRIPTION

After the beginnings of urban life in western Eurasia (9,000-3,000 B.C.E.) and before the onset of the localized Middle Ages (500 C.E.), the great societies of the ancient Mediterranean Basin fostered most unusual cultural fusions by bringing together the peoples of Africa, Asia and Europe. This survey course will consider the nature and effects of these fusions.

LECTURES

Three hours of lecturing each week, and a fourth hour for small-group discussion of current readings and lectures.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS (STANDARD OPTION)

1. Students who take the course for three regular credits will write a six-weeks examination, a twelve-weeks examination and a final examination.

2. Students who take the course for four regular credits will write the three examinations described above, and submit by the last day of class a term paper (maximum length: 10 to 15 pages) on a topic agreed upon by the student and the instructor. The deadline for selecting term paper topics is Friday of the seventh week of the term.

AN ALTERNATIVE FOR COMPLETING THE COURSE (HONORS CREDIT AVAILABLE): A COLLOQUIUM ON THE EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Students who wish to complete the course without following the usual cycle of examinations and papers may participate in a colloquium on the early Christian Community. Participants will select a term paper topic (any subject which stands within the geographical and chronological limits of the course) by the third week of the term. They will hand in a first draft of the term paper by Friday of the ninth week of the term, and a final draft by the day of the final examination. During the semester, participants will use a weekly discussion hour (in addition to the three lecture hours) to present an oral report on an aspect of the early Christian Community.

Participants in the colloquium may earn honors or regular credit for the course. The suggested maximum length of the term paper’s second draft varies with the number of credits:

3 regular or honor credits -- 10 to 15 pages;

4 regular or honor credits -- 15 to 20 pages.

GRADING SYSTEM

3 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, 12 weeks exam 35%, final exam 35% of final grade.
4 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 20%, 12 weeks exam 25%, term paper 25%, final exam 30% of final grade.

colloquium: first draft of paper 30%, second draft 35%, discussion section reports 35% of final grade.
APPEALS: The course staff offers second readings of examinations and papers. This is a no-risk review: when second opinions are given, the staff records the higher of the two estimates as the examination or paper grades.

READINGS

* % Mark N. Cohen, THE FOOD CRISIS IN PREHISTORY. Yale University Paperback.

* required purchase available at the bookstores
& optional purchases available at the bookstores
% available on three-hour reserve in H.C. White no. 1191