

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Fall 1979

History 306: From Balance of Power to World Power

Mr. Clover

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the Ganges River to Cornwall, and from the High Atlas to the Aral Sea the peoples of the Mediterranean Basin and Western Eurasia first formed a loosely knit community in the generations which followed Alexander the Great's conquest of the Persian Empire. Throughout most of this vast area Greek Civilization flourished. It reached its peak in the Graeco-Macedonian kingdoms of the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, but good imitations of it could be found in Punic and Berber North Africa, Celtic Europe, Roman Italy, the southern fringes of the Eurasian Steppe, and India of the Maurya Dynasts.

History 306 will consider the history of Western Eurasia and the Mediterranean from about 300 to 100 B.C., when the first systematic contacts with Chinese Civilization began, ending the isolation of Hellenistic Civilization and making Eurasia thereafter a big community of many civilized parts.

LECTURES

Three lectures each week, plus a fourth hour for discussion of readings and lectures.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Students taking the course for THREE REGULAR CREDITS will write a six weeks examination, a twelve weeks examination OR a short twelve weeks paper (length: 8 to 10 pages), and a final examination. Students taking the course for FOUR REGULAR CREDITS have two options: (1) they may write the three examinations listed above, and a short term paper (length: 8 to 10 pages); or (2) they may write a six weeks and final examination, and a paper in two drafts. The first draft (length: 8 to 10 pages) is due in the twelfth week of the term. The instructor will hand back this draft with suggestions and criticisms, and the student will submit a revised draft (maximum length: 10 to 15 pages) by the time of the final examination.

Students taking the course for THREE OR FOUR HONORS CREDITS will write a six weeks examination and a final term paper in two drafts. The first draft is due in the twelfth week of the term, and the revised draft must be handed in by the time of the final examination. The length of the final draft varies with the number of honors credits: 3 credits--10 to 15 pages; 4 credits--15 to 20 pages.

N.B.: THE DEADLINE FOR SELECTING ALL TERM PAPER TOPICS IS FRIDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF THE TERM.

GRADING SYSTEM

- 3 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, 12 weeks exam 35%, final exam 35% of
of final grade.
4 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, 12 weeks exam or paper 35%, final
exam and paper 35% of final grade.
3-4 honors credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, first draft of term paper 35%, final
draft 35% of final grade.

READING LIST

- Symbols used: * required purchase, available at the bookstores
% recommended purchase, available at the bookstores
on three-hour reserve in H.C. White, no. 1191
& on reserve in the Kohler Art Library of the Elvehjem Museum of Art
\$ on reserve in the History Library, 4257 Humanities; open weekdays
9:30-12:30, 1:30-3:30.

- *# W. H. McNeill, THE RISE OF THE WEST, University of Chicago/Phoenix
Paperback P 385.
*# Nora Chadwick, THE CELTS, Viking-Penguin/Pelican Paperback.
*# R. M. Errington, DAWN OF EMPIRE: ROME'S RISE TO WORLD POWER, Cornell
Paperback CP 128.
*# W. W. Tarn, HELLENISTIC CIVILIZATION, New American Library Paperback.
* J. B. Bury, et al., THE HELLENISTIC AGE, Norton Library Paperback N 544.
*# R. Thapar, HISTORY OF INDIA, VOLUME I, Viking-Penguin/Pelican Paperback.
%# A. Momigliano, ALIEN WISDOM: THE LIMITS OF HELLENIZATION, Cambridge
University Press (hardback).
%# OLD TESTAMENT OF THE JERUSALEM BIBLE, IV: PROPHETS THROUGH MALACHI
Doubleday Image Paperback D 314.
%# Plautus, POT OF GOLD AND OTHER PLAYS, Viking-Penguin Paperback/Penguin Classic.
J. M. Abun-Nasr, A HISTORY OF THE MAGHREB, Second Edition, Cambridge
University Press Paperback.
R. Grousset, THE EMPIRE OF THE STEPPES, Rutgers University Press.
%# T. Kinsella (tr.), THE TAIN: TRANSLATED FROM THE IRISH EPIC TAIN BO
CUAILGNE, Oxford University Press Paperback.
W. T. de Bary (ed.), SOURCES OF INDIAN TRADITION, VOLUME I, Columbia
University Press Paperback.
& M. A. R. Colledge, PARTHIAN ART, Cornell University Press, 1977.
& J. J. Hatt, CELTS AND GALLO-ROMANS, Hippocrene Books.
& J. Charbonneau, HELLENISTIC ART, "Arts of Mankind," Braziller.
& M. Wheeler, FLAMES OVER PERSEPOLIS, Reynal.
\$ G. S. Olmsted, "The Gundestrup Version of Táin Bó Cuailnge," ANTIQUITY,
L (1976), 95-103.
\$ "The Golden Nobles of Shibarghan," TIME MAGAZINE, Vol. 114, No. 1
(July 2, 1979), 52-53.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
I-II	The emergence of a cultural balance in Eurasia prior to the conquests of Alexander the Great.	W.H. McNeill, THE RISE OF THE WEST, pp. 110-276; R. Grousset, THE EMPIRE OF THE STEPPES, pp. 3-26; N. Chadwick, THE CELTS, pp. 17-41; J.M. Abun-Nasr, HISTORY OF THE MAGHRIB, pp. 1-23; R. Thapar, HISTORY OF INDIA, I, pp. 28-69.
III-VI	The conquests of Alexander the Great and the emergence of Hellenistic Civilization in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East.	W.H. McNeill, THE RISE OF THE WEST, pp. 277-294; W.W. Tarn, HELLENISTIC CIVILISATION, entire; J.B. Bury, et al., THE HELLENISTIC AGE, entire.
		In addition, browse through J. Charbonneaux, HELLENISTIC ART.

Consult the reading list (above) for the locations of the assigned readings. Students should read approximately 140 pages of the reading assignment per week. A description of the nature and format of the six weeks examination (together with sample questions) will be available by the fourth week of the term.