MMW 121: Exploring the Pre-Modern World
Professor Alex Stewart
Sections A1 and A2

TA: Ben Smuin
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Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 9:45-10:45 AM at Mandeville Coffee Cart and Monday 2-4 PM in the TA suite (also available by appointment)
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Course Objective:
During the next five weeks we’ll engage with and explore the human experience from the earliest literate civilizations through the end of the Middle Ages. This course is the first of two intense summer sessions for ERC transfer students, and we’ll develop the skills required to write an extensive research paper required for MMW 122.

Section Objective:
The purpose of section is to improve your understanding of and engagement with the course content by giving you an opportunity to exercise critical thinking, writing, reading, studying, listening, and speaking skills in a small, supportive group led by a knowledgeable guide.

When you successfully complete this course, you will be better able to:
• Articulate how classical empires become medieval ones, how major world religions develop in the process, and how multiple factors shape broad cultural changes
• Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context, developing ideas in dialogue with course readings and lectures
• Write coherent academic argument essays that address a significant issue; ask a specific, open-ended arguable question; answer the question by making a claim and backing it up with sufficient, relevant, specific, compelling evidence; consider and rebut counterarguments; demonstrate significance of the argument; and accurately cite sources in MLA format
• Know the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them in academic writing
• Engage in substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers

Letter Grade Requirement: You must take MMW courses for a letter grade. If you have selected Pass/No Pass as a grading option for MMW 121, you should immediately change your option to letter grade, or you will not fulfill the ERC General Education Requirement and will have to take MMW 12 again.

Attendance, Participation, and Section Requirements:
Regular attendance and participation in section is mandatory. Any student who misses more than 3 sections will fail the course. We only have 5 weeks’ worth of section, which makes your attendance and engagement with the material crucial. Any absence can lower your grade.
You must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss and write about course material. Consistent tardiness will lower your grade.

You are REQUIRED to bring all relevant material (at times including lecture notes, homework assignments, and readings) to the section each week. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom, and you’ll know ahead of time what to bring to class.

In order to participate successfully, you will need to be prepared. Bring your lecture notes and assigned readings to section each week. For each section meeting, you will be responsible for readings and material assigned for all lectures that have already taken place.

Dialogue and even disagreement are encouraged, provided they are done so respectfully. I understand that speaking in a group setting is more difficult for some people. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the class, see me and we can work out a way for you to share your ideas.

**Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work:** I may assign homework to be completed by the beginning of the next section meeting. The purpose of the homework will generally be to prepare for the next class. Therefore, late homework will not be accepted. Homework is generally graded on a credit/no credit basis. All homework and extra credit should be typed and follow the MMW style sheet guidelines, including your name and section number. We may have short quizzes at the beginning of section, which will contribute to your section grade. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if I see that lots of students are not keeping up with class readings.

**Grading:**
Your section counts for 10% of the overall class grade. 5% will be determined by weekly quizzes and/or homework assignments, which will push you to keep up with the regular assignments. The final 5% will come from regular attendance and participation, which, along with reading and assignments (done out of class) will not only help your course grade but also ensure your overall success in MMW.

Once each week, students must post a paragraph on the Piazza course page that introduces one or two discussion questions about one or more of the readings assigned for that week OR post a paragraph in response to the questions one of your classmates has posted. These questions or answers must be posted by 11:59 on Wednesday night. They must be based on the readings for that week, but it is even better if they integrate previous readings, films, or broad themes of the course. You should ask debatable (not factual) questions that could have a variety of plausible answers. The goal of these posts is to help you think critically about the readings and inspire further discussion in class. Each student should review the online discussion before class meets, in addition to doing the assigned readings.

**Writing Assignments and Late Policy:**
In MMW 121, you are required to complete two structured writing assignments that will build your critical reading and writing skills. Assignments will be covered in section, along with the
MMW guidelines on how to format and submit your papers. Failure to meet ALL criteria for writing assignments will result in the loss of points.

All papers must be turned in directly as a hard copy to me in section, lecture, or office hours (they are due at the BEGINNING of section, anything later is considered late), in addition to an electronic copy uploaded to www.turnitin.com. Papers left in my mailbox or the MMW office will not be graded. You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late (including weekends). If you are unable to attend section the day the paper is due, you must make other arrangements to submit your work. In addition to taking the mid-term and final exams and attending section regularly, you must submit ALL writing assignments (both as a hard copy to me and to turnitin.com) in order to pass the course.

Classroom Environment:

Section exercises are aimed at developing strong critical thinking, reading, and comprehension, and writing skills that you will use throughout your academic and professional career. By reading critically, you will better understand the major themes of the course, as well as gain experience working with primary materials to explore the historical context in which they were produced. In addition, section meetings will simulate a “workshop” environment in which you will be guided through the process of academic, argumentative-based writing and have the opportunity to develop original hypotheses and discuss your insights about the course material with your peers. This is not a second lecture, but rather a forum in which you should discuss your ideas and opinions about the material we cover throughout the quarter. Disagreement is allowed, sometimes even encouraged, as long as it is done respectfully and professionally. Cell phones, laptops, tablets, and the like are generally unnecessary for section, and therefore are not allowed. Using a cell phone in class will most definitely lead to a lower grade.

Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email:
I am always happy to meet, and encourage you to come to office hours as often as possible. If you email a list of questions, you’ll most likely get a response asking you to come to office hours or make an appointment. I also rarely answer emails without some sort of greeting, your name and your section number, and an appropriate title. Keep that in mind. I respond to emails within 24 hours during the week, 48 hours on the weekends. Summer Session is hectic, and since not everyone lives near campus, I will experiment with online office hours, with either Piazza or regular email and will notify you when these office hours will take place.

Course Resources:

Course reserves: reserves.ucsd.edu
Piazza: https://piazza.com/class/ibd1cgy9mvx517
UCSD Writing Center: http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/ (closed during the summer, but useful during the regular academic year)
The Cornell Note-taking System (in case you need help with note-taking):
http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/Sidebars/Study_Skills_Resources/cornellsystem.pdf
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):
College life can be stressful, and it is normal to feel overwhelmed at times. UCSD has a staff of professionals that are available for confidential meetings to discuss any personal concerns you might have. Feel free to contact CAPS at anytime to set up an appointment: http://psychservices.ucsd.edu/#students

******Academic Integrity: You are responsible for the honesty and integrity of your academic work at UCSD. The University has a strict policy prohibiting cheating of any kind. If you are suspected of cheating, you will be required to meet with an academic coordinator, who will discuss your case with the professor. If the professor charges you with misconduct, the professor will determine the penalty for your grade in the course, which can range from deductions to failing the paper, section, or the course. Then you will have to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs, who will determine additional penalties, which can range from failing the course and taking an academic integrity seminar to suspension to expulsion.

Throughout this process, a hold will be put on your grade. Even a first offense can result in a quarter’s suspension, and the standard sanction for a second offense is suspension or permanent dismissal from the university. Any instance of academic misconduct can be recorded in a student’s file. Such a record might interfere with a student’s acceptance into law, medical, or graduate school, or might make that student ineligible for positions requiring a security clearance, such as a government internship.

In brief, the University’s Policy on Integrity of Scholarship states that students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor’s standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

1. No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions, or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.
2. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination nor assignment for another person.
3. No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.
4. No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.
5. No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.
6. No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.
7. No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

Please read the full Policy: http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html. If you have any questions, ask me.