Welcome to MMW 12! This quarter will be fun, challenging, and tiring, all at once. I’m here to help. Remember to take care of yourself, and enjoy this journey we call the writing process -- if you’re not having fun, you’re not doing it right! (OK, maybe it isn’t always so fun, but we will aim for it.)

**Course Objective:**
Covering ca. 100 BCE to 1200 CE, MMW 12 examines the development of classical empires from China to the West, their collapse, and their transformation into distinct medieval forms. It also examines the rise and spread of Christianity, Islam, and Mahayana Buddhism.

This course is the first of two writing-intensive quarters in the MMW sequence and teaches the skill of writing an academic essay that makes an argument based on critical thinking and engagement with primary and secondary sources.

**Section Objective:**
Section has two main purposes: (1) to improve your understanding of the course content from lecture and readings and (2) to improve your ability to write an academic argument based on course content.

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
- Understand the process of writing academic papers and write coherent, compelling argumentative essays that address a significant issue and accurately use and cite sources
- Engage in critical thinking and substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers
- Understand the process of analytical reading and respond to college-level texts with confidence
- Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context
- Make connections between course readings, assignments, and lectures, and focus on important points
- Use evidence and reasoning to support your arguments
- Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them
- Produce reflections on your course learning
**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 12, 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. Students who miss 5 sections—excused or unexcused—will fail section. Students who miss 7 sections—excused or unexcused—will fail the course. 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 (including lecture notes, homework assignments, and readings) to the section each week. Remember that we will be using *A Writer’s Reference* in every section. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom. I will give you a heads up as to which specific texts you will need to bring each week (in addition to *A Writer’s Reference*) so as to minimize what you have to carry.

For each section meeting, you will be responsible for readings and material assigned for all lectures that have already taken place. That said, you need to be prepared in order to participate successfully in discussions.

You are expected to actively participate in class discussions. 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:**
Section work will be varied, in order to cover a wide range of learning strategies and engage with class material through different methods. In-Class Work will consist of (but will not be limited to) writing exercises, group activities, and discussions. It is very important that you actively participate in section - everyone has something valuable to contribute, and the classroom is a richer learning environment when everyone is engaged.

Homework assignments will lean more heavily towards writing, but may also include some take-home short answer quizzes. The purpose of the homework will generally be to prepare for the next class, and to ensure that everyone is keeping up with the reading. Generally, your homework assignments will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. All work should be typed and follow the MMW Program Policy guidelines, including your name and section number. **Late homework will not be accepted.**

**Grading:**
Section counts for 10% of the overall class grade. Below is the breakdown of your section grade:
5% - Attendance and participation. Remember that every absence can lower your grade.  
5% - Homework and in-class written assignments.

Both of these require your presence in section. Please be sure to communicate with me if you foresee an absence.

**Writing Assignments and Late Policy:**
In MMW 12, you are required to write three assignments that build an academic argument on a course theme. All papers must be turned in directly as hard copy to me in section, lecture, or office hours, 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:**
The classroom is a place that welcomes all contributions, and a successful learning environment is dependent upon everyone’s participation. I will aim to create a safe, comfortable space for all students to share their ideas, doubts, and questions about the course. Speaking in front of your classmates, and often sharing your writing with them, will be a part of our section. One of our overall goals is to get comfortable with the learning process, which means you should embrace your doubts and questions!

You are permitted to use a laptop, but only to access readings or lecture notes. Any browsing that disengages you from class discussion or group activities will affect your participation grade.

Use of cell phones is prohibited. Texting or browsing on your cell phone during section will also affect your participation grade. In the case that an emergency arises and you need to use your cell phone, please let me know so that you may step outside the classroom to do so.

**Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email/Piazza:**
Office hours are meant to give you a space and time to talk to me about any questions you may have, whether about a particular assignment or the course in general. I highly encourage you to come to my office hours at least once during the quarter, even if it is simply to talk about how the course is going for you.

If my office hours do not work for you, remember that I can meet by appointment. However, if you want to meet with me at a time other than my office hours, I ask that you let me know at least a day in advance. I am generally on campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

**Course Resources:**
Course Website: http://www.profcohen.net/mmw12/
MMW12 Homepage: http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw12.html
UCSD Writing Center: http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/
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

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact OSD for more information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), http://disabilities.ucsd.edu (website)

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 them 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](http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html). If you have any questions, ask me.