

Course Outline: Asia, Africa, and the World We Live In

CHINA (Weeks 1-8 - includes 2-Week Introduction)

- China as a “cardinal culture” in the world we live in
- Anchor Facts of Chinese History
- Key Progressions and Topics
 - The Xia, Shang, and Zhou dynasties
 - Confucius
 - The Middle Kingdom culture
 - Globalization and the subordination of China by Western civilization
 - Maoism
 - Post-Maoism and the “Made in China” phenomenon
- TEST FOR WEEKS 1-8

JAPAN (Weeks 9-14)

- Japan as a major culture in the world we live in
- Anchor Facts of Japanese History
- Key Progressions and Topics
 - Shintoism and the Yamato Clan
 - Emperors, Shoguns, and Samurai
 - European Pressure and the Sakoku (Isolation) Policy
 - Globalization and the subordination of Japan by Western civilization
 - Reactionary Imperialism
 - Post-Imperial Japan and its role in the world
- TEST FOR WEEKS 9-14

THE ISLAMIC MIDDLE EAST (Weeks 15-20)

- Islamic culture as a “cardinal culture” in the world we live in
- Anchor Facts of Islamic History
- Key Progressions and Topics
 - Muhammad and the Rise of Imperial Islam
 - The Crusades
 - The Ottoman Empire and Europe
 - The subordination of Islamic Culture by Western civilization
 - Nationalism and Islamism
 - The “War on Terror” and the challenges of cosmopolitanism for Islam
- TEST FOR WEEKS 21-26

INDIA (Weeks 21-26)

- India as a major culture in the world we live in
- Anchor Facts of Indian History
- Key Progressions and Topics

- Hinduism and Pre-History
- Alexander the Great
- The Mauryan Empire and the roots of nationhood
- Globalization and the subordination of India to Western civilization
- The British Raj
- Post-Colonial India, Hindu Nationalism, and India's place in the world
- TEST FOR WEEKS 15-20

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Weeks 27-32)

- Sub-Saharan Africa as a major cultural block in the world we live in
- Anchor Facts of African History
- Key Progressions and Topics
 - Ancient and Medieval Tribes and Kingdoms
 - The Islamic and European Impingements
 - The European Age of Discovery and the Atlantic Slave Trade
 - European Imperialism
 - Decolonization
 - The Struggle for Democracy in Africa
- TEST FOR WEEKS 27-32

RECENT HISTORY, CURRENT EVENTS, AND FINAL INTEGRATION (Weeks 33-34)

- The patterns and structure of World history
- Asia, Africa, and the World We Live In Today (including current events)
- Prospects for Asian and African cultures in an interconnected world
- FINAL TEST