

## HGP 110: Development of Civilization to 1500

**Objective:** The purpose of this syllabus is to guide the participant in the requirements, demands, logistics and expectations of this course.

**Getting Help:** To receive technical assistance on issues related to WebCT contact: **Academic Instructional Technology Help Desk**

ES 102

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(719) 587-7371 [ascwebct@adams.edu](mailto:ascwebct@adams.edu)

### Instructor Information

Instructor:	George Backen
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:gjbacken@adams.edu">gjbacken@adams.edu</a>
Phone:	719.587.7201
Fax:	719.587.7176
Address:	Adams State College History Government and Philosophy Alamosa, CO 81102

Welcome to HGP 110: Development of Civilization to 1500

My name is Dr. George Backen, and I'm delighted that you've decided to study the history of world civilizations with me. Although many factors make for a civilization, generally, a civilization is a political organization that interacts diplomatically with other political organizations. For early agrarian societies, leadership in these political organizations often held legitimacy by some connection to the will of divine beings. And trade exchanged goods, resources, ideas, and new ways of living in the world.

And from these beginnings, our current political and civil organizations developed. Consequently, the story of civilization is the story of human beings. And the story of civilization is the story of all of us. Your values, understandings, goals, and identity are the result of the history you're about to read.

This class consists of five exams. These exams are open book (readings) and open note, and you will have 60 minutes to complete the exam. Please note that these exams must be done in one sitting, that is, once you begin the exam you will not be able to stop and continue the exam at a later time.

There is no book needed for this class! All readings are available online. The website that contains the readings has seven units. In the Learning Modules section, these seven units are broken down to five modules. Each module will be covered by an exam. Please note that

Learning Module I covers readings in Units I and III on the website. Readings in Unit II have their own module, Learning Module II.

These Learning Modules provide the readings that will prepare you for the exam. The readings to be done are in bold and underlined in the Learning Module. If a reading on the website is not listed in the Learning Module, the reading is not required and the information therein will not be tested.

In addition to listing the readings, the Learning Modules contain study guides of key information that will help you prepare for the exam. Although you will be responsible for all the material in the readings, the study guide provides the best outline to the exam.

**WARNING:** The exams are demanding and given that they are open book/notes (you may have any prepared material with you when you take the exam – readings or notes), they are graded by a high standard. Consequently, you should be extremely familiar with the readings and the topics in the study guide. Also, exams are testing your knowledge of the readings assigned, consequently essays are required to reflect the information contained in the readings. That is, you must evidence your knowledge of the readings on the essays, although you may consult other sources to help you understand the readings.

You will find contact information for me on the syllabus. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email, phone, or fax. When you initially register for this course, I would welcome a call or message from you so that we may get to know each other better. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns, or simply to chat about the readings. The preferable way of contacting me is via email. At times, voicemail is checked irregularly.

Sincerely,

George Backen, PhD, JD

### **Credit Hours**

Three Semester Hours

### **Prerequisites**

None

### **Catalog Description**

As outlined in Section IV of the General Education Curriculum, this course consists of the first part of a two semester course in global civilization. These two courses attempt to "promote an understanding of the political and social systems developed by diverse cultures throughout history." In the process, it seeks to foster in students "a capacity to develop and maintain a global perspective (cultural, historical, and societal) from which a strong set of ethical and moral values can evolve." It seeks to promote "an ability to initiate inquiry, question conventional wisdom, and analyze problems."

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student will:

1. Compose 5 essays that accurately and plausibly argue a response to the question assigned. The student must craft a discernable thesis and marshal historically accurate evidence in support of the thesis.
2. Further develop an appreciation for the development of civilization
3. Further develop the ability to think and write critically and clearly concerning complex **issues**.

## **Course Instructions**

There are five Learning Modules for this course. Each module covers reading units that are found on the website. Learning Modules consist of the reading to be done (readings are in bold and underlined) and a list of study guide topics. Readings that are not listed in the Learning Module need not be read. Although you will be responsible for all material in the assigned readings, a study guide of key terms is provided to help you prepare for the exams.

Note: Web sites are constantly changing and you may find that some have moved or are simply no longer available; contact your instructor with any questions.

## **Course Requirements**

The course consists of five exams. These exams will have 25 true/false questions, worth 2 points each, and two essay questions. Students will select one essay question to answer, worth 50 points. If more than one essay is answered, the best essay will be graded. Exams are open book/readings and open notes. The student must complete the exam in one sitting of 60 minutes. Any detection of cheating will result in a zero, F for the course. That is, all writing must be your own.

## **Course Materials**

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1075** to order books from Bookstore site.

## **Required Textbook:**

There is no text required for this course. All readings are available online.

## Grade Distribution and Scale

### Grade Distribution

5 Exams	100 pts. each	500
Total Course Points:		500

### Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	100-90	500-450
B	89-80	449-400
C	79-70	399-350
D	69-60	349-300
F	59-0	299-0