

## CIV103 | World History I

### Course Text

Bentley, J. H., Ziegler, H. F., Streets-Salter, H. E., & Benjamin, C. (2024). *Traditions & encounters: A brief global history* (6th ed.). McGraw Hill Education.

### Course Description

This course guides students through an exploration of human societies across the world since the emergency of human civilization. By comparing and contrasting societies that developed at the same time across Asia, Europae, Africa, and the Americas, students will develop a better understanding of the foundations of modern society and global citizenry. students will learn how environmental factors, gender, politics, culture, and technology contributed to the development and growth of society across the globe.

### Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify at least two societies on each continent
2. Explain how different cultures evolved over time
3. Understand how empires and societies rise and fall
4. Identify, compare, and contrast key figures, events, and empires through time
5. Chronologically organize key events in world history
6. Understand cross-cultural exchange of ideas, agriculture, and technology
7. Apply lessons from early societies to modern society, including geographical boundaries and daily life
8. Improve geographical knowledge of the world
9. Identify and use primary and secondary sources to support historical arguments

### Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript.

## Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

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## Assessment Types

StraighterLine courses may include any combination of the assessment types described below. Review the descriptions to learn about each type, then review the Course Evaluation Criteria to understand how your learning will be measured in this course.

### Benchmarks

Benchmarks test your mastery of course concepts. You have 3 attempts, and your highest score counts.

**Note:** Cumulative Benchmarks (final exams) only allow 1 attempt.

### Capstones

Capstones are project-based assessments that help you apply concepts to real-world scenarios. You have 2 attempts, and your highest score counts.

### Checkpoints

Checkpoints are quick knowledge checks on important course concepts. All are open-book, and most have 1-3 attempts.

## AI Use-Case Policies

StraighterLine Capstone assessments operate under one of three AI Use-Case Policies. These designations are selected intentionally to support learners in developing digital literacy, ethical reasoning, and authentic communication skills. Each model requires students to engage meaningfully with the course outcomes while adhering to academic standards.

**Independent Work Requirement:** Capstones with this designation must be completed independently without using AI tools. The goal is for learners to showcase their own understanding and skills without AI assistance. Students are expected to generate and submit original work developed solely through their own reasoning and effort.

**AI-Assisted Planning Option:** Capstones with this designation may allow AI tools to support brainstorming and assessment planning. If allowed, students will be asked to document any AI assistance by noting how it informed their work. Documentation must be included within the assignment or in a designated reflection field. Examples include describing how an AI tool helped organize an outline, generate ideas, or surface sources for further exploration.

**AI-Integration Requirement:** Capstones with this designation require AI tools as part of the learning process. Students will be asked to reflect upon their AI interactions and AI contributions to the assessment. Reflections must include which tools were used, how they were used, and what insights students gained from the process. This promotes transparency, ethical use, and metacognitive skill-building.

## Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Checkpoint 1: The Emergence of Complex Societies in Southwest Asian and Encounters with Indo-European Peoples	3	2, 4, 8
Checkpoint 2: The Emergency of Complex Societies in Africa and Bantu Migrations	3	1, 4, 6, 8
Checkpoint 3: The Emergence of Societies in South and East Asia	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 4: Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Benchmark 1: Checkpoints 1-4	100	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Checkpoint 5: The Empires of Persia	3	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Checkpoint 6: The Unification of China	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 7: State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in South Asia	3	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Checkpoint 8: Civilizations of the Mediterranean Basin: The Greeks and Romans	3	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Benchmark 2: Checkpoints 6-9	100	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Capstone 1: Primary Source Analysis	250	3, 4, 7, 9
Checkpoint 9: Cross-Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Roads	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 10: The Byzantine Empire	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 11: The Expansive Realm	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 12: The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 13: India and the Ocean	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 14: Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Benchmark 3: Checkpoints 10-14	100	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
Checkpoint 15: States and Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 16: Western Europe in the Early Modern	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 17: Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Checkpoint 18: Expanding Horizons of Cross-Cultural Interaction	3	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Benchmark 4: Checkpoints 15-18	100	1, 4, 5, 7, 8
Capstone 2: Annotated Timeline	296	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	

## Course Roadmap

This roadmap provides an overview of the checkpoints and lessons covered in this course.

### Checkpoint 1: The Emergence of Complex Societies in Southwest Asian and Encounters with Indo-European Peoples

- Checkpoint 1 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 1 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 1 Overview
- Textbook Reading 1.1: The Transition to Agriculture
- Textbook Reading 1.2: The Quest for Order
- Textbook Reading 1.3: The Formation of Sophisticated Social and Cultural Traditions
- Textbook Reading 1.4: The Broader Influence of Mesopotamian Society
- Textbook Reading 1.5: The Indo-European Migrations
- Video Spotlight on World History: History of the World

### Checkpoint 2: The Emergence of Complex Societies in Africa and Bantu Migrations

- Checkpoint 2 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 2 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 2 Overview
- Textbook Reading 2.1: Early Agrarian Societies
- Textbook Reading 2.2: The Formation of Complex Societies and Sophisticated Cultural Traditions
- Textbook Reading 2.3: Bantu Migrations and Early Agricultural Societies of the Sub-Saharan Africa
- Video Spotlight on World History: Origin of the Bantu People and Culture

### Checkpoint 3: The Emergence of Societies in South and East Asia

- Checkpoint 3 Check-in With Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 3 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 3 Overview
- Textbook Reading 3.1: The Indus Civilization
- Textbook Reading 3.2: The Indo-Aryan Migrations and early Vedic South Asia
- Textbook Reading 3.3: Religion in the Vedic Age
- Textbook Reading 3.4: Political Organization in China
- Textbook Reading 3.5: Society and Family in Ancient China
- Textbook Reading 3.6: Early Chinese Writing and Cultural Development
- Textbook Reading 3.7: Ancient China and the Larger World
- Video Spotlight on World History: Early East Asian Civilizations

### Checkpoint 4: Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania

- Checkpoint 4 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 4 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 4 Overview
- Textbook Reading 4.1: Early Societies of Mesoamerica
- Textbook Reading 4.2: Early Societies of South America
- Textbook Reading 4.3: Early Societies of Oceania
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Americas and Time Keeping

### Checkpoint 5: The Empires of Persia

- Checkpoint 5 Check-in with Dr. Rendina

- Chapter 5 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 5 Overview
- Textbook Reading 5.1: Empires of Persia
- Textbook Reading 5.2: Imperial Society and Economy
- Textbook Reading 5.3: Religions of the Persian Empires
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Indo-European World Part II

### **Checkpoint 6: The Unification of China**

- Checkpoint 6 Check-in with Dr. REndina
- Chapter 6 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 6 Overview
- Textbook Reading 6.1: The Search for Political and Social Order in Zhou Dynasty China
- Textbook Reading 6.2: The Unification of China
- Textbook Reading 6.3: From Economic Prosperity to Social Disorder
- Video Spotlight on World History: Warring States Period

### **Checkpoint 7: State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in South Asia**

- Checkpoint 7 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 7 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 7 Overview
- Textbook Reading 7.1: The Fortunes of Empire in Ancient South Asia
- Textbook Reading 7.2: Economic and Social Developments in South Asia
- Textbook Reading 7.3 The Emergence of Religions of Salvation in South Asia
- Video Spotlight on World History: Early Buddhism

### **Checkpoint 8: Civilizations of the Mediterranean Basin: The Greeks and Romans**

- Chapter 8 Check-in with Dr. Reindna
- Chapter 8 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 8 Overview
- Textbook Reading 8.1: Early Development of Greek Society
- Textbook Reading 8.2: Greece and the Larger World
- Textbook Reading 8.3: The Fruits of Trade: Greek Economy & Society
- Textbook Reading 8.4: The Cultural Life of Ancient Greece
- Textbook Reading 8.5: Rome-From Kingdom to Republic
- Textbook Reading 8.6: From Republic to Empire
- Textbook Reading 8.7: Economy and Society in the Roman Mediterranean
- Textbook Reading 8.8: The Cosmopolitan Mediterranean
- Video Spotlight on World History: Ancient Greece vs. Ancient Rome

### **Checkpoint 9: Cross-Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Roads**

- Checkpoint 9 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 9 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 9 Overview
- Textbook Reading 9.1: Long-Distance Trade and the Silk Roads Networks
- Textbook Reading 9.2 Cultural and Biological Exchanges along the Silk Roads
- Textbook Reading 9.3: China after the Han Dynasty
- Textbook Reading 9.4: The Collapse of the Western Roman Empire
- Video Spotlight on World History: History of Silk Road

### Checkpoint 10: The Byzantine Empire

- Checkpoint 10 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 10 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 10 Overview
- Textbook Reading 10.1: The Early Byzantine Empire
- Textbook Reading 10.2: Byzantine Economy & Society
- Textbook Reading 10.3: Greek Heritage and Orthodox Christianity
- Textbook Reading 10.4: The Influence of Byzantium in Eastern Europe
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Byzantine Empire

### Checkpoint 11: The Expansive Realm of Islam

- Checkpoint 11 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 11 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 11 Overview
- Textbook Reading 11.1: A Prophet and His World
- Textbook Reading 11.2: The Expansion of Islam
- Textbook Reading 11.3: Economy and Society of the Early Islamic World
- Textbook Reading 11.4: Islamic Values and Cultural Exchanges
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Byzantine and Islamic World

### Checkpoint 12: The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia

- Checkpoint 12 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 12 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 12 Overview
- Textbook Reading 12.1: The Restoration of Centralized Imperial Rule in China
- Textbook Reading 12.2: The Economic Development of Tang and Song China
- Textbook Reading 12.3: Cultural Change in Tang and Song China
- Textbook Reading 12.4: Development of Complex Societies in Korea, Vietnam, and Japan
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Golden Era of Medieval China

### Checkpoint 13: India and the Indian Ocean

- Checkpoint 13 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 13 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 13 Overview
- Textbook Reading 13.1: Islamic and Hindu Kingdoms
- Textbook Reading 13.2: Production and Trade in the Indian Ocean Basin
- Textbook Reading 13.3: Religious Developments in South Asia
- Textbook Reading 13.4: The Influence of Indian Society in Southeast Asia
- Video Spotlight on World History: Ancient India

### Checkpoint 14: Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration

- Checkpoint 14 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 14 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 14 Overview
- Textbook Reading 14.1: Turkic Migrations and Imperial Expansion
- Textbook Reading 14.2: The Mongol Empires
- Textbook Reading 14.3: After the Mongols
- Video Spotlight on World History: Environmental Pressures and Nomadic Migrations in the Eurasian

### Checkpoint 15: States and Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa

- Checkpoint 15 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 15 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 15 Overview
- Textbook Reading 15.1: Effects of Early African Migrations
- Textbook Reading 15.2: African Societies and Cultural Development
- Textbook Reading 15.3: Islamic Kingdoms and Empires
- Video Spotlight on World History: Herodotus on Ancient Africa

### Checkpoint 16: Western Europe in the Early Modern

- Checkpoint 16 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 16 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 16 Overview
- Textbook Reading 16.1: The Quest for Political Order
- Textbook Reading 16.2: Economic Growth and Social Development
- Textbook Reading 16.3: European Christianity During the Late Medieval Period
- Textbook Reading 16.4: The Medieval Expansion of Europe
- Video Spotlight on World History: Environmental Pressures and Nomadic Migration on the Eurasian Steppe

### Checkpoint 17: Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania

- Checkpoint 17 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 17 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 17 Overview
- Textbook Reading 17.1: States and Empires in Mesoamerica and North America
- Textbook Reading 17.2: States and Empires in South America
- Textbook Reading 17.3: The Societies of Oceania
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Black Death

### Checkpoint 18: Expanding Horizons of Cross-Cultural Interaction

- Checkpoint 18 Check-in with Dr. Rendina
- Chapter 18 Presentation
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 18 Overview
- Textbook Reading 18.1: Long-Distance Trade and Travel
- Textbook Reading 18.2: Crisis and Recovery
- Textbook Reading 18.3: Exploration and Colonization
- Video Spotlight on World History: The Dark and Deadly History of the Plague

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