RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

HIST – 101 WORLD CIVILIZATION I

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: HIST 101-World Civilization I

B. Date of Proposal or Revision: Fall 2006

C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences & Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0

F. Prerequisites: None

G. Laboratory Fees: N/A

II. Catalog Description

The course is an introduction to world history from before the Neolithic Revolution until about 1500, with emphasis on the ancient, classical, and medieval worlds. Among the themes which receive special focus are Men and Women, Cities and Civilization, Religion and Society, and War and Peace.

III. Statement of Course Need

The course is one of a two semester sequence in world history, a general introductory course in humanities.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
   • This course satisfies requirements for history and for humanities.

B. Course transferability: This course should transfer as a World Civilization, World History, history or humanities course and as part of the General Education curriculum.

V. Outline of Course Content
A. Human origins  
B. Hunting-Gathering Society  
C. Neolithic Revolution and society  
D. Urban revolution: cities and states  
E. Ancient civilizations compared  
F. Local and tribal to universal religions  
G. Classical civilizations compared  
H. Spread of salvation religions  
I. Medieval world contacts and comparisons  
J. Roots of the modern before 1500

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Educational Goals

Students will:
1. use the information provided by text and readings to understand better the historical process by which the world changed over most of the last ten thousand years. (GE 4)
2. recognize the difference between historical explanation and ethical issues. (GE 5)
3. provide explanations for specific important changes in human history. (GE 1)
4. determine what evidence may be needed to evaluate different theories (GE 1)

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. Cite three stages of human history.
2. Compare the characteristics of two ancient civilizations.
3. Describe the major strengths and weaknesses of the first city based state societies.
4. Cite the development of two great religious traditions
5. Compare at least two classical civilizations or empires.
6. Compare the spread of at least two salvation religious traditions.
7. Compare and contrast two medieval civilizations.
8. Identify and explain the significance of the major regional civilizations of world history before 1500.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning may include:
- lecture/discussion
- individual or small-group exercises
- independent study
- film

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments
Assessment methods used may be:
- class participation
- written examinations
- notebook/journals
- papers

IX. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the goals and outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may include:

- active participation in class discussions
- three examinations
- notebook/journals

X. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts that may be use:

Reilly, Kevin, The West and the World to 1700
Reilly, Kevin, Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader
Reilly, Kevin and Robert Strayer, The Human Journey

XI. Resources

- Library for reserve materials
- Computer access for films and web sites.

Revised 9/10/06