HIST 101H - World Civilization I -- Honors

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course number and Title: 
   HIST 101H- World Civilization I -- Honors

B. Date of Proposal: 
   February 2005

C. Sponsoring Department: 
   Humanities and Social Sciences

D. Semester Credit Hours: 
   3

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 
   3 Lecture __3__
   Lab __0__

F. Prerequisites: 
   None

G. Laboratory Fees: 
   None

II. Catalog Description

(Prerequisite/s: None; Corequisite/s: None) A study of world history before 1500 with special attention to such topics as: men and women, cities and civilization, religion and society, and war and peace. The Honors course, as a smaller class than the regular course, calls for greater student participation at a more challenging level of discussion. Students do additional readings besides the course textbooks. These normally include historical fiction. In written assignments, students may be asked to integrate sources from film and museum visits in addition to the readings as they think about historical questions.

III. Statement of Course Need

Almost a dozen sections of World Civilization I run every fall, fulfilling the history requirement of students in many programs. The Honors section of the course will provide an opportunity for strong students interested specifically in History. Although the course has not run in the past because of the difficulty of attracting first-semester students to Honors classes, providing high school seniors with sufficient information about the course should result in adequate enrollment. The course should have a place as a regular first-year offering in the College’s Honors Program.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
A. Program Elective
B. General Education--General Education course in Humanities
C. Other--World Civilization I is transferable as an introductory history course to colleges throughout the country.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course explores the following topics:

* A. Men and Women: Paleolithic, Neolithic, and early urban society
* B. Cities and Civilization: the rise of civilization in the Bronze and Iron ages and contrasts among cities of major civilizations in the classical era
* C. Religion and Society: growth of the great religious traditions from the 6th century BCE through the rise of Islam in the 7th century CE
* D. War and Peace: warrior societies and civilizational conflicts between the 4th century CE and the 15th century CE.

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

1. Goal A: The student will learn to think clearly, independently, and logically about historical problems (G.E.2)
2. Goal B: The student will learn to improve the ability to communicate and express ideas about the past and its relation to the present (G. E. 2)
3. Goal C: The student will understand similarities and differences among various cultures and historical periods (G.E. 6)
4. Goal D: The student will learn to think about the nature of historical knowledge, about how we know what we know.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Outcome A: The student will be able to discuss, in writing and in classroom conversation, general historical developments such as the growth of the great religious traditions
2. Outcome B: The student will be able to draw and evaluate comparisons of different societies, cultures, and civilizations.
3. Outcome C: The student will be able to compare different responses to cross-cultural encounters
4. Outcome D: The student will be able to discuss and write about themes across different cultures and periods.
5. Outcome E: The student will be able to discuss and write about epistemological issues related to history.
VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning
* Lecture/Discussion
* Small-Group Work
* Student Oral Presentations
* Independent Study
* Student Collaboration
* Other--Museum trip

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments
* Essays
* Journals
* Exam

IX. Grade Determinants
* Essay exams and though papers on broad, conceptual, and/or comparative topics.

X. Text and Materials
Suggested Textbook--The West and the World, Volume I, Kevin Reilly (Marcus Wiener)
Worlds of History, Volume I, Kevin Reilly (Bedford/St. Martins)
Siddhartha, Herman Hesse
Epic of Gilgamesh

XI. Resources
No additional resources needed.