

Study guide for the final exam

Bring one or two 8 ½ x 11 (large size) blue books. The final exam is worth 20% of the course grade, or 200 points. It covers all of the readings and lecture material since the midterm, that is, from the class and readings on writing systems to the end of the course. A lot of the reading was not discussed in class, and some big chunks of the class material are in addition to the reading, so you should review both. The final is similar in format to the midterm, plus some map questions. The written parts call for answers that range from a phrase or sentence to perhaps a few paragraphs. Since the second half of the course is a survey of many historical periods, cultures, and events, the questions will mostly call for shorter and less synthetic answers, but there will be more of them. Overall, the final is comparable in length to the midterm. There should be little or no time pressure.

The map questions will involve one or more maps with only landforms and rivers indicated, and a numbered list of names of cities, regions, rivers, and so on. You will indicate the locations of these places by drawing dots or outlining areas on the map(s), labeling them with the corresponding numbers. A complete list of geographic terms that may be included in the map questions is included at the end of this study guide. The map questions will only ask about items on this list. Blank practice maps are posted on the class website.

Suggestions for studying: Review the textbook readings, online readings, lecture notes, slides, and your own notes from class. Identify the important points and arguments of each portion of material. Look for overall patterns: what came first, and what later? What were the general trends? What caused them (as far as you can tell; this is not always discussed)? What were some key features of each period, society, event, religion, important person, etc.? Why did things happen as they did? How did different cultures, peoples, ideas, etc. relate to each other, affect each other, etc.?

Some themes to review, corresponding roughly to chapters and scheduled lectures:

Overview of writing systems: some terms that describe different types; where they were independently invented and roughly when; the relationship between Sumerian and Egyptian writing systems; the token theory of how the very first writing system developed; some basics about Sumerian, Egyptian, Chinese, and Mesoamerican writing systems; what various early writing systems were used for; the kinds of societies that developed writing systems...

Processes of diffusion and invention; Diamond's arguments about rates of diffusion

Elman Service's categorization of types of societies; some suggested reasons or processes that may have led societies to become more complex; the role of food production, population growth; conflict resolution; coordination or decision making; redistribution; use of force and warfare; ideology; etc.

Concepts related to social organization, such as stratification, class, surplus, specialization, ideology, redistribution, etc.

The development of complex society in Mesopotamia: the ecological setting and how it affected the process; approximate time frame of different events; early developments in the Neolithic that involved agriculture, storage, specialization, trade, warfare, and urbanization; technological, economic, political, military, and social innovations; the nature and roles of the temple and the palace buildings and institutions; redistribution; royal burials at Ur; the nature of early Sumerian civilization and the later Akkadian state

Babylonian empire, Hittites, Assyrian empire, Israelites, Phoenicians...

The development of complex society in Egypt: the ecological setting and how it affected the process; approximate time frame of different events; Neolithic societies and the social and economic changes that they experienced; rise of elites and ultimately kings; role(s) of warfare; burial evidence; unification; palette of Narmer; Narmer/Menes; nature of dynastic rule; development and use of pyramids; similarities, differences, and relationships with Sumer; Manetho

Contents, interpretation, and history of the three examples of early documents that we looked at: the Gilgamesh stories, Hammurabi's laws, and the stories on the Westcar papyrus

Harappan (Indus) civilization; Chinese Neolithic and early complex society; ecological and geographic settings; Xia, Shang, Zhou dynasties; role of bronze, iron, and chariots; oracle bones; Warring States period

Early Mediterranean world: Minoan civilization (Crete); Mycenaean Greeks; Linear A and B; Trojan war; Greek poleis; Sparta; helots; Athens; Greek colonies; Achaemenid empire; satraps; Persian wars; Herodotus as the first historian; Delphic oracle

Later Greek Mediterranean world: Delian league; Periclean Athens; Peloponnesian war and its causes; Thucydides; Alexander of Macedon and his empire; the three Hellenistic empires: Antigonid, Seleucid, and Ptolemaic

Roman Mediterranean world: Etruscans; mythical and historical origins of Rome; Kingdom of Rome; transition to Roman Republic; plebeians and patricians; consuls; tribunes; dictator; conquests; indirect rule; latifundia; Carthage and the Punic Wars; conflicts with Antigonids and Seleucids; transition to Roman Empire; civil tensions; the Gracchi; civil war; Julius Caesar; Octavian/Augustus, Mark Antony, Cleopatra; *Pax Romana*; features of Roman empire; religions of salvation

Globalization and trade in the Hellenistic world; Parthians; monsoon cycle; silk routes, how they worked, and why they flourished; Buddhism; Christianity; Manichaeism; plagues; decline and fall of the Roman empire; Diocletian; division of the empire; Constantine; Sasanids; Germanic tribes; fall of Western and survival of Eastern Roman empire; decline of silk routes

Byzantine empire; Muhammad; Qur'an; Five pillars of Islam; Mecca; *umma*; Medina; hegira; *hajj*; return to Mecca; Sunni / Shi'a split; Four rightly-guided caliphs; Umayyad dynasty; Abbasid dynasty; Seljuk Turks and sultans; *dar al-Islam*

Chinggis Khan; Mongol empires; impact on Mesopotamia; Khubilai Khan; medieval Europe; revival of silk routes; Marco Polo; Ibn Battuta; John of Montecorvino; trade; Little Ice Age; bubonic plague; Hongwu; Ming dynasty; Mandarins; Renaissance; purposes, nationalities, approximate paths, results, etc. of voyages of Zheng He, Bartolomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus

Geographical terms you should be able to mark or outline (approximately) on a map such as the blank ones posted on the class web page:

Mesopotamia	Harappa	Roman empire (maximum extent)
Tigris river	Yellow (Huang He) river	Rome
Euphrates river	Yangzi (Chang Jiang) river	Carthage
Sumer	Shang dynasty region	Silk routes
Anatolia	Crete	Alexandria (in Egypt)
Palestine	Knossos	Constantinople
Levant	Mycenae	Iberia
Assyria	Macedon	Gaul
Mediterranean Sea	Black Sea	Arabian peninsula
Persian Gulf	Troy	Mecca
Babylon	Persia	Medina
Egypt	Phoenician homeland	Abbasid caliphate
Nile river	Peloponnesus	dar al-Islam (at 850 CE)
Red Sea	Sparta	Mongol empires
Upper Egypt	Athens	voyages of Zheng He, Dias, da Gama, Columbus (roughly)
Lower Egypt	Achaemenid (Persian) empire	Portugal
Hierakonpolis	Empire of Alexander of Macedon	Cuba
Memphis	Antigonid empire	
Giza	Ptolemaic empire	
Nubia	Seleucid empire	
Indus river and region	Hellenistic empires	