Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the study of the human experience in the pre-modern world. It brings together various disciplinary approaches and major topics of the pre-modern world in a roughly chronological order. There are three central aims of this course. The first aim is to present our students the challenges and potential in the scientific study of human experience through the introduction of various analytical tools from disciplines such as history, sociology, anthropology and economics. The idea is to show to our students that the human experience is as much the realm of scientific inquiry and critical thinking as it is the case with the natural world. The second aim is to introduce the basic dynamics of the pre-modern world before the 18th century so that students would be adequately equipped to follow our consecutive course SPS 102 about the modern era and the concept of modernity. Finally, this course also aims to emphasize the structured use of language, in this case English, for the purposes of knowledge production and critical analysis. It accepts the role of language in humanities and social sciences as important as calculus is for physics. To that end, it pays special attention to critical reading and writing as evident from the course structure.

Grading: the components of the final course grade are as follows:

- Midterm examinations: 40% (Two midterms x 20% from each)
- Process essay: 30% (Outline 5% + Final Draft 25%)
- Discussion sessions: 20% (Ten discussions weeks x 2% from each)
- In-lecture questions: 10% (Five Top Hat questions x 2% from each)

Course Requirements: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each class and actively participate in in-class activities and discussion sections. The attendance is not mandatory in lectures and students are allowed to miss up to five discussion sections. Students who miss more than five discussion sections will automatically get a zero from all of their discussion section grades. In addition, those who miss five or more discussion sections and both midterm examinations without a valid excuse will fail the course and be considered N.A. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and complete all components of the course since they would be losing grades when they miss lectures with random in-lecture questions or discussion sections and underperform in assignments and examinations if they do not complete the necessary readings.

Course Components:

Midterm examinations: There will be two midterm examinations in this course. Each examination will consist of identification, short essay and a small section of bonus questions. Students will be graded based on their comprehension of the content and their ability to formulate analytical arguments based on that content from the readings, lectures and discussion sections.
Process essay: Students are expected to write an analytical process essay in two steps based on a list of pre-arranged topics that will be presented to them in the first week of the discussion sessions. The first step of this assignment is the submission of an outline (week 4) and the second step is the submission of a final process essay (week 11). Students who wish to seek more guidance could submit a preliminary draft on the 8th week to get feedback before the submission of their final process essay in week 11. This step is not mandatory but voluntary. This draft will not be graded. Each step, except the ungraded draft, is graded separately. Please make sure to read ‘Process essay guideline’ on SUCourse for more details.

Discussion sessions: Discussion sessions are student-centered learning hours conducted by the SPS facilitators. There will be a total of eleven discussion sessions and two film weeks. Every discussion session will consist of two hours and each hour will consist of components including a long exercise that would be graded out of 10 except the first week. Additionally, two weeks will be designated as film weeks. There will be no discussion sessions during film weeks. Instead, a film screening will take place on the Wednesday night of that week. A Top Hat bonus assignment will immediately follow each film screening. The bonus assignments will weight a total of 2% (1% each) of the overall course grade. Attendance will be taken regularly during discussion sessions but not during film weeks. Students who miss more than five discussion sections will automatically get a zero from all of their discussion section grades. Students will not be allowed into the discussion sections after ten minutes following the start of the session meeting. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

Lectures and in-lecture questions: Lectures constitute the backbone of this course. They are central to the design of the course and the content delivered in the lectures will be tested in the midterm examinations. Lecture attendance is not mandatory but five random in-lecture questions will be asked at random lecture hours throughout the course through the Top Hat system. These questions aim to test your comprehension of the lecture and they are not conducted for attendance. Cheating will not be tolerated.

Reading assignments: Students are expected to do all of the readings. Readings are designed to be complimentary to the lectures. A better understanding of any topic is only possible by completing the readings and they are a great source for the process essays. In addition, midterms will have questions based on the reading material.

Make-Up Policy: No make-ups are allowed for in-lecture questions and process essay outlines and process essay final drafts. Students automatically take a zero from the respective component’s grade if any of these assignments are missed. Late submissions for process essay final drafts are allowed only for a single day (until 23:59 of the next day after the original deadline) but there is a penalty (deduction of 5% from your course grade). For instance a late submission three minutes after the original due date would yield no more than a 20% out of 25% allocated for the final draft. Make-ups are only allowed for midterms to those with an official report from the University Health Center for the date of the exam in question and those with an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event on the date of the exam in question. Students are not allowed to take any form of examination or submit assignments on the days that they have documented excuses. No exceptions will be made to these rules. The same rules for midterm make-ups are also applicable to students who miss more than five discussion sections. The makeup exam will take place in class on Wednesday 16 May. The makeup exam will be cumulative, meaning that students will be responsible for the content of the entire course in the makeup exam. Students with an official report from the University Health Center or an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event for the date of a discussion section will receive the average points they have received in their other section worksheets throughout the semester.
Objection Policy: Students are only allowed to object to their midterm and paper assignment grades. Grade bargaining is absolutely not tolerated. All objections must have a solid basis and they must be submitted in person (not digitally). The facilitators who graded the assignment in question initially assess the objections. The SPS course coordinator makes a second assessment if need be. Please check the objection instructions on SUCourse for further instructions.

Assigned Readings: All students are required to buy the SPS reader from the photocopy shop at the University Center. The SPS reader includes all of the required readings listed below and these readings will also be accessible from the SUCourse web page of the course. Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. See the schedule of readings and lectures below.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be calculated using the following point distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>82-85</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>54-57</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-53</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Academic Integrity: Cases of plagiarism will be directly referred to the Dean’s Office for disciplinary action. This SPS course does not tolerate any breach of academic integrity.

For the university’s Academic Integrity Statement, see:

http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 – (7 February):

Lecture 1: What is SPS, why SPS and how does it work?
Lecture 2: The big picture: The transition from pre-modern to modern societies

* Video, ‘History and Memory’ Annenberg Learner, (Click me)

Week 2 – (14 February):

Lecture 1: The longest period of human history: Hunter and gatherers
Lecture 2: The great transition: Agricultural revolution and beyond

* Video, ‘Origins of agriculture,’ *World History / Khan Academy*, last modified 2017 (Click me)
Week 3 – (21 February):

Lecture 1: A man-made habitat: Emergence of cities and civilization
Lecture 2: Historicizing state: Theories on the origin of states


Week 4 – (28 February):

Lecture 1: Early belief systems and practices
Lecture 2: From animisms to monotheisms


Week 5 – (7 March):

Lecture 1: Early empires in world history: Rome and Han China
Lecture 2: On cultural and material exchange in pre-modern societies: markets, trade and interactions

* Video, ‘The Silk Road and Ancient Trade,’ *Crash Course World History Episode 9*, last modified 2012 (Click me).

Week 6 – (14 March):

Lecture 1: On medieval Europe: Why is it relevant?
Lecture 2: A general outlook: Production and economy in the agrarian period


Week 7 – (21 March):

Lecture 1: A snapshot of the medieval Afro-Eurasian world
Lecture 2: Proto-Globalizations: Afro-Eurasian macro systems

* Video, ‘Int’l Commerce, Snorkeling Camels, and The Indian Ocean Trade,’ *Crash Course World History Episode 18*, last modified 2012 (Click me).
First Midterm (On 24th of March, Saturday)

Week 8 – (28 March):

Lecture 1: Expanding frontiers and the Columbian Exchange I
Lecture 2: Expanding frontiers and the Columbian Exchange II

* Video, ‘An Introduction to Alfred Crosby's 'The Columbian Exchange,' *A Macat History Analysis,* last modified 2015 (Click me).

Spring Break (2-8 April)

Week 9 – (11 April):

Lecture 1: Stratification and gender in pre-modern societies
Lecture 2: Popular protests and rebellions in pre-modern societies

* Video, ‘Unit 13: Family and Household’ *Bridging World History* (Click me).

Week 10 – (18 April):

Lecture 1: On early modern transformations: Maritime empires and proto-globalization
Lecture 2: Responses to change: Resilient agrarian empires of the ‘old world’ (China – India)

* Video, ‘Capitalism and the Dutch East India Company’ *Crash Course World History Episode 229,* last modified 2015 (Click me).

Week 11 – (25 April):

Lecture 1: Mental transformations: Art and Ideas of the Renaissance
Lecture 2: Renaissance: Humanism, Art & Architecture

* Video, “Renaissance Art”, *the Khan Academy site* (Click me).

Week 12 – (2 May):

Lecture 1: The new economy in the early modern world I: Atlantic System and Africa
Lecture 2: The new economy in the early modern world II: On capital accumulation and capitalism

Week 13 – (9 May):
Lecture 1: How did the world look like before SPS 102?
Lecture 2: ‘What was left out?’ and reflections


Second Midterm (On 12th of May, Saturday)

Week 14 – (16 May):
Cumulative Make-Up Examination (On Wednesday 16 May)

No classes this week. Cumulative Make-up examination will take place during the designated lecture hours.

Film Week Schedule:
There will be a short introductory talk at the beginning of each movie screening. Bonus questions will be asked at the end of each film screening through the Top Hat system. Please attend to your own section’s screening. Otherwise you will not be able to properly log into the Top Hat system at the end. Remember, Top Hat questions test your understanding of the content. They are not conducted to take attendance.

First Film Week – *Great Human Odyssey* (2016, 152 mins)
7 March 17:40-21:00 at FENS G077

Second Film Week – *The Revenant* (2015, 156 mins)
2 May 17:40-21:00 at FENS G077
Discussion Session Outline and Important Dates

Week 1 - (9 February): Introduction to the course and the big picture
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with non-graded exercises in each hour.

Week 2 - (16 February): Hunters, gatherers, scavengers, herders and agriculturalists
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.

Week 3 - (23 February): First cities, civilization and first states
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.

Week 4 - (2 March): Humans and ideas in history: the case of religion
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
  • Proposals are due on Friday at the end of the day this (4th) week

Week 5 - (7 March): First Film Week
  • A film screening followed by a bonus Top Hat question

Week 6 - (16 March): Medieval Europe and a general outlook of pre-modern societies
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
  • Feedback sessions on the outlines in office-hours with the SL facilitators

Week 7 - (23 March): First globalizations: The Afro-Eurasian world during the medieval period
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
  • First Midterm examination at the end of this (7th) week
  • Feedback sessions on the outlines in office-hours with the SL facilitators

Week 8 - (30 March): Towards a smaller world: the Columbian Exchange
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
  • Preliminary draft voluntary submission due on Friday at the end of the day this (8th) week

Spring Break (2-8 April)

Week 9 - (13 April): Stratification and protest in pre-modern societies
  • Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
Week 10 - (20 April): Transitions during the early modern era

- Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
- **Feedback sessions on the preliminary drafts** in office-hours with the SL facilitators

Week 11 - (27 April): Mental transformations: the European Renaissance and Humanism

- Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
- **Final Papers are due** on Friday at the end of the day this (11th) week

Week 12 - (2 May): Second Film Week

- A film screening followed by a bonus Top Hat question

Week 13 - (11 May): Early modern economy and towards modernity

- Two-hour discussion sessions with graded exercises in each hour.
- **Second Midterm** examination at the end of this (13th) week

Week 14 - (18 May): Make-up week, no discussion sessions

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**Golden Rules for the Discussion Sessions**

- **Don’t be late**
  
  No students are allowed into classes after the first 10 minutes. Be punctual and respect the classroom etiquette.

- **No phones are allowed during discussions**
  
  Phones are distractive for you, your friends and the facilitators. You should keep your phones in silent mode and away from you during class hours. Facilitators can ask you to leave the classroom if you disturb the flow of the discussions sessions with your phone use. You will need to access to the Internet every now and then but you are only allowed to do that through tablets and laptops.

- **Communicate in English**
  
  Language is best learned with practice. Discussion sessions are safe environments to make mistakes and ask questions. Use this opportunity and communicate in English.

- **Be patient and follow the instructions**
  
  You will be writing, listening, reading and talking a lot in an academic environment. It will initially feel intimidating and hard. Be patient, follow the instructions and work hard. Your language skills will improve throughout the semester and you will find things easier as you get use to the assignments, the terminology, and the overall logic of the course.