Each of the following sections contains relevant terms and questions to guide your studies for the upcoming final exam for Fall 2016.

**Human Origins** (know general—VERY GENERAL—dates)

*Terms to Know:*

bipedalism

Neanderthal

Great Rift Valley

Migration

“Eve Theory”

*Guiding Questions:*

1. What were some advantages to bipedalism for hominids?

2. What is the significance of the Great Rift Valley?

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**Neolithic Age** (know general—VERY GENERAL—dates)

*Terms to Know:*

Neolithic revolution

food production

population

domestication

agriculture

cereal grains

disease / immunity

isolation

cultural diffusion

pastoralism

Bronze Age

slash and burn agriculture

tribal bands

iron

civilization

barbarian

urbanization

religion

specialization

writing

*Guiding Questions:*

1. Explain the Neolithic Revolution. Why do some groups of people develop food production, while others remain hunter-gatherers?

2. What are several hallmarks of a civilization? (What makes a civilization “civilized”?)

3. What are the long-term effects of domestication and agriculture?

**River Valley Civilizations: Mesopotamia, China, Indus River Valley, Ancient Egypt** (know approximate dates)

1. What rivers were ach of the civilizations formed around?

2. What is the connection between literacy, law, and religion in River Valley Civilizations?

3. How is the production of a food surplus linked to taxation?

4. In what ways does agriculture encourage a stratified social structure?

5. What was the role of scribes in Egyptian society, and why were they so highly valued?

6. What were the conditions that made the construction of monumental architecture (e.g. the pyramids) possible?

7. What geographic factors made ancient Egypt difficult to conquer as opposed to Mesopotamia?

8. What caused the downfall of the Indus River Valley civilization, and what evidence is there for this explanation?

9. How and why do some historians explain the rise of patriarchy during rise of civilizations?

**Unit Two: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies**

**(ca. 600 BCE to 600 CE)**

**Classical Mesoamerica**

1. What continuities exist between the classical civilizations of Mesoamerica and pre-classic societies (Olmecs)? Are they political continuities, social continuities, economic, religious, cultural, etc.?

2. What limits do we have to understanding the Mayan writing system?

3. What role does geography and the environment play in the development of unique culture groups in the Americas?

**Mauyuran and Gupta India**

1. In what way does the caste system reinforce (or refute) social order?

2. Explain the systems of political organization which exist in both the Mauryan and Gupta empires.

3. Explain the relationship between the expansion of empire, the spread of trade, and the diffusion of religious beliefs during the Mauryan and Gupta empires.

Qin and Han China

1. Explain the central philosophies of legalism, Daoism, and Confucianism.

2. How do the principles of Confucianism contribute to Chinese social and political order?

3. In what ways is the Han dynasty comparable to the Roman empire?

4. What factors led to the downfall of the Qin dynasty? The Han dynasty?

Persians, Assyrians, and Phoenicians

1. What are some characteristics of an empire? How does an empire differ from a kingdom? A city-state?

2. How do various empires maintain control of their territories? Consider the Persians and Assyrian methods.

Greece and Rome

1. What role does geography play in solving economic problems and establishing political order?

2. How did religion in classical society differ from ancient kingdoms?

3. What roles did the Han and Qin dynasties play in the unification of China?

4. How did religion and government combine to unite Classical India?

5. What criteria were used in the different classical civilizations to create social distinctions?

6. What role does Alexander the Great play in combining civilizations?

7. What contributions do the Aryans, the Greeks, and the Romans make to the evolution of government?

8. What similarities can you find in the teachings of Buddha, Ahira Mazda, Abraham, Jesus?

9. What comparisons can you make in Hammurabi’s Code and Roman law?

10. What moved along the Silk Road besides trade goods?

11. What comparisons can you see between the Han Empire in China and the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean world?

12. Why did the fall of the Roman Empire have a more dramatic impact on the western world than the decline of the Han Empire had on the eastern world?

**Unit Three: Regional and Transregional Interactions**

**(ca. 600 to 1450 CE)**

1. What were some of the lasting effects of the Emperor Justinian’s rule? (Consider: expansion, political control, religion, and law.)

2. Explain the long-term causes and effects of the Great Schism of 1054.

3. Describe the impact various religious traditions (especially Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox Christianity, and Islam) had on various Slavic peoples between 600 and 1450 CE.

4. Describe the historical origins of Islam. Include its religious context with regards to other major monotheistic religious systems of the era, as well as the social and political context.

5. What caused the Shi’a-Sunni split in Islam? Be sure to address questions of leadership, succession, and regional origin in your response.

6. Describe the legal and social status of non-Muslims (including Jews and Christians, as well as practitioners of other animistic religions) in the Umayyad, and Abbasid Caliphate.

7. Explain the relationship between the Trans-Saharan trade system and the spread of Islam into sub-Saharan Africa after 900 CE. What were the political, economic, and social effects of the adoption of Islam?

8. Who was Mansa Musa, and what is his significance?

9. Explain the origins of the Swahili language. What are the contributing languages? How did they come to form Swahili?

10. What is the sahel, and why is it significant in west Africa?

11. Describe the cultural, political, and social changes which occur during the Tang dynasty.

12. According to the Song, who were the xiongnu? What is xenophobia, and how did it inform political, economic, and social policy during the Song dynasty?

13. What changes/innovations did the Yuan dynasty introduce in Chinese society? What were some of the causes of the Yuan dynasty’s downfall?

14. Compare and contrast Japanese-style feudalism with European feudalism during the Middle Ages. Include at least one similarity and one difference.

15. How did the Mongols, a largely nomadic group, administer and control the largest empire on earth? What methods of political control did they use? Were they effective?

16. How did the Mongol Empire effect trade and cultural diffusion throughout Eurasia?

17. Describe the role of the Roman Catholic Church in medieval European society. What services and functions did it provide?

18. What were some of the points of conflict between the Church and secular rulers? (Consider: Henry II, Henry IV, lay investiture, courts.)

18. What effects did the various Crusades have on western Europe? On the Islamic world?

19. Explain the causes and long-term effects of the Great Schism of 1378.

**Unit Four**

**(1450 to 1750 CE)**

1. In what ways were the class systems in the Aztec and Incan Empires similar? In what ways did their social or political organization differ?

2. How did the Aztec and Incan Empires maintain control over their extensive territories?

3. How did religion influence the political structure and administration of the Aztec and Incan Empires?

4. What policies of religious tolerance or integration were used in governing the Ottoman Empire?

5. What or who were the janissaries? What was their purpose?

6. Explain the social, economic, legal, and military accomplishments of Suleiman the Magnificent.

7. The Ottoman Empire will endure until the twentieth century. What, in your opinion, allows the Empire to survive for so long?

8. In what ways did Shi’a Islam inform the policies and practices of the Safavid Empire?

9. How did the Safavid Empire’s ongoing conflict with the Ottoman Empire affect trade routes and economic practices in the region?

10. How did the spread of firearms affect the Safavid Empire and its relationship with nearby empires?

11. Explain Akbar’s views and policies regarding religious tolerance and syncretism.

12. What were some of the factors that led to the decline of the Mughal Empire? Be sure to consider increasing global connections.

13. Compare and contrast the religious policies of Akbar and Aurangzeb. What are some similarities? What are some differences?

14. What evidence do you see of increasing global connections in the politics, culture, economic system, and social order of the Mughal Empire?

15. Consider the seven voyages of Zheng He. What prompted the Ming dynasty to end China’s brief flirtation with exploration and international trade?

16. What factors led to the downfall of the Ming dynasty?

17. Describe the transition between the Ashikaga Shogunate and the Tokugawa Shogunate. Be sure to include the Warring States Period and the three military unifiers.

18. What was the Japanese reaction to Christianity? In what ways was Christianity seen as a threat by some Japanese leaders?

19. What prompted the Japanese move towards isolationism in the 17th and 18th centuries?

20. How was the Renaissance different from the Middle Ages? Consider: intellectual movements, social order, government structures, religious practices, and economic systems.

21. Describe the role banking played in the rise of Florence during the Italian Renaissance.

22. What were some of the major critiques of the Catholic Church at the time of the Protestant Reformation? What were some of the ways in which the Catholic Church responded to these critiques?

23. What was the encomienda system, and what was its intended purpose?

24. Explain the caste system used in Spain’s colonies. How did it reinforce (or fail to reinforce) social order?

25. What was the role of the Catholic Church during exploration?

26. What factors led to the increased reliance on African slavery in the Americas?

27. Who was Bartolomé de las Casas, and what did he do?

28. What is the general order of events which leads to permanent colonization?

**Unit Five**

**1750-1900 CE**

1. In what way could the establishment of the United States be seen as a fulfillment of Enlightenment ideals?

2. What were the causes of the American Revolution? What were the effects? (Be specific and be careful to consider both the immediate and long-term effects in your response.)

3. Interpretation of history can sometimes be highly contested, and can be used to further specific arguments. Are there events in or leading to the American Revolution which can be retold from multiple perspectives? How does a change of perspective alter the story told?

4. Many historians have called the French Revolution the “most important event of European history,” because of its profound worldwide effect on intellectual, social, and political life. To what extent do you think these historians are correct? If you disagree, what other European event would you term the most important?

5. What were the economic effects of the Haitian Revolution? (Consider: the sugar trade, economic isolation, etc.)

6. In what ways do the Revolutions in Latin America differ from the French, Haitian, and American Revolutions?

7. What are some of the reasons why Great Britain industrialized first? What factors encouraged industrialization?

8. What are some of the long term effects—economically, socially, politically, environmentally—of industrialism?

9. How is the push for industrialism tied to movements for social and political reform?

10. What forces lead to the unification of Austria-Hungary? Of Germany?

11. How would you describe Otto von Bismarck’s political style? What other political mind(s) did he emulate?

12. What is nationalism, and what are its effects?

13. How does Great Britain gain control in Egypt?

14. Describe the origin of the Congo Free State. To whom did it belong? What were conditions like there? Why was the land so valuable?

15. Describe the process of settlement in Cape Colony. What prompted the Boers to move inland? What was their relationship with the British, and why? What prompted the British to expand their interest in the interior of southern Africa? With whom did they fight for this land?

16. What factors led to the weakening of Qing control over China? How did Western nations (especially Britain) capitalize on this fragmentation of power?

17. What were the causes and effects of the Opium Wars? How did the conflicts lead to rebellions such as the Taiping and Boxer revolts?

18. Who was the Dowager Emperess Cixi, and what did she do?

19.What forces led to the creation of the Republic of China?

20. What forces led to industrialization in Japan? How was industrialism in Japan different or the same as industrialism in Western Europe?

21. How did industrialism in Russia differ from industrialism in Western Europe?

22. What forces led to the Tanzimat reforms, and what were their long-term effects?

**Unit Six**

**1900 CE- Present**

1. What were the causes of World War I? The short and long-term effects of the conflict?

2. In what ways was World War I different from the other wars we have studied in this class? What was the role of technology during the war? Class structures? Imperialism?

3. What were the requirements of the Treaty of Versailles? How did these stipulations affect world politics over the next twenty years?

4. Describe the progression of leadership from the last czar to Josef Stalin. What alterations were made to the Russian/Soviet political system?

5. Describe the conditions which led to World War II in Western Europe. How were these conditions related to the end of World War I and the inter-war period?

6. How did the European response to German expansionism change from 1935 to 1939? Why did it take so long for European leaders to condemn this pattern of territorial acquisition?

7. What were the causes of the war in the Pacific? What forces drove the United States to enter the war?

8. In what ways was the world altered by the conclusion of World War II? What major events / trends / etc. came about because of this conflict?

9. Describe the relationship between the United States and Latin America between 1850 and the present. Be sure to consider economic, political, and social concerns.

10. What have been traditional obstacles to democratic reform in Latin America during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries?

11. What was the stated purpose of the Rowlatt Acts in 1919? Why did the British parliament pass such restrictive laws? What were the unintended consequences of the Rowlatt Acts, in terms of Indian independence and colonial resistance?

12. Describe the continuing conflict between Muslims and Hindus in the Indian Subcontinent during the twentieth century. How has this contentious relationship affected the political, economic, and social history of this region?

13. What was the relationship between Communists and Nationalists during the first Civil War (1916-1928)? Why were Communists initially involved in the Guamingdong party? What changed?

14. What was Mao’s relationship with Chinese peasants? Why was this different from a strict Marxist interpretation of communism?

15. What were the long-term effects of the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution? Were they successful?

16. What were the goals of the student protest movement in Tiananmen Square? What were the results of this movement?