Welcome to *Civilizations: Past, Present, and Future*, the four-semester sequence that is the core of the Honors College curriculum. One of our faculty members described these courses perfectly as “thinking hard about things that matter.” We hope you enjoy the texts, the classes, and the people you encounter along this journey.

General Information

**Preceptors and Office Hours:** Each preceptor will distribute contact information and office hours to the students in her/his preceptorial. This information will also be posted on the Blackboard site for the course.

**Meeting Times:**

- Preceptorials meet twice weekly (with the exception of evening precepts) at assigned times in the Thomson Honors Center (Colvin Hall), Balentine Hall Honors Classroom or Estabrooke Hall
- General sessions take place from 3:30 to 5:20 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall
  - Fall Semester
    - HON 111 Tuesday
    - HON 211 Thursday
  - Spring Semester
    - HON 112 Tuesday
    - HON 212 Thursday

(Please review individual course syllabi to determine specific weeks with alternative course meeting opportunities.)

**Course Coordinators:** Each course has at least two coordinators, a staff coordinator and a faculty coordinator. The staff coordinator should be your first contact for questions about course logistics. For the 2016-2017 academic year, the coordinators are:

- **HON 111 & 112**
  - Staff Coordinator: Eric LeVasseur (eric.levasseur@maine.edu, 581-3285, 145.1 Estabrooke Hall)
  - Faculty Coordinator: Rachel Snell (rachel.snell@maine.edu, 581-3342, 153 Estabrooke)
- **HON 211 & 212**
  - Staff Coordinator: Emily Craig (Emily.a.craig@maine.edu, 581-3201, 145.1 Estabrooke Hall)
  - Faculty Coordinator: Jennie Woodard (jennie.woodard@maine.edu, 581-1856, 138 Estabrooke Hall)

If you have any questions about this syllabus or the course, please bring it to the attention of your preceptor, the course coordinator, or the dean of the Honors College.
The Sequence

Description: The four courses constituting Civilizations: Past, Present, and Future follow a chronological trajectory from earliest recorded times through the present, examining philosophy, history, literature, the arts, and natural, physical, and social sciences. In particular, by incorporating primary sources, small group discussions, and multiple perspectives, these courses explore the way in which civilizations and cultures have been developed and have interacted with others.

Objectives: As the core of the Honors College curriculum, these courses have four principal objectives. These objectives are interconnected and interdependent:

- Providing a starting point to explore the development of civilizations, cultures, and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives
- Critically engaging students in academic discourse through the study of primary texts and the encouragement of active involvement with fellow students, the faculty, and the texts
- Developing communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis
- Providing students with a fundamental grounding in the liberal arts as expressed in the University’s General Education requirements

Student Outcomes: Students who successfully complete the four-semester sequence will be able to

- Recognize and explain how humans have been defined by cultural traditions and how such traditions form the basis of Western civilization
- Analyze how social contexts and human institutions influence and are influenced by human behaviors
- Articulate how social, cultural, and biological factors affect human behavior, both individually and in society
- Explain how and why people from different cultural or international backgrounds or perspectives might view primary sources (including ideas, events, and behaviors) in quite different ways
- Articulate the relationship between human populations and the natural environment and how cultural beliefs and scientific discoveries shape perceptions about the natural environment
- Demonstrate an awareness of the influence of historical and cultural contexts on artistic decisions
- Identify and analyze the ethical issues, questions, and ambiguities arising in a work of literature, historical narrative, or social scientific account.

Grading and Required Work: Grades in each of these courses will reflect your work in class, on assignments outside of class, and on the common final assessment. Your preceptor will provide specific details concerning assigned work for your particular preceptorial and the weight of each of the following:

- Formal writing assignments [at least two papers relating to the course materials and including revision based on feedback from the preceptor]

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- Classroom involvement
- Final evaluation [see below]
- Individual preceptorial assignments [including reaction papers, class facilitation, and other specific requirements as determined by your preceptor]

Your preceptor will set policy on the acceptance and consequences of late papers.

**Final Evaluations:** Each of these courses will have a final evaluation. Honors 111 and 112 will each have a two-hour final essay examination scheduled during Final Exam Week. This final is common to all preceptorials.

Honors 211 will have an individual oral final examination administered by your preceptor. These will be scheduled in advance, and will be held during the last week of classes or Final Exam Week. At least a week before the exam, you will be told the types of questions you should expect on the exam. Honors 212 will have a summative, take-home, written assignment.

**Preceptorials:** An often-asked question is “What’s a preceptorial?” A preceptorial (or precept for short), facilitated by a faculty preceptor, is a small group discussion inviting students into an active, engaged participation. Preceptorials are an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other while drawing on the expertise and experience of the preceptor. We believe this is much more descriptive than the standard use of “section.”

**Texts:** Each of the individual courses has its own reading list which can be found in the appropriate and on the Civilizations website. Over the course of the four semesters, the sequence includes over forty “texts.” While some of those are groups of visual images that you will access online and others are articles or excerpts that are also online, most of the texts in this course are books. However, they are not textbooks; thus they are available from a number of different places. We do hope that, for the most part, you use the same version (edition, translation) that your preceptors and the rest of the class is using, and we have included ISBN numbers on each of the reading lists for the course.

Here are some possible ways to purchase your books:

- University of Maine Bookstore ([www.bookstore.umaine.edu](http://www.bookstore.umaine.edu))
  The bookstore will package all your books for the semester. You will pay retail prices for new books, 35% less (as of 10 August 2010) for used copies. Refunds are available until the end of the second week of classes. No shipping, yes sales tax.

- Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) or Barnes & Noble ([www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com))
  Theses on-line giants sell new and used books. New books are often sold at considerable discounts from retail. Used books are sold by used bookstores through these sites. Both offer free shipping on new book orders over $25 (subject to conditions and not terribly fast; faster costs more). For used books, you will be paying per book shipping costs regardless of how many books you order from an individual vendor. Most used books are shipped via media mail which can take quite some time. Return/refund practices vary.

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AbeBooks.com (www.abebooks.com)
AbeBooks is a confederation of used book sellers. It is now owned by Amazon, but operates independently. If you buy several books from a single vendor, shipping is likely to be less. Be careful though, in some cases the shipping here is more than through Amazon.com. Most used books are shipped via media mail which can take quite some time. Returns are done through the site rather than with individual sellers.

There is also a digital textbook available as supplemental reading. For more information on Western Civilization please refer to http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/western-civilization17/welcome.aspx.

Lecture Videos: Attendance at lecture is expected and required. We do digitally record each lecture. The recordings will be accessible to individuals who pre-arrange with their preceptors (if the conflict is for the entire semester) or the course coordinator (if the conflict is a one-time event) before the lecture via the Blackboard site for the course. Lectures more than 2 weeks old will be available to all students through the Blackboard site.

Course Policies
Attendance: Attendance at both preceptorials and lectures is expected. Please inform your preceptor, in advance, if you will be unable to attend. You are responsible for making up work that you miss.

Laptop Computers: Laptop computers are prohibited from the Civilizations general sessions (lectures) without a written statement of accommodation for a disability. If you feel you need such an accommodation, please see Disability Services in the East Annex (1-2319). Please file any such accommodation with the staff course coordinator for the appropriate course.

Lecture Behavior: One of the exciting components of the Civilizations courses is the weekly general session. This is an opportunity to learn from diverse members of the faculty and visiting scholars who have devoted time, energy, and thought to their presentations concerning the current text or topic. Please treat all of these individuals and your classmates with respect. Appropriate behavior begins with attending these general sessions and arriving on time. Some preceptors will take attendance, typically by asking you to sign an attendance sheet. Signing the sheet and leaving early or having someone sign in your place are violations of the Student Conduct Code and will be dealt with in that light.

In addition, disruptions of the lecture are unacceptable. Cell phones must be turned off. Talking should be confined to that which is absolutely necessary. Please wait to pack up to leave until the lecture is actually over. Do not leave the room during the lecture unless it is completely unavoidable. If you know you must leave early, please sit close to an exit so that your leaving disrupts as little as possible. All of these are part of creating a respectful atmosphere for everyone involved. Students disrupting this environment will be asked to leave the lecture hall and may face additional consequences.

Classroom Environment: The classroom is a learning environment. That does not mean political perspectives, value debates, or conflicts over cultural differences are not allowed. On the contrary, you are encouraged to raise such issues in class. Real engagement requires respect. Everyone has a right to learn, which means that you must respect each others' differences.

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Deprecating fellow classmates or others will not be tolerated, and prejudiced or hateful speech will be confronted.

**Inclusive Language:** Language is a powerful tool. It conveys ideas and influences behavior. During the four semesters of *Civilizations* we will observe this often. This power allows language to communicate bias and exclude individuals, even though that may not be the intention of the author. While there are no formal rules for student expression in these courses or at UMaine, we strongly encourage you to be sensitive and careful about the language you use in both writing and speaking. In addition, we recommend that you read the University’s commitment to inclusive language: umaine.edu/wic/both/language.htm.

**Students with Disabilities Policy**
If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Support Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

**Academic Honesty Policy**
Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. See https://umaine.edu/studentlife/jad/academic-honesty-and-dishonesty/

**Course Schedule Disruption Policy**
In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

**Sexual Discrimination Reporting Policy**
The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus:
Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.
For confidential resources off campus:
Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.

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Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus:
Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406,
Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409,
University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911.
Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/

A few final suggestions:

Explore different preceptors each semester. It’s good to see how different faculty members approach our material. Insight into their teaching styles and philosophies can be found at https://honors.umaine.edu/home/people/honors-preceptors/

Also, consider not selling your texts from the Civilizations sequence; they will be useful when you write your final paper in Honors 212, and you might find yourself attached to them for a longer time.

Alternatively, consider helping us find a good home for them in the hands of future Honors students by dropping them in the Honors book donation box in Colvin Hall.

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