

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Economics
Econ107 - Economy, Society, and Civilization I

Instructor: Onur Yıldırım

**Student Assistants: Beste Eroğlu (eroglu.beste@metu.edu.tr),
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Place and Time: Lecture- Section 1: M 13:40-16:30 F.AUD

Recitations:
Gizem Kazak: Tuesday 16.40-17.30 (FZ15)
Sonat Alper: Tuesday 17.40-18.30 (FZ15)
Beste Eroğlu: Wednesday 15.40-16.30(F104/B)
Beste Eroğlu: Thursday 13.40-14.30(F104/B)
Eylül Seneger: Thursday 17.40-18.30 (F15)
Gizem Kazak: Friday 17.40-18.30 (FZ08)

Fall 2023

Purpose: This course is designed to provide economics students with a comprehensive introduction to the scientific exploration of the past with an emphasis on the rise and evolution of economic activities and institutions from ancient times to the present. The course adopts a broad notion of periodization and aims to offer a balanced survey of historical developments across the globe over a period of 10 thousand years. Although the course is structured chronologically, it certainly has a much broader agenda that is shaped around certain crucial themes, subjects, and questions. In pursuit of its goals, the course adopts a comparative approach, both geographically and chronologically, and seeks to identify some key patterns and trends that can be useful in comprehending the present state of the world. In addition to providing students with a sound background in global history and introducing them to the broader field of the humanities, the course also has some practical goals such as improving the reading and inquisitive skills of the students.

Procedures: The course meets once a week for a lecture and then has a recitation meeting with the student assistants. The recitation is based exclusively on the discussion of the material from the assigned chapters. Attendance to classes and participation in discussions will be taken into consideration in determining the final grade, therefore students are urged to attend the classes and participate in

discussions on a regular basis. There will be two mid-term examinations and a final exam. The midterm exams constitute 30 percent (15+15) and the Final Exam 40 percent of your final grade. Attending classes, recitations, and participating in class discussions on a regular basis will contribute 15 percent to your final grade. There will be 5 short quizzes and 5 reflection papers (all of them are in class) which will affect 15 percent of your final grade. There is also the option of receiving 5 bonus points by writing a reflection paper on a book assigned by the instructor. If you choose to take this option, you will have to report the progress of your reading to the course instructor on a bi-weekly basis.

Textbook: J. R. McNeill, *The Webs of Humankind: A World History*. London and New York: W.W: Norton Company, 2021.

TOPICS and READING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Introduction
2. Early Beginnings
Chapter 2 Optional: Ch. 1
3. Complex Societies and Economies
Chapter 3
4. Regional Webs in the Making
Chapters 4 Optional: Ch. 5-6
5. Early World Empires: China and the Roman Empire
Chapter 7-8 Optional: Ch. 9-10
6. Religion/Politics:
Chapters 11 Optional. Ch. 12-13
7. The Black Death: Before and After
Chapter 14 Optional: Ch. 15
8. Europe on the Rise
Chapters 16 Optional: Ch. 17
9. Early Modern Inequalities
Chapter 18-19 Optional: Ch. 20
10. Age of Revolutions
Chapter 21-22 Optional: Ch. 23
11. The Long Nineteenth Century
Chapters 24
12. Modernity and Its Discontents
Chapters 25-26
13. The World Today
Chapter 27-28
14. The Future is Here!
Chapter 29

