European History I and II: ca. 3500 BC – 1600 AD
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Your instructor

Some preliminary thoughts
How I organized this material and why
drop-down menu in your mind = underlined words
general associations
Edgar Allen Poe’s poem, The Bells
omonotopoeia: “tintinnabulation”

A very general chronology
13 billion years ago
4 billion years ago
150,000 years ago
40,000 years ago
8000 BC

Major periods and phrases
BC/AD
“before Christ”
anno Domini
Dionysius Exiguus, 6th c. AD
BCE/CE
Common Era
circa or ca.
8000 BC - Ancient civilizations: Egypt, Mesopotamia, etc.
1600 BC- 323 BC: ancient Greece, ending with Alexander the Great
753 BC – 476 AD: Roman monarchy, republic, and empire
crosses the BC/AD line
476 AD – 1492 AD Middle Ages
not Dark Ages
where that idea came from
Petarch 14th c.
ca. 476 – 1000 early Middle Ages
ca. 1000 – 1300 high Middle Ages
ca. 1300 – 1500 late Middle Ages
(1300) 1500 – 1700 Renaissance ‚Scientific Revolution/Enlightenment
World History Topic: Development of City Civilizations (ca. 3500-1500 BC)

**Mesopotamia**

I. Timeline
   A. 40,000 BC Neanderthal man
   B. 8000 BC agricultural societies: nomads and hunters → settlements
   C. 3200 BC Mesopotamia starts in Sumer on Tigris-Euphrates river valley: “Mesopotamia” = “land between the rivers”
   D. 2340-2100 BC “Sargon’s Empire”
   E. 1792-1750 BC Hammurabi in Babylon: OT refs to Tower of Babel = ziggurat
   F. 604-562 BC Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem; takes Hebrew population back to Babylon

II. Distinguishing characteristics
   A. urban: cities = center of life
   B. religion: gods oversee life; regulated by priestly class; theocracy
      1. *Epic of Gilgamesh*: archaic pessimism, flood story
   C. political and military structures: professional armies and bureaucracies
   D. social structure: king, aristocracy (military, priests), freemen, slaves
   E. writing and record-keeping: cuneiform = pictographs > alphabet
   F. metal achievements: complex materials
      1. plows = better use of soil (also rudimentary calendar: 29-30 x 12)
      2. coinage → capital > barter exchanges
   G. law: *Code of Hammurabi*: 282 on stele
      1. no equality before law b/c social classes
      2. eye for eye; loot a burning house → get thrown in
World History Topic: Ancient Empires and Civilizations (ca. 1500-500 AD)

**Ancient Greece**

I. Geography: land and sea

II. Chronology
   A. Early civilizations
      1. **Mycenaean Civilization**: ca. 1600-1100 BC: heroes (*Homer*)
         a. Troy
      2. “Dark Ages”: ca 1100-750 BC: the age of Hesiod
   B. Archaic: ca. 750-550BC
      1. *polis* and its elements
      2. trade → colonization and its archeological evidence
      3. “tyranny”: rise of new middle class of traders vs. old landed aristocracy
      4. Sparta
      5. sixth-century Athens: tyranny → benign despot (Solon) → “democracy”
   C. Classical Greece: ca. 550-338 BC
      1. **Persian Wars**: 546-479 BC
         a. Marathon: 490 BC
      2. “Golden Age”: 495-431
         a. colonization → imperialism
      3. **Peloponnesian Wars**: 431-404 BC (*Thucydides*)
         a. clash of cultures: Athens vs. Sparta
      4. philosophy and the state: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
   D. **Alexander the Great and Hellenism**: ca. 350-150BC
      1. Alexander r. 336-323 BC
      2. inculturation

III. Special topics
    A. citizenship and democracy
    B. philosophy
    C. “the Greek ideal” = the individual and the “body culture”
    D. mythology (epics) and drama as social commentary
    E. art and architecture
    F. women and slaves
World History Topic: Ancient Empires and Civilizations (ca. 1500-500 AD)

**Ancient Rome**

I. Geography: Mediterranean Sea = “a Roman lake”

II. Chronology: general
   A. early Italy/Etruscans: ca. 1000-753 BC
   B. monarchy: ca. 753-509 BC
   C. Republic: ca. 509 BC – 31 BC
   D. Empire: 31 BC – 476 AD
      1. rise of Christianity: ca. 30 AD
      2. empire split into east and west: 293 AD
      3. Christianity tolerated, then official religion: 313AD, 381AD
      4. barbarian invasions
         a. Visigoths sack Rome 410 AD
         b. Vandals sack Rome 476 AD

III. Republic: 509BC-31BC
   A. rise of plebians vs. patricians
   B. Senate and consuls
   C. 450BC: Law of Twelve Tables
   D. Punic Wars (Hannibal and the elephants): 261-146 BC (sporadically)
   E. civil war I (Crassus, Caesar, Pompey) → Caesar wins, assasinated 44BC → civil war II (Cleopatra, Marc Antony, Octavian)

IV. Empire: 31BC-476AD
   A. from Octavian to Augustus
   B. Pax Romana: building the imperial infrastructure → provincial administration
   C. law systems and citizenship
   D. Jews and Christians → Constantine’s vision

V. Special topics
   A. women and slavery
   B. Stoicism
   C. polytheism → monotheism
   D. reasons for fall of the empire
World History Topic: Disruption and Reversal (ca. 500-1400 AD)

The Middle Ages

I. Fall of Rome ➔ early Middle Ages (ca. 500-1050)
   A. 476: Vandals sack Rome
   B. Christianity moves north: 503 Clovis converts in “France”
      1. Vikings coming from north
   C. western pope vs. eastern emperor in Byzantium
      1. Byzantine culture (➔ 1453)
   D. rise of Islam
      1. ca. 632: Mohammed dies
      2. 632-732: Islam takes Palestine, Egypt, north Africa, Spain
         a. 732 Charles Martel (Charlemagne’s grandfather) stops Muslim at Battle of Poitiers (Tours)
   E. Charlemagne crowned “Holy Roman Emperor” Christmas Day 800
   F. 850-1050: “dark ages”

II. High Middle Ages: ca. 1050-1350
   A. agrarian/manorial society ➔ feudalism (lords and serfs)
   B. “Holy Roman Empire” vs. emerging papacy ➔ “church” vs. “state”
      1. civil and canon law
      2. Magna Carta 1215
   C. commercial revolution
      1. towns, trades, and guilds (apprentice ➔ journeyman ➔ master)
      2. Italian traders and banks
      3. middle class with capital ➔ looking for political power ➔ creeping constitutionalism
   D. “age of faith”
      1. monasteries: scriptorium
      2. friars
      3. cathedrals
      4. prince-bishops
   E. Crusades
      1. chivalry: code, knights and squires
      2. Urban II’s call in 1095 ➔ Xtns take Jerusalem in 1099 ➔ Muslims under Saladin take it back in 1187 at the Battle of Hattin
      3. interplay b/w Xtns and Muslims
      4. other and later crusades (Spanish “Reconquest” until 1492)

III. Late Middle Ages: 1350-1500
   A. contraction
      1. economic
      2. population (Black Death)
      3. religious: Great Western Schism: 1378-1417
B. Hundred Years War: 1337-1453 (1415: Agincourt)
World History Topic: Emerging Global Interactions (ca. 1400-1750)

**Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution**

I. **Renaissance** ("rebirth") ca. 1350, esp. in Italy but elsewhere, too
   A. change from Middle Ages
      1. glorification of individual and the body → "humanism"
      2. re-appropriation of Greco-Roman culture → from monastic *scriptoria*
   B. patronage system: example = Medici family in Florence (part of city-state culture)
   C. some big names: Michelangelo (d. 1564; Sistine Chapel, *Pietà*), Leonardo da Vinci (d. 1519; Mona Lisa and scientific notebooks), Cervantes (d. 1616; *Don Quixote*) in Spain and Shakespeare (d. 1616) in England under Elizabeth’s reign

II. **Reformations** and geographic expansion: 1500-1648 = “God, glory, gold”
   A. preparatory explorations
      1. Crusades
      2. Marco Polo (d. 1324: Venice → China w/Kubla Khan)
      3. Henry the Navigator (d. 1460) of Portugal: school for navigators
   B. Religious disunion and geographic exploration
      1. 1487: Bartolomeo Dias rounds Cape of Good Hope → 1498: Vasco da Gama gets to India
      2. 1492: Reconquest → Columbus → "New World" → colonialism, imperialism, slavery → market/global economies
      3. 1517: Martin Luther’s *95 Theses*
         a. skilled use of printing press = “new mass media/technology”
      4. 1534: Henry VIII splits with Rome to establish Church of England (→ eventually, Anglican Church; elsewhere, Episcopal Church)
      5. 1555: *Peace of Augsburg*: *cuius regio, eius religio*
         a. but only Lutherans and Catholics
      6. 1545-1563 (intermittent): Catholic Council of Trent
      7. 1562-1598: French civil war
         a. Catholics vs. Protestants (Huguenots = French Calvinists)
         b. 1598: *Edict of Nantes* (revoked 1685)
      8. 1618-1648: Thirty Years War → *Peace of Westphalia*
         a. Lutherans, Catholics, Calvinists
         b. ruler cannot impose his religion, but can regulate public worship

III. **Scientific Revolution**: new outlooks → key changes
   A. a new way of looking at the world
   B. a new style of inquiry: scientific method
   C. Rene *Descartes* 1596-1650: deductive reasoning: “*Cogito ergo sum*”
   D. Astronomy: *Copernicus* (d. 1473), *Galileo* (d. 1642)
      1. geocentrism → heliocentrism
E. Math and Physics: Isaac Newton (d. 1727)