

**SABANCI UNIVERSITY**  
**SPS 101 A & B/ Humanity and Society I**  
**Fall 2020**  
**Top Hat A Track: 909671 / B Track: 912492**



Please be informed that there might be further changes as the very nature of the COVID-19 pandemic forces higher education institutions to adapt to daily-changing realities. Please make sure to follow course-related announcements on a daily basis.

Following COVID-19 measures, this course is a **fully digital Freshman course**. **All components of the course will be online** throughout the semester.

**Lectures:** Lectures will be delivered digitally. All lectures will be broadcast **live on the web and recorded to cloud systems**. These videos will be made available on SUCourse+ on Tuesdays between 09:40 and 11:30 & Thursdays between 08:40 and 10:30. The lectures will be accessible until the end of the term once they are released. The videos are only for personal use and for educational purposes.

**Discussion Sections:** Digital sessions on Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Instructors:** Emre Erol [emre.erol@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:emre.erol@sabanciuniv.edu), Ayşecan Terzioğlu [aysecan.terzioglu@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:aysecan.terzioglu@sabanciuniv.edu), Ayşe Ozil [ayse.ozil@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ayse.ozil@sabanciuniv.edu), Marloes Cornelissen [marloes.cornelissen@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:marloes.cornelissen@sabanciuniv.edu), Mehmet Kuru [mehmet.kuru@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:mehmet.kuru@sabanciuniv.edu), Gülnur Kocapınar [gulnur.kocapinar@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:gulnur.kocapinar@sabanciuniv.edu), Ezgi Uzun [ezgi.uzun@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ezgi.uzun@sabanciuniv.edu)

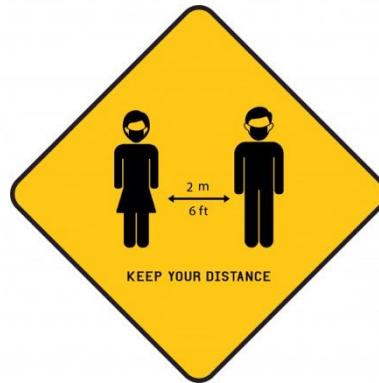
**Online office hours:**

Emre Erol: By e-mail appointment  
Ayşecan Terzioğlu: Wednesdays 13:00-15:00 or by e-mail appointment  
Ayşe Ozil: Fridays 13.40-14.30 or by e-mail appointment  
Marloes Cornelissen: Tuesdays 14:00-15:00 or by e-mail appointment  
Mehmet Kuru: Wednesdays 16:40-17:30 or by e-mail appointment  
Gülnur Kocapınar: Wednesdays 12:40-14:30 or by e-mail appointment

**Coordinator:** Ezgi Uzun [ezgi.uzun@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ezgi.uzun@sabanciuniv.edu)

**Online office hours:** Tuesdays 13:40-15:30 or by e-mail appointment

**Technical Assistant:** Kaan Özgüney [ozguney@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ozguney@sabanciuniv.edu)



**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:** All components of the grading will take place off campus and digitally for Fall 2020-21 term. The components of the final course grade are as follows:

Midterm examinations:	50%	(Two midterms x 25% from each)
Writing Assignments:	30%	(Summary Paper: 10% + Response Paper: 20%)
Discussion sessions:	20%	(Twelve discussions weeks, of which eight are graded. Five best will count x 4% from each)
Bonus assignment:	6%	(Read, listen and record assignment)
In-lecture bonus questions:	4%	(Four random <i>Top Hat</i> questions x 1% from each)

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each lecture and actively participate in online discussion sections, take two midterm exams, and submit a summary paper and response paper. No attendance is taken for the online lectures, but students who miss more than six online discussion sections (or more than 12 discussion hours) 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 NA. Attend your discussions on time, late attendance (10 minutes rule) will not be tolerated.

### **Course Components:**

Midterm examinations: There will be two midterm examinations in this course, which will be conducted online. Each examination will consist of long essays. 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.

Writing Assignments: Students are expected to complete two writing assignments based on the readings of this course. The first step of this component is the online submission of a summary paper (week 6) and the second step is the online submission of a response paper (week 12). Both writing assignments are considered as take-home exams. Each step is graded separately. These assignments will prepare you for the more advanced academic writing assignments of our follow-up course SPS 102. Please make sure to read 'SPS 101 Writing Assignments guidelines' on SUCourse+ for more details.

Discussion sessions: Discussion sessions are student-centered learning hours conducted by SPS facilitators. There will be a total of twelve discussion sessions. Every discussion session (except week 6) will consist of two hours and of these twelve sections, eight random sections will have graded exercises, which will be submitted to SUCourse+ by the end of the discussion hour. The five best of these eight will be counted towards your grade. The other four sections will be discussion and skills-learning based meetings. The graded weeks will be worth 4% each. Students

are expected to watch the recorded tutorial videos before the discussion sections. Students may also be asked to finish one or more of the assigned readings before the discussion sections. Attendance will be taken regularly during each hour of the discussion sessions. Students who miss more than six discussion sections (or more than 12 discussion hours in total) will automatically get a zero from all their discussion section grades. Students will not be allowed into the discussion sections and marked as absent after ten minutes following the start of the online section meeting. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

**Lectures:** 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 four random in-lecture questions will be asked at random lecture hours throughout the course through the Top Hat system. These are small quizzes that aim to test your comprehension of the lecture and they are not conducted for attendance. Cheating will not be tolerated. Students will not be allowed into the lecture online session after ten minutes following the start of the lecture. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

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

**Bonus assignment:** Technical issues will not be accepted as excuses for not submitting any writing assignments or examinations on time. Additional time (with penalty) for such issues is already provided for most components of this course. To make up for any lost points a read, listen and record assignment will be provided for a total of 6 points. A video will be provided by the course lecturers commenting on one of the course readings. Students will be expected to record a 5-minute long response to the question provided in the lecturer's video. This assignment will be available on SuCourse + on week 3. Please see the SPS 101 Bonus Assignment Guidelines on SUCourse+ for more details.

**Audio-Visual Media Assignments:** There are videos listed for each week in the syllabus. These audio-visual media materials are assigned to enhance both your understanding of each week's topics as well as your audio-visual media literacy skills. Parts of these media can be used in the discussion sections as well.

**Make-Up Policy:** Make-ups are only allowed for midterms and assignments to students with an official report from or approved by the University Health Center for the date of the exam / assignment in question and those with an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event on the date of the exam / assignment 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 makeup exam will be cumulative, meaning that students will be responsible for the content of the entire course in the makeup exam. The format of the makeup exam may be different from the midterms too. There will be no makeup for the makeup exam. The makeup assignment for the paper assignments is cumulative. Late submissions for the Response Paper are allowed only for 3 hours after the initial deadline, but there is a penalty. For the discussion worksheets, students with an official report from or approved by 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 only if less than 5 graded worksheets are present for the entire semester. Those who already have 5 worksheet grades will not have make-up adjustments in their grades.

**Objection Policy:** Students are only allowed to object to their midterm and writing assignment grades. Grade bargaining is absolutely not tolerated. All objections must have a solid basis. Objections must be submitted by email to the relevant facilitator and must be followed by an online meeting. The facilitators who graded the assignment in question initially assess the objections. The

SPS course coordinator makes a second assessment if need be. All objections must be made within the announced periods of time.

**Assigned Readings:** The SPS 101 reader includes all of the required readings listed below and these readings will be accessible from the SUCourse+ web page of the course. Readings should be done before the lecture 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:

90-100	A
86-89	A-
82-85	B+
78-81	B
74-77	B-
70-73	C+
66-69	C
62-65	C-
58-61	D+
54-57	D
0-53	F

**Academic Integrity:** Cases of plagiarism and cheating will automatically be penalized with a 0 (zero) from the assignment/ examination and also the entire grade component related to that assignment/examination. In addition to that, these cases will be directly referred to the Dean's Office for disciplinary action. Students might be called for a random oral interview for any of the assignments of this course if deemed necessary by the instructors. It should be noted that using (a part of) an assignment or exam submitted before to this or another course is not allowed, and is considered as self-plagiarism. Please also be informed that overreliance on external editing and proofreading will be penalized accordingly. 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>

**Important Disclaimer:** Amendments could be made to this syllabus. Please follow email and SUCourse+ announcements throughout the semester.

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## Course Outline and Readings

**Week 1** – (6 – 8 October):

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

\* Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), pp. 20-48.

\* Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World*, (London: Oneworld Publications, 2014), pp. 12-27 (ePub edition).

\* **Video**, 'What Happened Before History? Human Origins' *Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell*, last modified 2016 ([Click me](#))

**Week 2** – (13 – 15 October):

Lecture 1: The longest period of human history: Hunter and gatherers

Lecture 2: The great transition: Agricultural revolution and beyond

\* Richard W. Bulliet et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History (Fifth Edition)* (Boston MA: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning, 2011), pp. 2-45.

\* [Optional] Brian M. Fagan and Nadia Durrani, *World Prehistory: A Brief Introduction* (London & New York: Routledge, 2017), pp. 175-204.

\* **Video**, 'Origins of agriculture,' *World History / Khan Academy*, last modified 2017 ([Click me](#))

**Week 3** – (20 - 22 October):

Lecture 1: A man-made habitat: Emergence of cities and civilization

Lecture 2: Historicizing state: Theories on the origin of states

\* J. Donald Hughes, *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life* (London & New York: Routledge, 2009), pp. 30-51.

\* Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), pp. 225-250.

\* [Optional] Lewis Mumford, *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects* (New York: Harcourt Brace and Jovanovich, 1961), pp. 119-125.

\* **Video**, 'Rethinking Civilization,' *Crash Course World History 201*, last modified 2014 ([Click me](#))

**Week 4: no lecture due to national holiday on 29 October**

**Week 5** – (3 – 5 November):

Lecture 1: Early belief systems and practices

Lecture 2: From animisms to monotheisms

\* Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, (London: Vintage Books, 2014), pp. 22-44.

\* Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World*, (London: Oneworld Publications, 2014), pp. 194-209. (ePub edition).

\* Horace Miner, 'Body Ritual Among the Nacirema' *American Anthropologist* Vol. 58, No.3 (1956) pp. 503-507.

\* **Video**, 'Philosophy: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle,' *Khan Academy*, last modified 2019 ([Click me](#))

**Week 6** – (10 - 12 November):

Lecture 1: Early Afro-Eurasian empires

Lecture 2: On cultural and material exchange in pre-modern societies: markets, trade and interactions

\* Richard W. Bulliet et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History (Fifth Edition)* (Boston MA: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning, 2011), pp. 132-159.

\* William J. Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008), pp. 20-42.

\* **Video**, 'The Silk Road and Ancient Trade,' *Crash Course World History Episode 9*, last modified 2012 ([Click me](#))

<b>Summary Paper (tentative date: 13 November, date will be announced on SUCourse+)</b>
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**Week 7** – (17 – 19 November):

Lecture 1: On medieval Europe: Why is it relevant?

Lecture 2: A general outlook: Pre-modern economies

\* Richard W. Bulliet et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History (Fifth Edition)* (Boston MA: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning, 2011), pp. 229-238.

\* Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World*, (London: Oneworld Publications, 2014), pp. 48-65; 124-143 (ePub edition).

\* **Video**, 'The Dark Ages... how dark were they, really?,' *Crash Course World History Episode 14*, last modified 2012 ([Click me](#))

<b>First Midterm (tentative date: 21 November, date will be announced on SUCourse+)</b>
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**Week 8** – (24 - 26 November):

Lecture 1: Stratification and gender in pre-modern societies

Lecture 2: Protest and rebellions in pre-modern societies

\* Peter N. Stearns, *Gender in World History (Second Edition)* (New York: Routledge, 2006), pp. 10-19.

\* Carlo Ginzburg: *The Cheese and the Worms. The Cosmos of a Sixteenth Century Miller* (Baltimore, 1980), Preface to English Edition, Chapters 1-2, 7-8.

\* Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World*, (London: Oneworld Publications, 2014), pp. 124-143 (ePub edition).

**Video**, 'A day in the life of a Mongolian Queen,' *TED-Ed*, last modified 2019 ([Click me](#))

**Week 9** – (1 – 3 December):

Lecture 1: A snapshot of the medieval Afro-Eurasian world

Lecture 2: Afro-Eurasian macro systems

\* Clive Ponting, *World History: A New Perspective*, (London: Chatto & Windus, 2000), pp. 250-257, 355-376.

\* Lynda Shaffer, 'Southernization' *Journal of World History* Vol. 5, No. 1 (Spring, 1994) pp. 1-21.

\* **Video**, 'Int'l Commerce, Snorkeling Camels, and The Indian Ocean Trade,' *Crash Course World History Episode 18*, last modified 2012 ([Click me](#))

**Week 10** – (8 – 10 December):

Lecture 1: Expanding frontiers and the Columbian Exchange I

Lecture 2: Expanding frontiers and the Columbian Exchange II

\* Alfred W. Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, (London: Praeger, 2003), pp. 3-34.

\* [Optional] Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), pp. 306-325.

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

**Week 11** – (15 – 17 December):

Lecture 1: Renaissance

Lecture 2: Reformation

\* R. R. Palmer, Joel Colton and Lloyd Kramer, *A History of the Modern World: To 1815 (Tenth Edition)* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007), pp. 56-72.

\* John Coatsworth et. al., *Global Connections: Politics, Exchange, and Social Life in World History, Volume II* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 105-108.

\* **Video**, 'Renaissance Art,' *The Khan Academy site*, last modified 2019 ([Click me](#))

\* **Video**, 'Political Theory - Niccolò Machiavelli,' *The School of Life*, last modified 2015 ([Click me](#))



**Week 12** – (22 - 24 December):

Lecture 1: On early modern transformations: Maritime empires and proto-globalization

Lecture 2: Responses to change: Resilient agrarian empires of the ‘old world’

\* William J. Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008), pp. 198-213.

\* Clive Ponting, *World History: A New Perspective*, (London: Chatto & Windus, 2000), pp. 520-536.

\* Ben Teensma and John Anderson. *Navigator: The Log of John Anderson, VOC Pilot-Major, 1640-1643* (Leiden: BRILL, 2010), pp. 3-9.

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

**Week 13** – (29 - 31 December):

Lecture 1: Scientific Revolution I

Lecture 2: Scientific Revolution II

\* John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1996), pp. 327-353.

\* **Video**, ‘The Scientific Revolution,’ *Crash Course History of Science Episode 12*, last modified 2018 ([Click me](#)).

**Week 14** – (5 – 7 January):

Lecture 1: Enlightenment I

Lecture 2: Enlightenment II

\* Kieron O’Hara, *The Enlightenment: A Beginner’s Guide* (London: Oneworld Publications, 2010), pp. 1-22.

\* Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (Toronto: Signal (McClelland & Stewart, 2014), ‘The Ideal of Progress’ and ‘And They lived Happily Ever After’

\* [Optional] Immanuel Kant, “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment,” *Berlinische Monatschrift*, 1784.

\* **Video**: ‘The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment,’ *World History | Khan Academy*, last modified 2017 ([Click me](#)).

<b>Second Midterm (In the final exam week, date will be announced on SUCourse+)</b>
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**Discussion Session Outline and Important Dates**

**Week 1 - (6 – 8 October):** Introduction to the course and the big picture

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 2 - (13 – 15 October):** Hunters, gatherers, scavengers, herders and agriculturalists

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 3 - (20 – 22 October):** First cities, civilization and first states

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 4 – (27 – 29 October): No discussion classes due to national holiday on 29 October**

**Week 5 – (3 – 5 November): Humans and ideas in history: the case of religion**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 6 - (10 – 12 November): Early Empires and Material and Cultural Exchange**

**Summary Paper (tentative date 13 November, date will be announced on SUCourse+)**

**Week 7 – (17 – 19 November): Medieval Europe & pre-modern economies**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**First midterm (tentative date 21 November, date will be announced on SUCourse+)**

**Week 8 - (24 – 26 November): Stratification, gender and rebellions in pre-modern societies**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Feedback sessions on Summary Paper** through online feedback sessions this week

**Week 9 - (1 – 3 December): The Medieval Afro-Eurasian world and macro systems**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 10 - (8 – 10 December): Towards a smaller world: Columbian Exchange**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 11 – (15 – 17 December): Renaissance & Reformation**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Week 12 – (22 – 24 December): Maritime and resilient empires**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Response Paper set on 25 December, due on 27 December 11:55 pm**

**Week 13 – (29 – 31 December): Scientific Revolution**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Bonus assignment deadline 3 January 11:55 pm**

**Week 14 – (5 – 7 January): A moderated discussion for reviews, reflection and feedback**

- Two-hour online discussion session.

**Feedback sessions on the Response Paper** in online tutorials with SL facilitators during finals week



**Second midterm (In the finals week, date will be announced on SUCourse+)**

**Golden rules for online Discussion Sessions**

**- Don't be late**

No students are allowed into the online session after the first 10 minutes. Be punctual and respect the digital environment etiquette.

**- Keep your camera on during the online sessions**

Attendance will be taken each hour and you are expected to actively participate. Therefore, please keep your camera on, but only turn on your microphone when asked or planning to speak.

**- 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.

**How to follow your grade performance**

Freshman year can be overwhelming and demanding. It is always wise to keep a close track of your own performance throughout the course. Below is a simplified formula that will help you predict or calculate your grade. This formula is just a helping tool. It is not definitive and subject to change. Please make sure to consult the actual grading rubric and/or the course coordinator for more accurate information. The formula is as follows:

MT: Midterm examination

(Sum of best 5 discussion worksheet grades) + [(MT1+MT2) x (0.25)] + (Sum of writing assignment components) + (bonus assignment points) + (sum of Top Hat bonus points)