

### **Assignments, Engagement, and Evaluation**

*Review the questions on this unit syllabus before reading each session's materials. Those questions function to guide your understanding and to orient your note-taking; addressing them will deepen your comprehension and prepare you for written work, class discussions, and quizzes. Take notes if necessary, but annotate the primary sources in particular. They will often be central to our seminars. In general, however, do what you think will help bring clarity to the content.*

*For each session, you are expected to offer ideas; to present arguments; to ask and answer questions; and to respond to classmates' comments. You will fully engage with others by listening critically and by finding your voice. To succeed, you must massage the text, looking for strengths and tensions in language, patterns and trends, tone and voice, and connections to historical moments we have covered.*

*Individual and collective evaluations will be determined by (1) class engagement, (2) in- and out-of-class writing assignments, and (3) other assessments.*

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### **Session 1 – An Overview of Europe and its Geography**

Materials

- Europe Map

As We Label

- In terms of growth and development – political, economic, social, etc. – what might be advantages and disadvantages about Europe's geography?

### **Session 2 – Rise of Christianity and Changes in Europe**

Materials

- Secondary – Beck et al., 168-172
- Primary – Jesus, “Sermon on the Mount”; Focus → Repetition; Voice; Analogies/Metaphors

As You Read

- Who was Jesus, how did his ministry spread, and what made his ministry appealing?
- Why does Jesus' ministry spread *after* his death?
- Which events allow Christianity to become legitimate and institutionalized?

As We Discuss

- What made Jesus's message problematic, or arguably, radical? And to whom?
- Your contributions and [open-ended] questions to discuss

### **Session 3 – Muhammad and the Emergence of a New Faith**

Materials

- Secondary – Strayer, 412-418
- Primary – Muhammad's Farewell Sermon
- Primary – Excerpts from the Qur'an

As You Read

- What troubled Muhammad about the Arabian Peninsula?
- How was the Qur'an's message revolutionary? How did it challenge the Arab world?
- How does Islam develop differently from Christianity?

As We Discuss

- Why do you think the Qur'an presents an olive branch to Christians and Jews?
- Your contributions and [open-ended] questions to discuss

Part II – The So-Called Middle Ages

Unit II – Roman Decline and the Rise of Two Abrahamic Faiths

**Session 4 – European Interactions with the Islamic World**

Materials

- Secondary – Excerpt from *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*, by María Rosa Menocal, 32-35
- Image Analysis (See Image Pages and/or Unit II Resources on AB World History)

As You Read

- According to Menocal, what specifically made Cordoba the ornament of the world?

As We Discuss

- What makes cultural syncretism propitious? What might make it dangerous?
- Your contributions and [open-ended] questions to discuss

**Session 5 – Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire**

Materials

- Secondary – Bentley et al., 333-335
- Primary – Excerpt from Einhard, *The Life of Charlemagne*
- Secondary – Excerpt from *The Middle Ages* by Morris Bishop of Charlemagne, 22-23

As You Read

- Why were the Franks the most successful in succeeding the Romans?
- What did Charles do to centralize Frankish rule? How did he consolidate power?

As We Discuss

- Based on Einhard and Bishop, does Charlemagne's coronation mark a significant historical moment?
- Your contributions and [open-ended] questions to discuss