

Syllabus: "New World History, Global History, and Big History" 10946

Professor David Christian

Room: 622, Ewha-Samsung Education & Culture Building; **Phone:** 82-2-3277-6925

Email: David.Christian@ewha.ac.kr

Dates & Times: This class will meet for two 75 minute sessions (with a 15 minute break) each day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from June 22 to July 16.

Introduction: In this course, you will learn about a new form of “world history” called “big history”. Like all forms of world history, big history tries to move beyond the nation-centered perspectives that dominate history teaching in most Universities. Instead, it offers a more human-centered global approach to history. I hope you will find it exciting. Big History surveys the past at all scales, beginning with the origins of the Universe and ending in today’s global world, before looking into the future. So it is like a modern Creation Story. This is a form of world history that helps us understand the place of human beings within our Universe, using the best scientific information available to us early in the 21st century.

Teaching Language: The main teaching language of the course will be English. However, I am aware that for many of you this will be your first course in English, so I will go through the material carefully and slowly, and will make extensive use of PowerPoint presentations. The PowerPoint presentations and lectures will be recorded and will be available on-line.

Text: The main text is available in English and Korean versions :

1) David Christian, *This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity*, Great Barrington, Mass.: Berkshire Publishing, 2008

2) 데이비드 크리스찬, *세계사의 새로운 대안: 거대사*, 2009

A more detailed text, David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*, is available only in English, though a Korean translation is being prepared. I encourage you to use internet sources, but it is important to make sure that they can be trusted to provide accurate information.

Assessment:

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 10% [*judged on preparation for classes and participation*]

Term Paper: 30% [*1,000-2,000 words, with bibliography*]

Mid-Term: 20% [*1 hour; 4 short identification questions; wide choice of questions*]

Final: 30% [*2 hours; 4 ID questions; 2 short essays; wide choice of questions*]

Consultation: I will be available throughout the course for private consultation about any aspect of the course.

Content, Class by Class:

WEEK 1: June 22-June 25

Class 1: Introduction: I will explain what subjects we will cover in the course, and what work you will be expected to complete. We will also introduce ourselves; I want to learn something about your backgrounds, and you will want to learn something about my background

Class 2: World History and Big History. How was everything in the Universe Created?

Class 3: How were Stars and Galaxies Created? How was our Solar System Created?

Class 4: Origins and history of our earth. **Consultation on Term Paper**

WEEK 2: June 29-July 2 (Mid-Term Exam)

Class 5: Life, evolution and the origins of life on earth. How has life evolved over 4 billion years?

Class 6: The evolution of human beings. What makes human beings so different?

Class 7: The oldest period of human history: the Paleolithic era.

Class 8: MID-TERM EXAM: on the course so far

WEEK 3: July 6-9

Class 9: The Origins of Agriculture: a fundamental turning point in history

Class 10: The Creation of the First States and Empires

Class 11: The Evolution of Agrarian Civilizations

Class 12: Modernity and the Industrial Revolution

WEEK 4: July 13-16

Class 13: The Twentieth Century and Today's World: **SUBMIT TERM PAPER**

Class 14: Humans and the Environment

Class 15: Review of course and preparation for exam

Class 16: FINAL EXAM: on the entire course

Calendar:

June/July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	22 1 st Class: INTRODUCTION	23 2 nd Class	24 3 rd Class	25 4 th Class4	26	27
28	29 5 th Class	30 6 th Class	1 7 th Class	2 8 th Class MID- TERM	3	4
5	6 9 th Class	7 10 th Class	8 11 th Class	9 12 th Class	10	11
12	13 13 th class	14 14 th Class	15 15 th Class	16 FINAL EXAM	17	18