Course Name: World History

Module Name: Pre-History to the Early Civilizations

Key Terms

**Agrarian Revolution** - transition from hunting and gathering to sedentary agriculture.

**Homo Sapiens** - humanoid species that emerged as most successful at the end of the Paleolithic era.

**Jericho** - early walled urban culture site located in modern day Israel.

**Band** - nomadic group of 20 to 30 people; hunters and gatherers; gender based labor divisions.

**Neolithic Revolution** - the innovations and changes that led to the development of agriculture.

**Matrilocal** - A culture in which young men upon marriage go to live the brides’ families.

**Matrilineal** - Family descent and inheritance traced through the female line.

**Natufian Complex** - a pre-agricultural culture located in modern day Israel; cultivated barley, wheat

**Catal Huyuk** - early agricultural, urban settlement located in modern day Turkey.

**Shifting Cultivation** - temporary forms of cultivation are done with little impact on the ecology.

**Pastoralism** - nomadic lifestyle based on herding domesticated animals.

**Nomads** - typically herding societies located on fringes of civilized communities; “barbarians”

**Mesopotamia** - Greek word for “land between the rivers”

**Sumeria** - first “civilization” in the southern end of Mesopotamia.

**Ziggurat** - Sumerian stepped pyramid; often used as a temple

**Hammurabi** - Babylonian King who introduced the first code of laws in Sumeria.

**Pharaoh** - Egyptian “God-King”

**Pyramid** - Ancient Egyptian tombs for Old Kingdom Pharaoh’s

**Nile** - River running through Egypt

**Indus** - River along which ancient Indian civilization developed.

**Harappa** - official name of first Indus River Valley “civilization”

**Huang He** - river along which the first Chinese “civilization” developed.

**Shang** - name of first dynasty of Chinese civilization.

**Indo-Europeans** - group that invaded and totally destroyed Harappan civilization