**Pre-Course Vocabulary**

1. agrarian – adj: relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land
2. agriculture – n: the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products
3. Animism – n: the religious belief that objects, places and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence
4. aristocracy – n: the highest class in certain societies, especially those holding hereditary titles or offices
5. civilization – n: the stage of human social development and organization that is considered most advanced
6. codification – n: the action or process of arranging laws or rules according to a system or plan
7. cuneiform – n: wedge-shaped characters used in the ancient writing systems of Mesopotamia surviving mainly impressed on clay tablets
8. democracy -- n: government by the people; *especially***:**rule of the majority
9. demographics – n: statistical data relating to the population and specific groups within it
10. diplomacy – n: the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations
11. domesticate – v: tame an animal or plant for farm produce flourished, spreading through the Mediterranean and into the Near East and Asia
12. Hellenistic – adj: relating to Greek history, language, and culture from the death of Alexander the Great
13. hierarchy – n: a system or organization in which people or groups are ranked one above the other according to status or authority
14. hunter-gatherer/forager – n: a nomadic people who live chiefly by hunting, fishing, and harvesting wild food
15. ideology – n: a system of ideas and ideals, especially one that forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy
16. metallurgy – n: the branch of science and technology concerned with the properties of metals and their production and purification
17. migration – n: movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions
18. monastic – adj: resembling or suggestive of monks or their way of life, especially in being austere, solitary, or celibate
19. nation – n: a large aggregate of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a specific country or territory
20. Neolithic – n: later part of the Stone Age, when ground or polished stone weapons and implements prevailed
21. Paleolithic – n: early phase of the Stone Age, lasting about 2.5 million years, when primitive stone implements were used
22. pastoral nomad – n: people who depend on domesticated livestock, migrate in an established territory to find pasturage for their animals
23. polytheism – n: the belief in or worship of more than one god
24. pyramid – n: a monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top, especially one built of stone as a royal tomb in ancient Egypt
25. qanat system – n: a gently sloping underground channel or tunnel constructed as a system of irrigation in the Middle East
26. republic – n: a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch
27. Sanskrit – n: an ancient Indic language of India, in which the Hindu scriptures and classical Indian epic poems are written and from which many northern Indian languages are derived
28. sedentary –adj: inhabiting the same locality throughout life; not migratory or nomadic
29. Shamanism – n: a religion which is based on the belief that the world is controlled by good and evil spirits, and that these spirits can be directed by people with special powers (Shamans)
30. syncretism – n: the combining of different religions, cultures, philosophies, or ideas
31. synthesis – n: the composition of combination of parts or elements to form a whole
32. Taoism/Daoism – n: a Chinese philosophy based on the writings of Lao-tzu (6th century BC), advocating humility and religious piety
33. technology – n: the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry
34. theocracy – n: a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god

35. Monotheism – n: the doctrine or belief that there is only one God

36. tool – n: a device or implement, especially one held in the hand, used to make a task easier

37. tribute – n: payment made periodically by one state or ruler to another, especially as a sign of dependence

38. urban – adj: in, relating to, or characteristic of a city or town

39. venerate – v: regard with great respect; revere

40. ziggurat – n: in ancient Mesopotamia, a rectangular stepped tower, sometimes surmounted by a temple