Kush - By the time of the unification of Egypt in 3100 BC, several Nubian kingdoms had already been established along the middle Nile between the first and fourth cataracts. After an Egyptian invasion of Nubia as far as the second cataract in about 1900 BC, the Nubian kingdoms formed a loose unity, centered on the city of Kerma, just south of the third cataract. Little is known about this kingdom until it was brought within the Egyptian New Kingdom empire about 1500 BC.

As Egyptian control weakened after 1100 BC, Nubia reasserted its independence and became known as Kush. A new capital and religious center was established at Napata, near the fourth cataract, and Kushite culture flourished. Kush’s agricultural economy was based on cattle herding and cultivation of sorghum and millet. Through payments from subject provinces and trade in ivory, skins, and ebony from the south, the kings of Kush grew wealthy and powerful. In about 770 BC they invaded Egypt and established what is known as the 25th Dynasty (about 770 to 657 BC) at Thebes.

Axum - ancient kingdom that flourished in northeastern Africa from the 1st century BC until the early 7th century AD. Its capital was the city of Aksum, which lies in the northern part of present-day Ethiopia. A powerful trading center, Aksum controlled the highlands of northern Ethiopia and the Red Sea coast of present-day Eritrea. Culturally, it was closely associated with the people of southern Arabia, who spoke related languages and followed similar traditions. Aksumite kings built massive stelae (stone pillars) to adorn their tombs, and some of these stelae still stand today. The kingdom of Aksum developed from a group of smaller states in the region. The most important of these states was Da’amat, which had existed since the 5th century BC and had its capital to the east at Yeha. Aksum is first mentioned in the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*, a Greek guide to shipping in the Red Sea that was written probably in the 1st century AD. By this time Aksum was a fully developed state trading through its Red Sea port of Adulis, where many ships of neighboring countries anchored.

Ethiopia - The kingdom known to the ancient Greeks and Romans as Ethiopia was in fact centered in what is now Sudan. Its capitals were Napata and, later, Meroë. The tradition that the biblical Queen of Sheba was a ruler of Ethiopia who visited King Solomon in Jerusalem in ancient Israel is supported by the 1st century AD Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who identified Solomon’s visitor as a queen of Egypt and Ethiopia.

Olmecs - indigenous people of Mesoamerica, who established one of the region’s first major civilizations. They lived along the central coast of the Gulf of Mexico, just west of the Yucatán Peninsula, in the swampy jungle river basins of the present-day Mexican states of Veracruz and Tabasco. Over time, they extended their influence through the highlands of Mexico; the Valley of Mexico; Oaxaca; and westwards to Guerrero. The
Olmec flourished between about 1500 and 600 BC. San Lorenzo, their oldest known center, was destroyed around 900 BC. It was replaced by La Venta, a city built in an axial pattern that influenced urban development in Central America for centuries. A mounded earthen pyramid about 30 m (about 100 ft) high, among the earliest in Mesoamerica, was the center of a complex of temples and plazas.

The Olmec were among the first Mesoamerican peoples to use stone in sculpture and architecture, even though it had to be quarried in distant mountains. Their colossal stone heads of males, about 2.7 m (about 9 ft) high, can be seen today, along with other Olmec artifacts, in the Mexican city of Villahermosa. The Olmec are thought to have developed the earliest known writing system in the Americas, based on a stone tablet with carved symbols discovered in Veracruz state. Scholars believe the tablet dates to about 900 BC, although the symbols appear to be unrelated to later Mesoamerican scripts. The Olmec civilization, however, established patterns of culture that influenced its successors for centuries to come.

**Teotihuacán** - site in central Mexico that in ancient times was one of the largest cities in the world. Located about 40 km (25 mi) northeast of present-day Mexico City, Teotihuacán reached the peak of its prosperity and influence around AD 500 or AD 600. During this period, the city covered an area of 21 sq km (8 sq mi) and had at least 125,000 inhabitants; estimates of its population range as high as 200,000. The city of Teotihuacán was founded around 200 BC, although the site may have been inhabited as early as 1000 BC. Teotihuacán developed into an important city-state in the 1st century AD. It had two great stone pyramids, the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon, built between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. With an original height around 75 m (246 ft) and a square base more than 213 m (700 ft) on each side, the Pyramid of the Sun was one of the largest structures ever built by Native Americans.

Teotihuacán was organized around a central thoroughfare, known as the Avenue of the Dead, which was flanked by temples and other structures. In the center of the city stood the Ciudadela (the Citadel), a massive rectangular enclosure that contained a large plaza and served as the city’s administrative center. The Ciudadela also housed the large Feathered Serpent Pyramid (named for its stone carvings of legendary feathered serpents) along with 15 smaller pyramids. The buildings of Teotihuacán housed the religious leaders, nobles, merchants, and craftspeople, with neighborhoods determined by rank and occupation. Farmers, who provided food for the growing urban population, lived in surrounding villages.

**Sui Dynasty** - 581-618, imperial Chinese dynasty which, though brief, reunified China for the first time in three centuries and laid the foundations for its rise to power in the 8th and 9th centuries.

**T’ang Dynasty** - 618-907, also known as T’ang, Chinese dynasty during which imperial China became one of the wealthiest and most powerful regions in the world.
Rajput - member of a predominantly Hindu people of northwestern India. Most of the Rajput live in the state of Rājāsthan. The Rana family (ruling aristocracy of Nepal until 1951) was also Rajput. Rajastani languages belong to the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family.

Although most of the Rajput is Hindu, a minority are Muslim. Traditionally they were warriors, but they have a hierarchy of classes, ranging from princes to peasants. Women marry up the hierarchy to men of higher status. Today the Rajput is mainly landowners.

Devi - is the Sanskrit word for Goddess, used mostly in Hinduism. Devi is synonymous with Shakti, the female aspect of the divine, as conceptualized by the Shakta tradition of Hinduism. She is the female counterpart without whom the male aspect, which represents consciousness or discrimination, remains impotent and void. Goddess worship is an integral part of Hinduism.

The Yellow Turbans - During the civil war, the old capital of Chang'an was largely destroyed, and the victorious Liu family moved the capital eastward to Luoyang (Lo-yang), in what is now Henan province. The name Han was again used, but Chinese historians refer to the dynasty after Wang Mang as the Eastern, or Later, Han. Its first ruler, Guangwudi (Kuang-wu-ti, 5 BC-AD 57), was vigorous and assertive. The borderlands were reoccupied, the Xiongnu were again defeated, and tribute was again collected in Korea and Annam. Like others of his ancestors, Guangwudi became a patron of Confucian learning and worked toward government reform.

Diocletian - (245-313), emperor of Rome (284-305), who reformed the administrative machinery of the empire, introducing the two-tiered system of Augusti and caesars.

Constantine - about AD 274-337), Roman emperor (306-337), the first Roman ruler to be converted to Christianity. He founded Constantinople (present-day İstanbul) as a capital of the Roman Empire in 330, and it remained the seat of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire until 1453.

Constantinople - city in northwestern Turkey, the only city in the world that sits astride two continents—Europe and Asia. İstanbul is the largest city in Turkey and the country’s chief commercial and cultural center. With the finest natural harbor in the region, it is also an important trade hub. The city is the capital of İstanbul Province, which is bounded on the north by the Black Sea, on the south and southwest by the Sea of Marmara, on the east by Kocaeli Province, and on the west by Tekirdağ Province. The Bosporous, a narrow strait that links the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, separates İstanbul’s European and Asian sections.

Byzantine Empire - eastern part of the Roman Empire, which survived after the breakup of the Western Empire in the 5th century AD. Its capital was Constantinople (now İstanbul, Turkey).
**Justinian** - (483-565), called The Great, Byzantine emperor (527-65), who extended Byzantine rule in the West, beautified Constantinople (present-day Istanbul), and completed the codification of Roman law. His full name was Flavius Petrus Sabgatius Justinianus.

The nephew of Emperor Justin I, Justinian was born in Illyria and educated in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). In 518 he became the administrator for Justin, who named Justinian as his successor. He married Theodora, a former actress, in 523. On the death of his uncle in 527, Justinian was elected emperor.

**Sassanid Empire** - is the name of the last pre-Islamic Iranian empire. It was one of the two main powers in Western Asia and Europe for a period of more than 400 years. The Sassanid dynasty was founded by Ardashir I after defeating the last Parthian (Arsacid) king, Artabanus IV and ended when the last Sassanid Shahanshah (*King of Kings*). [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire)

**Bodhisattvas** - Sanskrit term meaning “one who is destined for, or whose essence is, enlightenment.” The term originally referred to the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, during his previous births and the part of his career before his Great Enlightenment. In Mahayana Buddhism (see Buddhism), the term refers to the individual who has passed through ten stages to spiritual perfection, but out of compassion chooses to delay the final reward, nirvana, to work for the salvation of all other sentient beings, especially by transferring merit to them.

Bodhisattvas are usually conceived as personifications of particular virtues of the Buddha. Thus, Manjusri, with his book and sword of knowledge, represents the Buddha's wisdom, and Samantabhadra his happiness. Avalokitesvara, the Lord Who Looks Down, personifies compassion. These *bodhisattvas*, regarded as celestial saviors, became popular objects of devotion throughout East Asia. Maitreya, the *bodhisattva* of loving kindness, is recognized by Theravada Buddhists as the future Buddha.

**Mahayana Buddhism** - (Sanskrit for “Greater Vehicle”), along with Theravada Buddhism, one of the two principal branches of Buddhist belief. Mahayana originated in India and subsequently spread throughout China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Central Asia, Vietnam, and Taiwan. Followers of Mahayana have traditionally regarded their doctrine as the full revelation of the nature and teachings of the Buddha, in opposition to the earlier Theravada tradition, which they characterize as the Lesser Vehicle (*Hinayana*).

**Syncretism** - reconciliation of different belief systems, as in philosophy or religion.

**Christianity** - the most widely distributed of the world religions, having substantial representation in all the populated continents of the globe. In the late 1990s, its total membership exceeded 1.9 billion people.

Like any system of belief and values—be it Platonism, Marxism, Freudianism, or democracy—Christianity is in many ways comprehensible only “from the inside,” to
those who share the beliefs and strive to live by the values; and a description that would ignore these “inside” aspects of it would not be historically faithful. To a degree that those on the inside often fail to recognize, however, such a system of beliefs and values can also be described in a way that makes sense as well to an interested observer who does not, or even cannot, share their outlook.

**Jesus of Nazareth** - (between 8 and 4 BC-AD 29?), the central figure of Christianity, born in Bethlehem in Judea. The chronology of the Christian era is reckoned from a 6th-century dating of the year of his birth, which is now recognized as being from four to eight years in error. Christians traditionally regard Jesus as the incarnate Son of God, and as having been divinely conceived by Mary, the wife of Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth. The name Jesus is derived from a Greek rendering of the Hebrew name Joshua, or in full Yehoshuah (Yahweh is deliverance). The title Christ is derived from the Greek christos, a translation of the Hebrew mashiakh (anointed one), or Messiah. “Christ” was used by Jesus' early followers, who regarded him as the promised deliverer of Israel and later was made part of Jesus' proper name by the church, which regards him as the redeemer of all humanity.

**Bishops** – Greek episkopos,”overseer“), in the Christian churches from earliest times, the chief priest, ruler, and teacher of one or a number of churches, usually in a specific geographic area. In the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Church and in most of the Anglican churches, a bishop is an ecclesiastic who, through sacramental consecration, holds special powers of the ministry as well as special administrative prerogatives. Few Protestant churches other than the Anglican recognize the office of bishop; in the churches that do, the bishop is not considered to have extraordinary priestly powers, but is simply a minister charged by the members of the church with superintending church affairs.

**Paul** – (circa AD 3-62), the greatest missionary of Christianity and its first theologian, called Apostle to the Gentiles.

**Pope** – in Latin, papa, from the Greek pappas, meaning “father,” an ecclesiastical title expressing affection and respect and, since the 8th century, recognized in the West as belonging exclusively to the bishop of Rome, head of the Roman Catholic Church. During the 4th and 5th centuries bishops were sometimes called pope. Priests of the Orthodox churches may also be called pappa, reflecting the sense of the original Greek word.

Besides the designation pope, the head of the Roman Catholic Church also holds these titles: vicar of Christ; successor of Saint Peter; supreme pontiff of the universal church; patriarch of the West; primate of Italy; archbishop and metropolitan of the Roman province; sovereign of the State of Vatican City; and servant of the servants of God.

**Doctrine of the Trinity** – in Christian theology, doctrine that God exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are united in one substance or being. The doctrine is not taught explicitly in the New Testament, where the word God almost
invariably refers to the Father; but already Jesus Christ, the Son, is seen as standing in a unique relation to the Father, while the Holy Spirit is also emerging as a distinct divine person.

**Benedict/Benedictine Rule** – Benedict of Nursia (in Italian, Benedetto da Norcia) (480 A.D. - 547 A.D.) was a saint from Italy, the founder of Western Christian monastic communities, and a rule-giver for cenobitic monks. His purpose may be gleaned from his Rule, namely that "Christ ... may bring us all together to life eternal." He was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in 1220.

Benedict founded twelve communities for monks, the best known of which is his first monastery, at Monte Cassino in the mountains of southern Italy. There is no evidence that he intended to found a religious order. The Order of St Benedict is of modern origin and, moreover, not an "order" as commonly understood but merely a confederation of autonomous congregations. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Benedict_of_Nursia)

**Monasticism** - also monachism, mode of life practiced by persons who have abandoned the world for religious reasons and devote their lives, either separately or in community, to spiritual perfection. The vows of celibacy, poverty, and obedience under which they live are termed the evangelical counsels. A person bound by such vows is known as a religious (Latin religare, “to bind”). A man who belongs to a monastic order is also called a monk.

**Week 6: Chapter 5: Part 2: Questions**

1. What issues and values did classical civilizations stress and why?

   Common themes for the classical civilizations involve territorial expansion and related efforts to integrate the new territories. Integration included a mixture of central political values and institutions, common cultures and social values, and commercial links. They all needed central values in their respective societies, as part of a larger process of generating a shared culture on the basis of which their expanding societies might operate. They all tried to maintain a basic social cohesion while acknowledging inequality.

2. Describe the spread of sedentary agriculture outside the older civilized areas (core).

   For most of Africa below the Sahara, but north of the great tropical jungles, the major development up to 500 C.E. was the further extension of agriculture itself. Well-organized villages arose. Farming took earliest root on the southern fringes of the Sahara, which was less arid than it is today. Because of the barriers of dense vegetation and the impact of African diseases on domesticated animals, the creation of a strong agricultural economy prepared the way for the next, more long-lasting and influential wave of African kingdoms, far to the west of the Nile. New crops, including root crops and plantains introduced through trade with Southeast Asia about 100 C.E., helped African farmers advance. In Japan, the agriculture flourished too. Japan had also developed considerable ironworking; interestingly, the Japanese seem to have skipped the stage of
using bronze and copper tools, moving directly from stone tools to iron. Agriculture in European countries such as Germany was still combined with hunting and remained primitive.

3. Describe the rise of civilization in the Americas.

The first American civilization was based on many centuries of advancing agriculture, expanding from the early cultivation of corn. Initially, in the wild state, corn ears were scarcely larger than strawberries, but patient breeding gradually converted this grain into a staple food crop. In the Andes areas of South America, root crops were also grown, particularly the potato. The development of American agriculture was limited by the few domesticated animals available—turkey, dogs, and guinea pigs.

4. Describe the spread of civilization to peripheral regions in Africa and Asia.

Wider and wider trade patterns helped spread civilization to new areas particularly in Africa. Hindu and Buddhism also facilitated the spread of culture within Asian nations. Agriculture played a part in later years as established farming communities began spreading out. As contact was made via trade and agriculture, new kingdoms and societies sprung up taking on lives of their own—new political order, new cultural norms and in many cases new gods to worship. In Asia, the need to keep records in these new areas led to the spread of written language.

5. What role did pastoral nomads play in world history and commerce.

They helped to establish and expand trade links. Nomads found employment as protectors of the trade routes as well as suppliers of food and animals for those making the journey. Religion as well as technology also found means of spreading throughout the nomads. By coming into contact with so many cultures, the nomadic people often learned many of their “secrets” and helped facilitate the spread of ideas and technology—such as paper. Warfare of the nomads greatly influenced those that were sedentary—forcing them to devise new ways to counterattack nomadic warfare—such as the Great Wall of China and other engineering feats. The transmission of food is perhaps only matched by the transmission of disease—both greatly impacting the cultures that were touched.

6. Describe the reasons/causes for the decline and fall of the classical civilizations. How were they similar or different?

Similar—outside invasions, nomadic expansion, political troubles (internal problems seen in Rome and China, political fragmentation seen in India) heavily taxed peasants (particularly in China), political corruption, disease epidemics

Differences—decline in India was not as drastic as China, Islam is major force in challenging Indian status quo not apparent in others, In Rome—the upper classes became more focused on living in the moment rather than politics or economics, there was a
period of decline in literature and the arts. Roma broke into three parts, which soon became 3 distinct civilizations.

7. What are the effects of migrations and nomadic cultures on the classical civilizations?

See answer 5 above. While the classic civilizations initially prospered through contact with the nomads (in terms of opening up trade and spreading ideas) the negatives began to soon outweigh the positives. Constant attacks and transmission of disease helped contribute to the fall of the civilizations.

8. How and why did the new religions develop and spread?

Death resulting from disease and plagues encouraged an interest in anything that could provide comfort and solace. Political instability also led many to the various churches – finding a consistency and strength in them that was lacking elsewhere, all of the new major religions offered hope and emphasized piety. All stressed the importance of spirituality over daily concerns. The blending, in some areas, of new beliefs with the old also helped ensure the spread of the new religions. Most spread through missionary activity (Christianity, Islam) and trade (Buddhism.)

9. What classical institutions survived the collapse of the classical civilizations and why?

Developments in agriculture, sophistication in trade and religion survived the collapse of the classical civilizations. In some instances political institutions, though at times unstable, were strong enough to last (such as Chinese bureaucracy.) The collapse of Rome actually paved the way for three other civilizations, all based in varying degrees on Roman ideals. Cultural norms also survived the collapse with language and literature finding new life.