I. Meaning of “empire”
   a. Extension of rule over another people usually by conquest
   b. Bringing together of diverse peoples and/or gods under common ruler
      i. Hierarchy of subjects’ rights = typical
   c. Types of empire
      i. Hegemony
      ii. Dominance
      d. Earlies Empires (Mesopotamia)
         i. Sargonid Empire
         ii. Babylonia Empire
         iii. Hittites
         iv. Assyrians
            e. Egyptian Empire - Middle Kingdom/ New Kingdom
II. Persian Empire
a. Cyrus the Great (r. 558-529 BCE)
i. Conquest of Medes, Lydians, Babylonians (Balance of Power)
ii. Respect for conquered peoples, traditions
b. Cambyses II (r. 529-522) ; conquests of Egypt
c. Further expansion
d. Persian rule Darius I (522-486 BCE)
  i. Respect for local customs
     1. Ex: return of Jewish exiles to Judaea (Cyrus II)
     ii. Division of empire into administrative units
     (20 satrapies)
     iii. Imperial road system ("Early Suez Canal")
  iv. Standardization of coinage (gold daric)
  i. Persian script and Behistun stone (cuneiform)
  v. Production encouraged
  vi. Role of showplace palaces, especially Persepolis
     (city of the Persians)
e. Spread of Zoroastrianism
   (Zarathustra/Zoroaster 600BCE?)
   i. Ahuramazda vs. Ahriman (Satan vs. God)
   ii. Day of judgement / afterlife / resurrection of dead
II. The Greeks
a. Minoan Crete
i. Palace culture c. 2000-1450 BCE
   a. unknown disaster (volcano? tidal wave?)
   ii. Merchant culture (ideal location @ trade crossroads)
b. Mycenaean Greece
i. Several small kingdoms (Homer)
   a. Agamemnon
   ii. Fall of Mycenaean civilization - the “dark ages”
c. Development of Greek polis
   i. Small, independent city-states w/ agricultural area
   ii. Geographical constraints on civilization (defensive nature of cities)
   iii. Many ruled by kings / oligarchies
   iv. Cultural unity: common language, religion, festivals
v. Athens as central case study
1. Birth of Democracy in Athens
   a. Solon’s reforms (Council of 400 / "free men in voting"
   b. Cleisthenes, establishment of democracy
d. Persian Wars (Herodotus)
   i. Athenian interference in Persian affairs
   ii. 490 BCE invasion - Battle of Marathon (Pheidippides)
   iii. 480 BCE invasion - Battles of Thermopylae, Salamis
      a. Leonidas, Xerxes (486-465)
      b. overextension of Power by Persia

e. Growing Athenian imperialism
   i. Golden age of Athenian culture
      1. Philosophy
      2. Drama

f. Limitations of city-state democracy
   i. Limited role of women (women in private sphere)
      a. Aristotle - "silence is a woman's glory"
   ii. Restrictions on citizenship: 1 in 6 citizenship

g. Peloponnesian War (Thucydides): Sparta v. Athens c. 400 BCE
III. Alexander the Great
   a. Build-up of strong Macedonian state by Phillip II (r. 359-336 BCE)
      i. Creation of professional army
      ii. Unification of Greeks under Macedonian rule
   b. Reign of Alexander (336-323 BCE)
      i. Combination of “benevolent despotism” and force when necessary
      ii. Invasion of Persian Empire
      iii. Invasion of Indus Valley
      iv. Death at age 33
   c. Wars of Succession
      i. Establishment of successor states, especially Ptolemaic Egypt and Seleucid Empire
   d. Hellenistic ecumene (common cultural realm)
      i. Greek language and culture = dominant over massive area
      ii. Blend of Hellenistic culture with local cultures
      iii. Trade boom
      iv. City-based high culture
I. The Roman Republic
   a. Legendary founding of Rome in 753 BCE
      i. Etruscan rule
      ii. Circa 509 BCE creation of republic
         1. Military organization
         2. Elected officials, system of checks and balances
   b. Conquest of Italian Peninsula 396 - 264 BCE
   c. Punic Wars
      i. Rivalry of Carthage
      ii. First Punic War 264-241 BCE; Roman conquest of Sicily
      iii. Second Punic War 210-202 BCE
         1. The threat of Hannibal (247-183 BCE)
      iv. Third Punic War 149-146 BCE; destruction of Carthage
   d. Conquests in Europe and Near East