Some Suggested topics for HST 111

Pre-history.

This topic subdivides geographically, so you will need to specify the continent, or, in some cases, the country.
Ancient mother goddess. NT: Cybele (goddess), Grain goddesses, Mother goddesses.
Early Turkish urban sites. Start with Turkey, antiquities
Megaliths of northern Europe (e.g. Ireland or Brittany) or of southern Europe (Malta)
Mesopotamia. USE Iraq, antiquities.
Ziggurats, their construction and uses in ancient Mesopotamia irrigation systems the impact of specific luxury items (ivory, spices, gold, olive oil, wine, etc.) on trade in the ancient Middle East
A comparison of two or more creation myths
The afterlife as an idea in two ancient religions
Courtship and marriage in ancient Babylon
Hammurabi’s code and everyday life in Babylon
Ancient calendars

Ancient Egypt. USE Egypt, antiquities
Irrigation and flood prediction
Egyptian medicine and surgery
Ship construction (compare with Phoenicia)
Cat-worship in ancient Egypt
Egyptian sculpture or painting
Queen Hatshepsut, pharaoh of Egypt
Female figures in Egyptian mythology
The Isis-Osiris myth
Religious changes in Egypt from polytheistic to monotheistic
Egyptian beliefs in the afterlife
The Hittites and the Phoenicians. USE Turkey, antiquities. Syria, etc.
    Carthage
Games of chance and gambling in ancient societies
Sun, moon, and fire deities
Zoroastrianism and Mithraism
Persian astrology

The Hebrews.
Creation in Genesis and in ancient Mesopotamia
Ancient musical modes and instruments
Hebrew kingship, its development and decline
The role of the prophet in ancient Hebrew political life
Jewish religious cults and the Dead Sea Scrolls
social welfare in Hebrew religious thought

Ancient India
The origins of yogism
Buddhist monasticism and the missionary spread of Buddhism
Marriage and family under the Hindu cast system
Development of the Hindu law codes

Ancient China
Early Chinese irrigation and flood control systems
Bronze working in early China
Confucianism and the Chinese family
Yin and yang in Chinese art
The Mandate of Heaven, a Chinese concept
Food and family celebrations

Minoan Crete, Mycenae and Archaic Greece.
Cretan trade in the pre-Mycenaean era
Minoan painting
The destruction of Knossos
The collapse of Mycenaean society
Development of the polis in archaic Greece
Weaponry of the Homeric Greeks
The myth of the labyrinth

Classical Greece.
Development of the Greek city-state (polis) in Athens or Sparta
The role of the Delphic oracle in classical religion and politics
Greek naval battles of the Persian Wars
The role of women in Spartan or Athenian society
Public architecture in Periclean Athens
Development of Greek drama and structure of theaters
Sappho of Lesbos and the poetry of love
Voting rights and civic obligations of citizens in Hellenic Athens
Free speech: the role of Old Comedy in Athenian democracy
The plague in Athens during the Peloponnesian War
Herodotus’s descriptions of the Persian allies in The Persian Wars
The death of Socrates

Hellenistic Civilization.
USE the specific country involved, eg. Egypt for the Ptolemies,
etc.
The development of Greek military organization from the classical period to the time of
Alexander
Alexander’s conquest of northern India
Philip of Macedon and the unification of Greece
Science and mathematics in ancient Alexandria
The cult of Isis in Hellenistic Egypt
Cleopatra, last of the Ptolemies
Hellenistic medicine

The Rise of Rome and the Roman Republic.
Development of Roman military organization and tactics
Etruscan influences on early Roman art and society
The impact of the Punic Wars on Roman political and military life
Development of Roman military technology
Roman Life
Gladiators, civic games, and other public entertainments
Roman cookery
Fortune-telling and horoscopes in ancient Rome
Life in a Roman villa
Stoicism and the thinking of Roman patricians
a detailed look at a Roman colonial settlement in France or Britain
Slave revolts
The Roman Empire and it's collapse
Cicero and the transition to Empire
The role of the Roman army in the “election” of the later emperors
The Roman destruction of Jerusalem, and the Jewish diaspora
The idea of citizenship in Republican and Imperial Rome

The Celts
Celtic religious practices and the role of the druids
The role of women in Celtic society
Bards and brehons: men of learning in early Irish society
Celtic warfare
Boudicca, queen of the Iceni, & the revolt against the Romans
The Advent of Christianity.
St. Paul and the mission to the gentiles
The role of bishops and deacons in the early church
Christianity and slavery--the impact of Christian ideas on the treatment of slaves
“accommodations”--Christian holidays and pagan celebrations
The role of women in the early church

The Growth of Christianity.
The Rule of St. Benedict and early monasticism
St. Augustine and Christian ideas of marriage and family
Double monasteries
Pope Gregory the Great and the emergence of the papacy
Irish scriptoria and the development of medieval calligraphy
transformation of Celtic deities into Christian saints
The Germanic Tribes
The Vandals and the decline of Roman government outside Italy
Germanic lawcodes and ideas of justice
The relationship between lords and retainers
The Empress Theodora and Byzantine politics
The Iconoclastic controversy and Byzantine Christianity
St. Basil and Greek monasticism

Islam
Bedouin society before Islam
The explosive spread of Islam in the century after the Prophet’s death
Islamic justice and the People of the Book
Arab medical practices and the establishment of hospitals

Asia
The Warring states period and development of Taoism, Legalism and Confucianism
Japanese transformations of Buddhism
The early stages of Japanese feudalism—the bushido code
Chinese herbal medicine

The Carolingians and Feudalism
Frankish law and the new empire
The invention of the stirrup and its effects on mounted warfare
Missi dominici
The early development of kingship in Scotland

Celtic/Norse
The Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons.
Viking towns and trade networks
The emergence of Northumbria as a center of learning in the 7th and 8th centuries
Alfred the Great and the kingdom of Wessex
Arthur and British resistance to the Anglo-Saxons

Africa
The emergence of Christianity in Ethiopia
the Nok culture
Meroe
Americas
Maya agricultural practices
Temple architecture in early Maya culture
Decipherment of Maya writing
Mythology of early Mexico
Early North American Indian Cultures
Native American Trade patterns