

HIST 125: Introduction to World History

Fall 2014

Instructor: Peter N. Stearns
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Class Info: Posted to your Blackboard account

Office Hours: My office is located in Robinson B, Room 344.
Office hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 am, or by appointment (email to schedule).

Class Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-10:15 am, Robinson Hall, Room B104.

Required Textbook

Stearns, Peter N. (2012) 8th ed., *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity, Combined Volume*. London: Pearson.

Important:

Please consult the Blackboard course site **before** every class. The Blackboard site has discussion questions and, often, Document readings. Click on “Course Content” on the left menu bar to find the relevant course materials.

Course Objectives and Goals

This course surveys major features of the principal existing civilizations of the world, and the major types of global contacts, as they were originally formed and as they have been altered during the past two to four centuries by the “forces of modernity.” We will try to define what the major traditional features of each civilization were, and particularly how cultures persisted and changed, and what the “forces of modernity” have been. The chief goals of the course involve enhancing three habits of mind that are essential in understanding a globalizing world: the ability to assess change over time on a global level; the capacity to compare different societies; and the understanding of the emergence and impact of global processes.

Academic Honesty and Collaboration

The integrity of the University Community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple practices to follow at all times are that: 1) all work submitted be your own; 2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and 3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

Exams, Papers and Quizzes (*dates subject to change*)

Wednesday, September 3	Quiz #1 on Maps
Monday, September 15	Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations
Wednesday, September 24	First Paper due (500 words)
Wednesday, October 1	Mid-Term Examination
Wednesday, October 22	Second Paper due (3 pages)
Wednesday, November 5	Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam
Wednesday, December 3	Third Paper due (4-5 pages)
Wednesday, December 12	Final Examination

Components of Grade

Class Participation and Attendance	30%
Homework and Quizzes	5%
Papers (3)	30%
Mid-Term Examination	10%
Final Examination	25%

Date	Topic	Assignment
Mon, Aug 25	Introduction: Why and what is World History?	Review Syllabus
Wed, Aug 27	The Nature of Agricultural Societies and Early Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp. 1-48 Document: Code of Hammurabi
Wed, Sep 3	The Classical Period; Classical Civilizations: China and India Quiz #1 on Maps	WH in Brief text pp. 49-91
Mon, Sep 8	Understanding Cultures: Indian and Chinese Philosophy	Documents on classical cultures: Analects, Confucius; Classical China: Legalism; Faxian, Record of Buddhist Countries.
Wed, Sep 10	Social Structure, Gender and the Classical World	WH in Brief text pp. 92-116 Documents on gender.
Mon, Sep 15	Theories on the Rise and Fall of Civilizations Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp. 116-138
Wed, Sep 17	The Post-Classical Period: Change, Continuity and the Spread of World Religions	WH in Brief text pp. 139-177
Mon, Sep 22	Islam in Comparative Perspective	Documents on Islam.
Wed, Sep 24	The World Network: New Exchanges Expanding Civilization and the World Network: Japan and Europe	WH in Brief text pp. 193-247 Documents on feudalism. 1st Paper Due (500 words)
Mon, Sep 29	Civilizations in Africa and the Americas and the End of the Post-Classical Period	WH in Brief text pp. 178-192; 248-272
Wed, Oct 1	<u>Mid-Term EXAM (1 hour)</u>	
Mon, Oct 6	Periodization and World Trends, 1450-1750	WH in Brief text pp. 273-306 For Discussion: What caused change: Technological determinism; western strengths v. western problems; “mistakes” outside the west; cultures?
Wed, Oct 8	The World Economy and Forced Labor	Handout: “Development of the World Economy” Documents on slavery.
Tue, Oct 14 (Monday classes meet Tuesday)	Transformation of the West: The “Big Changes”	WH in Brief text pp. 307-332

Date	Topic	Assignment
Wed, Oct 15	The Rise of Russia	WH in Brief text pp. 333-349 Document on Peter the Great, serfdom.
Mon, Oct 20	Categorizing Early Modern Reactions: Asia, Africa and the Americas	WH in Brief text pp. 350-386
Wed, Oct 22	The Industrial Revolution: The West and the World: Impacts on Daily Life	WH in Brief text pp. 387-419 2nd Paper Due (3 pages)
Mon, Oct 27	Modernization Theory and Historical Change; The Place of Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 419-438; 469-484 Handout: "Modernization Theory"
Wed, Oct 29	The Development of Latin American Civilization and the "New Nations" issue	WH in Brief text pp. 449-468
Mon, Nov 3	The United States and World History	WH in Brief text pp. 439-448
Wed, Nov 5	Latecomer Modernizers: Russia and Japan Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam	WH in Brief text pp. 485-506 Documents on Meiji, Japan.
Mon, Nov 10	The 20 th century as a World History Period; Changes in the World Economy and the "Third World"	WH in Brief text pp. 507-540
Wed, Nov 12	Revolution, Decolonization and Comparative Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 541-586 Documents on revolution and nationalism.
Mon, Nov 17	The World Economy and World Politics	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Wed, Nov 19	No Class!	n/a
Mon, Nov 24	Cultural Patterns in the 20 th Century; The Case of Africa	WH in Brief text pp. 652-673 Documents on African culture.
Nov 26-30	Thanksgiving Recess	
Mon, Dec 1	Globalization	WH in Brief text pp. 674-697
Wed, Dec 3	Issues on Women, and Prediction REVIEW SESSION * LAST CLASS *	Discussion Questions on Documents 3rd Paper Due (4-5 pages)
Mon, Dec 15	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	