

## **FALL 2015 HIST 125 (002): INTRODUCTION TO WORLD HISTORY, 1200-1900**

Dr. Benedict Carton	<u>Tues. lecture <b>12-1:15 PM</b>, David King Hall 1006</u>
R. T. Hawkes Professor of History	<u>Thurs. recitation (location/times: check Patriotweb)</u>
Dept. of History & Art History	Office: Robinson B, Room 355B
E-mail: <a href="mailto:bcarton1@gmu.edu">bcarton1@gmu.edu</a>	Office hours: Tues 2:45–4:15 pm and by appt.
TA: Ben Hurwitz, PhD Candidate	Office: Robinson B, Room 369
E-mail: <a href="mailto:bhurwit3@gmu.edu">bhurwit3@gmu.edu</a>	Office hours: Thurs. 11-12:00 noon, 2-5:00 pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING**

In HIST 125 we explore the sweeping historical changes that created today's modern world. Beginning around 1200, we trace key processes reshaping the politics, cultures, and economies of various regions. While Europe and the United States are part of our focus, we primarily consider Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Each of these geographic regions became enmeshed in a global system affected by far-reaching religious transformations, mercantile activity, industrial growth, and imperialism/ colonialism. By semester's end, students should grasp the major trends underlying seven centuries of world history.

This course develops **an understanding of historical processes shaping the interconnectedness and diversity of an increasingly “global” world**. During our class lectures and discussions, you will be asked to identify, evaluate and cite scholarship that enhances your awareness of global issues and individual responsibilities within global societies. For further information on how “global understanding” fits within the Mason Core (University General Education) requirements, please see <http://provost.gmu.edu/gened/>

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

In this course, students will be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge of world history by participating in class discussions and debates. They will also enhance their critical reading and thinking skills, using a variety of analytical frameworks and sources (both primary and secondary). Finally, they will develop their writing abilities during in-class essay exams. The knowledge acquired in HIST 125 will probably improve your employment prospects in many professions.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE GMU BOOKSTORE**

1. Robert Tignor, et al. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: From 1000 CE to the Present*, Volume Two, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. W.W. Norton & Co., 2013. (Abbreviated as *WTWA* below).
2. Kevin Reilly. *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader, Volume Two: Since 1400*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. (Abbreviated as *WoH* below).

## **THURSDAY RECITATION (DISCUSSION) SECTIONS AND INSTRUCTORS**

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There are **three recitation** (discussion) sections for this course, which all meet on **Thursday**. HIST 125 (**304**) recitation, instructed by Dr. Carton, meets **12-1:15 pm** in **West 1001**; HIST 125 (**305**) recitation, instructed by B. Hurwitz, meets **1:30-2:45 pm** in **East 121**; and HIST 125 (**306**) recitation, instructed by B. Hurwitz, meets **10:30-11:45 am** in **East 121**.

## **CLASS COMMUNICATION THROUGH GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND BLACKBOARD**

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Crucial resources for HIST 125 will be posted on Blackboard and sent through the university server to your GMU email, as listed in Patriotweb. Thus, students in HIST 125 must use their Mason accounts to receive key information, including timely messages, exam review sheets, and modified requirements related to this class.

## **CLASS CONDUCT**

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- 1. Please do NOT arrive late to class.**
- 2. Please turn OFF cell phones and all hand-held communication devices in class.**
- 3. You are not allowed to surf the Web (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) or email in class.**
- 4. Please do NOT eat or drink in class.**
- 5. When emailing your professor or TA, include the subject heading "HIST 125."**
- 6. You are required to honor George Mason University's academic policies and codes.**

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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**GMU is an Honor Code university.** Please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? When you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on any aspect of someone else's work, you will give full credit in an academically accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and open debate are encouraged in this course, with the expectation that all aspects of our class will be conducted with civility and respect for different ideas, perspectives, and traditions.

## **COURSE ACCOMMODATIONS**

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**Disabilities, Academic Accommodations and Religious Observances:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474 or <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through ODS. Students who must miss class for religious observances must notify the instructor of their absence. All observances are respected by the professor and his TA.

## **IMPORTANT CAMPUS RESOURCES**

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WRITING CENTER: (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES: (703) 993-2380.

## GRADING

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Final course grades will be calculated according to the following rubric:

Participation	<b>*15%*</b>	Based on contributions to class discussions. These contributions require <b><u>attendance</u></b> .
First Exam	20%	October 6, 2015, in class
Mid-term Exam	30%	November 3, 2015, in class
Final Exam	35%	December 17, 2015 <b><u>10:30 AM</u></b> -1:15 PM, in class, David King Hall 1006

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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**Attendance and Participation:** Students are fully expected to attend all meetings of this course, i.e., lectures, discussions, exam reviews, and exams. The first exam, mid-term exam and final exam require knowledge of lectures and readings. This course is structured to reward students who regularly attend class, complete their assigned readings, participate in discussions, and keep up with the required work. In class, be prepared to ask questions and think critically about the issues you are learning. If you are uncomfortable about speaking in front of a group or have trouble contributing to the discussion, please talk to your instructor after class and explain your situation. **A poor participation mark may lower your final grade in the course (e.g., from a B+ to a C).**

**Readings:** The major texts for this class include *Worlds Together*, *Worlds Apart* and a “comparative reader” titled *Worlds of History*, containing first-hand historical accounts as well as scholarly interpretations of major events. As a general rule, students should plan to spend at least two hours studying and reading outside of class for every hour they spend in lecture.

**Examinations:** To ensure that students are attentive to the details of HIST 125, we will have exams with identification, short-answer, and essay questions. Before every exam, we will hold in-class review sessions.

**Exam Rules and Deadlines:** In accordance with university regulations, professors in the Department of History re-schedule exams after receiving written documentation of a medical emergency or family emergency; **this documentation must be verified by the Dean of Student Life**. Work-related and personal/family obligations (e.g., business trips, personal holidays, graduation ceremonies, etc.) are not adequate excuses for re-scheduling an exam or obtaining an extension.

**We, the professor and TA, will not re-teach a missed class via email or in an office conference. Nor will we customize this course to fit a student’s work or personal schedule.** These two statements are in accordance with pedagogical regulations at George Mason University and your professor’s social contract with his students. **I strongly advise that you take notes in class.** To be considered for a good grade, you **should complete** the assigned readings **before** you come to class, receive solid grades on your exams, and participate to the best of your ability in discussions.

## FALL 2015 SCHEDULE

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The schedule below highlights lecture/discussion themes, assigned readings, and key deadlines. Abbreviations used for the main texts are *WTWA* for *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart* and *WoH* for *Worlds of History*.

### Week 1

September 1: **Required attendance** for course introduction, detailed discussion of HIST 125 (002) syllabus, and **student roll call** in our lecture theater, **David King Hall, 1006**.

September 3: **There is required attendance** for this first recitation (discussion) section in your assigned classroom. **Please bring your book, *Worlds of History***. There are three recitation (discussion) sections for this course: HIST 125 (304), instructed by Dr. Carton, meets **12-1:15 pm** in **West 1001**; HIST 125 (305), instructed by B. Hurwitz, meets **1:30-2:45 pm** in **East 121**; and HIST 125 (306), instructed by B. Hurwitz, meets **10:30-11:45 am** in **East 121**.

### Week 2

September 8: Lecture: "World History in Different Maps and Global Spaces." **Reading due for Sept. 10**: Read: *WTWA*, 2 pages after xliii; "The Geography of the Ancient and Modern Worlds."

September 10: Discussion: "Maps, Knowledge, and Misinformation."  
**Reading due for Sept. 15**: Read *WTWA*, 405-438.

### Week 3

September 15: Lecture: "Before European Hegemony in the World System (1200s-1450)."  
**Reading due for Sept. 17**: *WoH*, 560-573; "1492: The Prequel."

September 17: Discussion: "China's Great World Explorer: Zheng He in the Indian Ocean."  
**Reading due for Sept. 22**: *WTWA*, 441-458.

### Week 4

September 22: Lecture: "The Columbian Exchange and New World Explorations (1450-1600s)."

**Reading due for Sept. 24**: *WoH*, 580-588; "Journal of the First Voyage of Vasco Da Gama."

September 24: Discussion: "Tentative European Exploration of the Indian Ocean."  
**Reading due for Sept. 29**: *WTWA*, 441-458, 477-484.

### Week 5

September 29: Lecture: "The Consequences of the Columbian Exchange: Crops, Diseases and Colonization in the Atlantic Worlds (1500s-1700s)."

**We begin the first-exam review.**

October 1: Discussion: **We complete the first-exam review in class.**

## **Week 6**

October 6: **\*\*FIRST EXAM, WITH ESSAY COMPONENT\*\***

**Readings due for Oct. 8:** *WoH*, 612-628; Bernal Diaz, “The Conquest of New Spain” and Aztec Account, “The Broken Spears.”

October 8: Discussion: “Personal Accounts of European ‘Conquest’ in the New World.”

## **Week 7**

October 13: **NO CLASS. GMU REGISTRAR’S COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY.**

October 15: Discussion: We hand back graded exams and discuss your performance.

**Reading due for Oct. 20:** *WTWA*, 462, 488-495.

## **Week 8**

October 20: Lecture: “Slavery and the Tropical Atlantic Plantation Complex: The West and Africa (1500s-1800s).”

**Readings due for Oct. 22:** *WoH*, 634-641; 646-649; Nzinga Mbemba, “Appeal to the King of Portugal” and Capt. Thomas Phillips, “Buying Slaves in 1693.”

October 22: Discussion: “The Cruel and Common Calculus of Slavery in Atlantic Worlds.”

## **Week 9**

October 27: Lecture: **Summary of course and mid-term exam review.**

October 29: Discussion: **Mid-term exam review in class.**

## **Week 10**

November 3: **\*\*MID-TERM EXAM\*\***

November 5: Discussion: We hand back graded exams and discuss your performance.

**Reading due for Nov. 10:** *WTWA*, 535-542; 555-571.

## **Week 11**

November 10: Lecture: “Atlantic Revolutions and Limits of the Enlightenment (1700s-1800s).”

**Readings due for Nov. 12:** *WoH*, 783-791; Toussaint L' Ouverture, “Letter to the Directory” and “The French Declarations (of men and women).”

November 12: Discussion: New Meets Old or Old Meets New? Reconsidering the Haitian and French Revolutions.

**Reading due for Nov. 17:** *WTWA*, 573-580, 642-644.

## **Week 12**

November 17: Lecture: “Emerging European Domination: The Industrial Revolution and Rise of the ‘Free Trade’ British Empire (1700s-1800s).”

**Reading due for Nov. 19:** *WoH*, 806-812. Adam Smith (father of “free trade” capitalism), “The Wealth of Nations, 1776.”

November 19: Discussion: “‘Free Trade’ Global Capitalism and the British Empire.”

**Reading due for Nov. 24:** *WTWA*, 583-591.

### **Week 13**

November 24: Lecture: “Free Trade Imperialism: A Global Opium War: India, China, and Britain (1800s).”

November 26: **NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.**

**Reading due for December 1:** *WTWA*, 644-656, 673-676.

### **Week 14**

December 1: Lecture: “European Imperialism and ‘Civilizing Mission’ Colonialism in Africa (1800s-1900s).”

**Readings due for December 3:** *WoH*, 857-866, 881-884; Joseph Conrad, “Heart of Darkness,” Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*,” and Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden.”

December 3: Discussion: “Ideologies of ‘Civilizing Mission’ Colonialism in Africa and Their Legacies in Twentieth-century Global Politics.” **We begin the in-class final exam review and consider the major essay question posed in the final exam.**

### **Week 15**

December 8: Lecture: **Summary of the course and in-class final exam review, with special focus on the major essay question posed in the final exam.**

December 10: Discussion: **Final exam review. In class, you should be prepared to draft different (ungraded) responses to the major essay question.**

## **\*\*FINAL EXAM, WITH ESSAY COMPONENT\*\***

**DAY/TIME: THURS. DEC. 17, 10:30 AM-1:15 PM (please note the start time)**

**LOCATION: IN OUR LECTURE THEATER, DAVID KING HALL 1006**