

HIST 125: Introduction to World History

Fall 2015

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

Office Hours: 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 B201.

Required Textbooks

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 9	Quiz #1 on Maps
Monday, September 21	Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations
Wednesday, September 30	First Paper due (500 words)
Wednesday, October 7	Mid-Term Examination
Wednesday, October 28	Second Paper due (3 pages)
Wednesday, November 11	Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam
Wednesday December 7	Third Paper due (4-5 pages)
Wednesday, December 17	Final Examination

Components of Grade

Class Participation and Attendance (including “question days”)	30%
Papers (3)	35%
Mid-term Examination	10%
Final Examination	25%

Date	Topic	Assignment
Mon, Aug 31	Introduction: Why and what is World History?	Review Syllabus
Wed, Sep 2	The Nature of Agricultural Societies and Early Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp 1-48 Document: Code of Hammurabi
Mon, Sep 7	Labor Day, No Class	
Wed, Sep 9	The Classical Period; Classical Civilizations: China and India Quiz #1 on Maps	WH in Brief text pp. 49-91
Mon, Sep 14	Understanding Cultures: Indian and Chinese Philosophy <i>* A question day</i>	Documents on classical cultures: Analects, Confucius; Classical China: Legalism; Faxian, Record of Buddhist Countries.
Wed, Sept 16	Social Structure, Gender and the Classical World	WH in Brief text pp. 92-116
Mon, Sep 21	Theories on the Rise and Fall of Civilizations Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp. 116-138

Wed, Sep 23	The Post-Classical Period: Change, Continuity and the Spread of World Religions	WH in Brief text pp. 139-177
Mon, Sep 28	Islam in Comparative Perspective	Documents on Islam.
Wed, Sep 30	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, Oct 5	Civilizations in Africa and the Americas and the End of the Post-Classical Period * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 178-192; 248-282
Wed, Oct 7	<u>Mid-Term EXAM (1 hour)</u>	
Tue, Oct 13 (Monday classes meet Tuesday)	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 14	The World Economy and Forced Labor	Handout: “Development of the World Economy” Documents on slavery.
Wed, Oct 19	Transformation of the West: The “Big Changes”	WH in Brief text pp. 307-332
Wed, Oct 21	The Rise of Russia	WH in Brief text pp. 333-349 Document on Peter the Great, serfdom
Mon, Oct 26	Categorizing Early Modern Reactions: Asia, Africa and the Americas * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 350-386
Wed, Oct 28	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, Nov 2	Modernization Theory and Historical Change; The Place of Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 419-438; 469-484 Handout: “Modernization Theory”
Wed, Nov 4	The Development of Latin American Civilization and the “New Nations” issue * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 449-468
Mon, Nov 9	The United States and World History	WH in Brief text pp. 439-448
Wed, Nov 11	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 16	The 20 th century as a World History Period; Changes in the World Economy and the “Third World” * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 507-540

Wed, Nov 18	Revolution, Decolonization and Comparative Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 541-586 Documents on revolution and nationalism.
Mon, Nov 23	The World Economy and World Politics * A question day	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Recess	
Mon, Nov 30	Cultural Patterns in the 20 th Century; The Case of Africa	WH in Brief text pp. 652-673 Documents on African culture.
Wed, Dec 2	Globalization * A question day	WH in Brief text pp. 674-697
Mon, Dec 7	Issues on Women, and Prediction REVIEW SESSION *LAST CLASS*	Discussion Questions on Documents 3rd Paper Due (4-5 pages)
Thursday, Dec 17 8:30 am - 10:15 am, in regular class room		<u>FINAL EXAM</u>