

History 125 – 009

Introduction to World History

Fall 2015

Office Hours:
Robinson B 226C, T 6:00-7:00PM
and by appointment

Instructor: Stephen Santelli
Class: Robinson Hall B 201
T 7:20-10:00PM
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Course Description

This course is a survey of world history from about the year A.D. 1300 up through the present. We will be focusing on major events, transformations in cultures and the developing connections between various world civilizations.

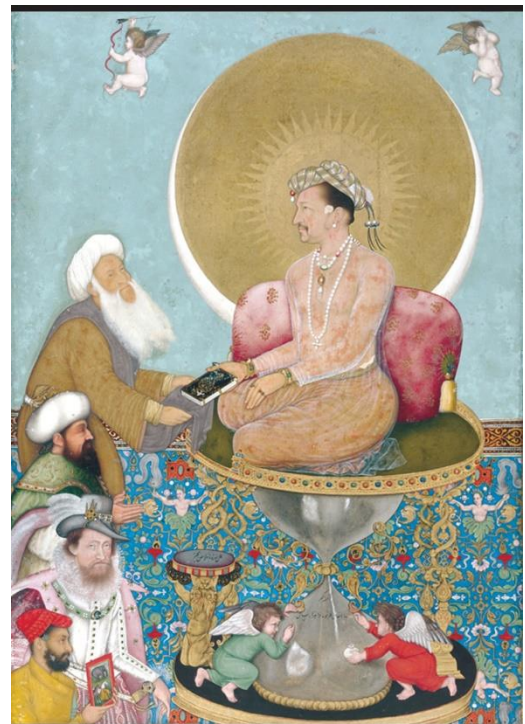
Themes

- A decentralized study of the world
- How different societies interacted with one another
- Globalization
- Characteristics that allow some societies to dominate others
- Empire building and colonialism
- Political systems
- Modernity
- The role of individuals in history
- How “history” can change

Teaching Method/Course Expectations

Teaching methods will include lecture, electronic media presentation, online videos, and classroom discussion and exercises. The textbook provides a good historical narrative that is essential for understanding the periods covered by the exams. **You will be lost in class if you do not complete your textbook reading assignments.** Lectures will NOT be a simple review of the textbook. During lecture, please quietly listen and take notes. Be sure to ask questions. After I finish a lecture, I will make my PowerPoints available to you on Blackboard.

In addition to the lectures, you will be looking at primary source material and discussing it in an online forum.



Required Textbooks & Equipment

1. Robert Tignor, et al. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*. Vol 2. 4th edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2014. ISBN 978-0-393-92209-7
2. Kenneth L. Pomeranz. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A Companion Reader*. Vol 2. W.W. Norton & Company, 2011. ISBN 978-0-393-91161-9
3. Trevor R. Getz and Liz Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012, ISBN 978-0-199-84439-5
4. Access to a computer that can connect to GMU email, Blackboard and the internet in general.

Grading Policy

25%	Midterm
25%	Final
20%	Essay
15%	Quizzes
15%	Participation and Online Discussions

Exams

There will be one midterm exam and a final. Each will cover about a half of the course. The final exam will have a cumulative section.

Essay

You will write an essay that analyzes *Abina and the Important Men*. It will be 3-5 pages in length. There will be a handout that further explains this assignment later in the semester.

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, you will be given in-class pop quizzes to make sure that you are keeping up with the readings. I will be giving out approximately 7-8 quizzes. Your top 5 quizzes will be averaged together for the quiz portion of your final grade. For each additional quiz you take beyond 5, you will receive 2 extra credit points added to your final grade.

Participation and Online Discussions

Periodically throughout the semester I will require you to post and comment to a discussion thread on Blackboard. You will be placed in small group of your classmates where you will discuss primary source readings from class. You will have to answer questions based on those readings and make comments on other answers. This grade also consists of any other in-class work or homework that I assign.

Electronic Devices

You are allowed to bring a laptop or a tablet to class in order to take notes. These are tools to help you in class. **I reserve the right to ask you to email me your notes from class or to forbid you from using an electronic device if I feel it is disruptive.** If I believe your notes are insufficient, you will not be allowed to bring your computer to class. You are allowed to use a recording device to record the audio from lecture, but you must check with the instructor first.

Class Behavior and Attendance

All **cell phones** must be turned off or on silent. Talking (on your phone or in person to someone in class) and **falling asleep in class** may be considered disruptive behavior which is unfair to your fellow classmates and the instructor. **After a warning, you will be asked to leave if disruptive behavior continues.** If you need to text or call someone or if you need to use the bathroom, please quietly step outside on your own. **Using your cell phone during an exam or quiz will mean receiving an automatic “F”. You may not leave during an exam.**

Late/Missed Work

If you are late with assignments, you will lose points each day it is late. Make-up exams are permitted only in the event of verifiable illnesses (with doctors’ notes) or other excused absence. If you are unexcused and miss an exam, you will not be given a make-up exam! Instead you will be allowed to write a paper on one of the topics covered in the exam with the highest grade possible being 60%.

Special Needs and Accommodations

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, let me know. You must also make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474) before I can give any accommodations. Their website is located at <http://ods.gmu.edu>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

This class and all of your work as an undergraduate are governed by GMU’s Honor Code: “Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Plagiarism is presenting another person’s words, ideas, or sequence of arguments as your own without attribution. We will discuss what constitutes plagiarism and how to cite sources properly in this course. If you plagiarize, it is my duty to report you to the Honor Committee. Punishments can include failure for the course or suspension from George Mason. To read more about the Honor Code, the Honor Committee, and its procedures, go to <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>

Class Schedule – *The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus*

I will be posting your primary source readings and discussion assignments on Blackboard. Please be sure to check it regularly.

9/1 Introduction and the World of AD 1300

9/8 Crisis in the 14th Century – *Ch. 11; Reader: pp. 18-26, 41-51, 63-65; Pico’s “Oration on the Dignity of Man”* (<http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/pico.html>)

9/15 Old World & New World – *Ch. 12*

9/22 Worlds Entangled – *Ch. 13*

9/29 Splendor and Enlightenment – *Ch. 14*

10/6 Political Revolutions – *Ch. 15*

10/13 NO CLASS (Columbus Day Holiday,
Monday classes meet)

10/20 **Midterm**
Intro to the 19th Century

10/27 Industrial Revolutions – *Ch. 16*

11/3 Nations and Empires – *Ch. 17*

11/10 Modernity and Crisis – *Ch. 18*

11/17 The World Wars – *Ch. 19*

11/24 NO CLASS – *Research Day*

11/30 **Essay Due** (12 PM on Blackboard)

12/1 The Cold War and Decolonization – *Ch. 20*

12/8 The End of History and Globalization – *Ch. 21 & Epilogue*

12/15 **Final 7:30 PM – 10:15 PM**

