

HIST 125: Introduction to World History

Spring 2016

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, Lecture Hall 3.

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. For upcoming discussion questions, click on “Course Content” on the left menu bar.

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, January 27	Quiz #1 on Maps
Monday, February 8	Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations
Wednesday, February 17	First Paper due (500 words)
Wednesday, February 24	Mid-Term Examination
Wednesday, March 23	Second Paper due (3 pages)
Wednesday, April 6	Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam
Wednesday, April 27	Third Paper due (4-5 pages)
Wednesday, May 4	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
Wed, Jan 20	Introduction: Why and what is World History?	Review Syllabus
Mon, Jan 25	The Nature of Agricultural Societies and Early Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp 1-48 Document: Code of Hammurabi
Wed, Jan 27	The Classical Period; Classical Civilizations: China and India Quiz #1 on Maps	WH in Brief text pp. 49-91
Mon, Feb 1	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, Feb 3	Social Structure, Gender and the Classical World	WH in Brief text pp. 92-116
Mon, Feb 8	Theories on the Rise and Fall of Civilizations Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp. 116-138
Wed, Feb 10	The Post-Classical Period: Change, Continuity and the Spread of World Religions	WH in Brief text pp. 139-177
Mon, Feb 15	Islam in Comparative Perspective	Documents on Islam.

Wed, Feb 17	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, Feb 22	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, Feb 24	<u>Mid-Term EXAM (1 hour)</u>	
Mon, Feb 29	Periodization and World trends, 1450- 1750	WH in Brief text pp. 273-306 <u>For Discussion:</u> What caused change: Technological determinism; western strengths v. western problems; “mistakes” outside the west; cultures?
Wed, Mar 2	The World Economy and Forced Labor	Handout: “Development of the World Economy” Documents on slavery.
Mon, Mar 7- 13	SPRING BREAK - No Classes	
Mon, Mar 14	Transformation of the West: The “Big Changes”	WH in Brief text pp. 307-332
Wed, Mar 16	The Rise of Russia	WH in Brief text pp. 333-349 Document on Peter the Great, serfdom
Mon, Mar 21	Categorizing Early Modern Reactions: Asia, Africa and the Americas <i>* A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 350-386
Wed, Mar 23	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, Mar 28	Modernization Theory and Historical Change; The Place of Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 419-438; 469-484 Handout: “Modernization Theory”
Wed, Mar 30	The Development of Latin American Civilization and the “New Nations” issue <i>* A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 449-468
Mon, Apr 4	The United States and World History	WH in Brief text pp. 439-448
Wed, Apr 6	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, Apr 11	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, Apr 13	Revolution, Decolonization and Comparative Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 541-586 Documents on revolution and nationalism.

Mon, Apr 18	The World Economy * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Wed, Apr 20	World Politics * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Mon, Apr 25	Cultural Patterns in the 20 th Century; The Case of Africa	WH in Brief text pp. 652-673 Documents on African culture.
Wed, Apr 27	Globalization * <i>A question day</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 674-697
Mon, May 2	Issues on Women, and Prediction REVIEW SESSION * <i>LAST CLASS</i> *	Discussion Questions on Documents 3rd Paper Due (4-5 pages)
Wednesday, May 4 8:30 am - 10:15 am, in regular class room		<u>FINAL EXAM</u>