

# HIST 125: Introduction to World History

## Fall 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 2.

### Required Textbooks

Stearns, Peter N. (2012) 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7	Quiz #1 on Maps
Monday, September 19	Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations
Wednesday, September 28	First Paper due (500 words)
Wednesday, October 5	Mid-Term Examination
Wednesday, October 26	Second Paper due (3 pages)
Wednesday, November 9	Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam
Monday December 5	Third Paper due (4-5 pages)
TBA	Final Examination

**Components of Grade**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Mon, Aug 29	Introduction: Why and what is World History? Contemporary Issues: Globalization	Review Syllabus
Wed, Aug 31	The Nature of Agricultural Societies and Early Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp 1-48 Document: Code of Hammurabi
Mon, Sep 5	<b>Labor Day, No Class</b>	
Wed, Sep 7	The Classical Period; Classical Civilizations: China and India <b>Quiz #1 on Maps</b>	WH in Brief text pp. 49-91
Mon, Sep 12	Understanding Cultures: Indian and Chinese Philosophy Contemporary Issues: China	Documents on classical cultures: Analects, Confucius; Classical China: Legalism; Faxian, Record of Buddhist Countries.
Wed, Sept 14	Social Structure, Gender and the Classical World	WH in Brief text pp. 92-116
Mon, Sep 19	Theories on the Rise and Fall of Civilizations <b>Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations</b>	WH in Brief text pp. 116-138

Wed, Sep 21	The Post-Classical Period: Change, Continuity and the Spread of World Religions	WH in Brief text pp. 139-177
Mon, Sep 26	Islam in Comparative Perspective Contemporary Issues: Islam	Documents on Islam.
Wed, Sep 28	The World Network: New Exchanges Expanding Civilization and the World Network: Japan and Europe	WH in Brief text pp. 193-247 Documents on feudalism. <b>1<sup>st</sup> Paper Due</b> (500 words)
Mon, Oct 3	Civilizations in Africa and the Americas and the End of the Post-Classical Period	WH in Brief text pp. 178-192; 248-282
Wed, Oct 5	<b><u>Mid-Term EXAM (1 hour)</u></b>	
Tue, Oct 11 (Monday classes meet Tuesday)	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, Oct 12	The World Economy and Forced Labor	Handout: “Development of the World Economy” Documents on slavery.
Mon, Oct 17	Transformation of the West: The “Big Changes”	WH in Brief text pp. 307-332
Wed, Oct 19	The Rise of Russia Contemporary Issues: Russia	WH in Brief text pp. 333-349 Document on Peter the Great, serfdom
Mon, Oct 24	Categorizing Early Modern Reactions: Asia, Africa and the Americas Contemporary Issues: Middle East	WH in Brief text pp. 350-386
Wed, Oct 26	The Industrial Revolution: The West and the World: Impacts on Daily Life	WH in Brief text pp. 387-419 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Paper Due</b> (3 pages)
Mon, Oct 31	Modernization Theory and Historical Change; The Place of Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 419-438; 469-484 Handout: “Modernization Theory”
Wed, Nov 2	The Development of Latin American Civilization and the “New Nations” issue	WH in Brief text pp. 449-468
Mon, Nov 7	The United States and World History	WH in Brief text pp. 439-448
Wed, Nov 9	Latecomer Modernizers: Russia and Japan <b>Quiz #3</b> on Material since Mid-Term Exam	WH in Brief text pp. 485-506 Documents on Meiji, Japan.
Mon, Nov 14	The 20 <sup>th</sup> century as a World History Period; Changes in the World Economy and the “Third World” Contemporary Issues: Global Economy	WH in Brief text pp. 507-540

Wed, Nov 16	Revolution, Decolonization and Comparative Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 541-586 Documents on revolution and nationalism.
Mon, Nov 21	The World Economy and World Politics Contemporary Issues: Democracy	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Nov 23-27	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>	
Mon, Nov 28	Cultural Patterns in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century; The Case of Africa Contemporary Issues: Identity	WH in Brief text pp. 652-673 Documents on African culture.
Wed, Nov 30	Globalization Contemporary Issues: Globalization	WH in Brief text pp. 674-697
Mon, Dec 5	Issues on Women, and Prediction REVIEW SESSION  The world is a mess?	Discussion Questions on Documents <b>3rd Paper Due</b> (4-5 pages)
<b>TBA</b>		<b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b>