

# HIST 125: Introduction to World History

## Fall 2017

**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, David King Jr. Hall 2053.

### 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 6	Quiz #1 on Maps
Monday, September 18	Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations
Wednesday, September 27	First Paper due (500 words)
Wednesday, October 4	Mid-Term Examination
Wednesday, October 25	Second Paper due (3 pages)
Wednesday, November 8	Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam
Monday, December 4	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>

Date	Topic	Assignment
Mon, Aug 28	Introduction: Why and what is World History? Contemporary Issues: Globalization	Review Syllabus Think: what are the 3-4 most important trends in the world today
Wed, Aug 30	The Nature of Agricultural Societies and Early Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp 1-48 Document: Code of Hammurabi
Mon, Sep 4	<b>Labor Day, No Class</b>	
Wed, Sep 6	The Classical Period; Classical Civilizations: China and India <b>Quiz #1 on Maps</b>	WH in Brief text pp. 49-91
Mon, Sep 11	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 13	Social Structure, Gender and the Classical World	WH in Brief text pp. 92-116
Mon, Sep 18	Theories on the Rise and Fall of Civilizations <b>Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations</b>	WH in Brief text pp. 116-138

Wed, Sep 20	The Post-Classical Period: Change, Continuity and the Spread of World Religions	WH in Brief text pp. 139-177
Mon, Sep 25	Islam in Comparative Perspective Contemporary Issues: Islam	Documents on Islam.
Wed, Sep 27	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 2	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 4	<b><u>Mid-Term EXAM (1 hour)</u></b>	
Tue, Oct 10 (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 11	The World Economy and Forced Labor	Handout: “Development of the World Economy” Documents on slavery.
Mon, Oct 16	Transformation of the West: The “Big Changes”	WH in Brief text pp. 307-332
Wed, Oct 18	The Rise of Russia Contemporary Issues: Russia	WH in Brief text pp. 333-349 Document on Peter the Great, serfdom
Mon, Oct 23	Categorizing Early Modern Reactions: Asia, Africa and the Americas Contemporary Issues: Middle East	WH in Brief text pp. 350-386
Wed, Oct 25	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 30	Modernization Theory and Historical Change; The Place of Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 419-438; 469-484 Handout: “Modernization Theory”
Wed, Nov 1	The Development of Latin American Civilization and the “New Nations” issue  The United States and World History	WH in Brief text pp. 449-468  WH in Brief text pp. 439-448
Mon, Nov 6	The US politics in global context.	<b>Assignment:</b> Each student should pick a significant country and write a paragraph or two on that country’s concerns and interests about current U.S. policies.  Use good, relevant data available on the Internet.
Wed, Nov 8	Latecomer Modernizers: Russia and Japan	WH in Brief text pp. 485-506 Documents on Meiji, Japan.

	<b>Quiz #3</b> on Material since Mid-Term Exam	
Mon, Nov 13	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 15	Revolution, Decolonization and Comparative Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 541-586 Documents on revolution and nationalism.
Mon, Nov 20	The World Economy: Global Industrialization World Politics Contemporary Issues: Democracy	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Nov 22-26	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>	
Mon, Nov 27	World Politics Contemporary Issues: Democracy and Human Rights	
Wed, Nov 29	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.
Mon, Dec 4	Globalization Contemporary Issues: Globalization	WH in Brief text pp. 674-697 <b>3rd Paper Due</b> (4-5 pages)
Wed, Dec 6	Issues on Women, and Prediction  REVIEW SESSION  The world is a mess?	Discussion Questions on Documents
<b>TBA</b>		<b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b>