

George Mason University

History 125-007:

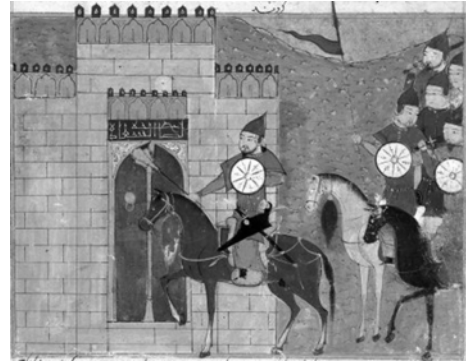
Introduction to World History 1200-Present:

Meetings: MWF 12:30-1:20pm

Location: Planetary Hall, Room 120

Instructor: Dr. David J. Gerleman

E-mail: dgerlema@gmu.edu



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Today's world is intimately interconnected yet these linkages are not of recent origin, but have roots that stretch back centuries. This course explores the extensive historical changes that created the modern world with all its benefits and ongoing problems. Starting circa 1200CE, we will trace the people, events, and trends that altered the politics, cultures, and economies of Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. All of these geographic regions became enmeshed in a global system shaped by mercantile activity, war, industrial growth, religious transformations as well as conquest and colonialism. We will also examine how the powerful forces of modern nationalism, Cold War dynamics, and 20th century anti-colonial movements have restructured the world and unleashed forces that still impact us today.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Tignor et al., *Worlds Together/Worlds Apart*, vol. 2, *From 1000 CE to the Present*, 4th edition, ISBN 9780393922097.

COURSE METHODOLOGY:

GMU's Core is designed to complement a student's chosen major by developing tools for personal success applicable to any field of study and by molding participants into critical thinkers, self-reflective scholars, and ethical citizens. This course reflects those goals and will consist of lecture and class discussion, however, to survey six hundred years of world history we will have to move with speed. Therefore, it is crucial that you read the text to fill in detail that class time does not allow. You are encouraged to utilize the wide range of online supports offered by the textbook publisher to help you tackle the material including study plans, outlines, quizzes, maps, and term flashcards. Consult your text for details how to access these materials or go to Norton Publishing's online site www.wwnorton.com. You may be asked to register to gain full online access. Upon successful completion of this course students will be expected to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the chronology of world history after 1200CE.
- Comprehend and explain long-term changes and trends in global connectivity.
- Recognize how historians piece together the past using primary source materials.
- Acquire new global perspectives of people, places, and the impact of world events.

GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be based on the standard percentage scale of 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 59%=F. A curved scale will NOT be used but to better calibrate your final course performance the +/- system will be applied. You must complete every requirement in order to

receive a passing grade and the instructor reserves the final right to determine what constitutes "completion" of a requirement.

GRADE TOTALS:

First Exam:	100 pts.	25%
Second Exam:	100 pts.	25%
Final Exam:	100 pts.	25%
Final Paper:	40 pts.	10%
Map Quiz:	20 pts.	5%
Participation:	<u>40 pts.</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total:	400 pts.	

1. Exams: [75%] Three mixed format exams will each constitute 25% of your final grade. All students must bring approved blank 8.5 x 11-inch blue books sold at the campus bookstore to every exam; no one will be permitted to take an exam without one. The final non-cumulative exam will take place on December 18 between 10:30 am-1:15 pm.

2. Map Quiz: [5%] Students will be provided a list of the major geographic places to be discussed during the course and will be given 20 minutes to correctly identify them on a blank world map. Terms will be provided at least one week in advance of the quiz date.

3. Final Paper: [10%] Due in hard copy form at the final exam--no exceptions! This is the only cumulative portion of your coursework but is not intended as a research paper. Students will be given an overarching question to answer in a thoughtful, reflective, and well-argued essay that demonstrates an understanding of the readings, historical trends, and your thoughts as to how they fit together. Papers should be well-organized, 5 ½ pages in typed length, double-spaced with one inch margins, and 12 point font. Essays will be graded on form as well as content so spelling, grammar, and syntax should be carefully considered. Up to four sources [other than the textbook] can be used as long as rules regarding proper citations are respected. References to specific passages from all sources should be footnoted and conform to the Chicago Manual of Style (for sample citations, see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). You are strongly encouraged to make use of the GMU Writing Center located in Robinson Hall, Room 114A. [<https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>] before you turn in your final draft.

4. Attendance and Participation: [10%] Participation grades are a distillation of a student's presence and effectiveness throughout the semester through regular attendance and active class engagement. This course is structured to reward students who come to class, complete the readings, and participate in discussions and the instructor will make a subjective evaluation of the student's class contribution. Note: if you leave class after signing the roll your name may be stricken from the list, and signing-in for anyone other than yourself is an honor code violation.

5. Optional Current Events Paper: Students who wish to boost their final course point total by a maximum 15 points may submit a minimum 3-4 page typed paper which describes how a current news story connects to [and may be a continuation of] one of the larger issues or

conflicts discussed in this course. For example, a recent report of an outbreak of Bubonic Plague in Arizona could be discussed in context with the deadly Black Death that swept across well established trade routes during the Middle Ages. [See the article here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/08/15/two-arizona-communities-120-miles-apart-see-evidence-of-the-plague/?utm_term=.522fbb0cf2fe]. All articles must be approved in advance by the instructor and a copy of the story submitted along with the paper. Current Events papers are due on or before the last day of regular class meeting in December.

COURSE POLICIES

a) Class Absences: Students are expected to attend all course meetings. In the event that you must miss class, you are responsible for the contents of the lecture. Students are expected to come to class on time--late-comers are disruptive and may miss important information or hand-outs. If you miss an exam you will not be permitted to make it up without the instructor's permission; if you arrive late to an exam, you will NOT be granted any extra time beyond the set limit to complete it.

b) Cell Phones: Courtesy and professional etiquette require all telephones to be turned off or switched to airplane mode during class; this also applies to composing, reading, or responding to text messages. However, if you are an emergency responder and must receive pages, please notify the instructor the first week of class.

c) Laptop Computers: Students may not use laptops during class. If you are a student who has a documented condition that warrants academic accommodations, please notify the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474. **All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.** (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

Late Policy: Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for course assignments. Late work will not be accepted.

Plagiarism and Cheating: It is your responsibility to be familiar with the Honor Code as stated in the George Mason University *Undergraduate Catalog*. Students who engage in any form of academic dishonesty will fail the course and face further disciplinary action from the University. If you have questions about the honor system or what constitutes plagiarism see: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm#plagiarism>.

Office Hours and Email: My office hours are Mondays from 3:00-4:00 pm or by appointment in Robinson B 226C and I can always be reached via e-mail dgerlema@gmu.edu but please allow 24-36 hours for a reply. Professors have several hundred students each semester so be sure to include your course number/section in the subject line as well as your first and last name in your signature. For advice on the best way to professionally communicate via email, see: <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>.

Final note: This syllabus and course schedule may be subject to revision as the semester proceeds; changes will be announced in class and students are responsible for being aware of and adhering to any alterations.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:

August 28 **Introduction to the Class: A New Global Order?**

http://www.salon.com/2016/06/25/globalization_and_its_discontents_how_the_trumpbrexit_movements_might_herald_new_world_orders/

August 30: **Becoming the World 1000-1300 CE, Chap. 10**

September 1: Primary Document: "The Birch Bark Letters of Novgorod"

Week 2:

September 4: Labor Day Holiday: No Class

September 6:

September 8: **Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia 1300-1500, Chap. 11**

Week 3:

September 11: Primary Document: "The Hongwu Emperor's Proclamation"

September 13:

September 15: **Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600, Chap 12**

Week 4:

September 18: **Map Quiz [tentative]**

September 20: Primary Document: "Silver, the Devil and Coca Leaf in the Andes"

September 22: **World's Entangled 1600-1750, Chap. 13**

Week 5

September 25:

September 27: Primary Document: "Olaudah Equiano on the Atlantic Crossing"

September 29: [*Last Day to Drop]

Week 6

October 2: **Cultures of Splendor and Power, 1500-1780, Chap. 14**

October 4:

October 6: Primary Document: "European Views of the World"

Week 7:

October 9 Columbus Day Holiday: No Class

October 11 **Reordering the World, 1750-1850, Chap. 15**

October 13 **First Exam Chapters--10-14**

Week 8:

October 16:

October 18: Primary Document: "Mary Wollstonecraft on the Rights of Women"

October 20: **Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16**

Week 9:

October 23:

October 25: Primary Document: "Bourgeoisie and Proletariat from the Communist Manifesto"

October 27 **Nations and Empires, 1850-1914, Chap. 17**

Week 10:

October 30:

November 1: Primary Document: "The Origin of Species"

November 3: **An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, Chap. 18**

Week 11:

November 6:

November 8: Primary Document: "A Muslim Describes why Islam has become Weak"

November 10: **Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19**

Week 12:

November 13: **Second Exam--Chapters 15-18**

November 15: Primary Document: "India and Self Government"

November 17:

Week 13:

November 20: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20**

November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14:

November 27:

November 29: Primary Document: "The Problem that has No Name"

December 1: **Globalization, 1970-2000, Chap. 21**

Week 15:

December 4:

December 6: Primary Document: "Tidal Pull of the West: East Germany Disappears"

December 8: **Epilogue 2001-Present**

Week 16:

December 11:

December 18: [Non- cumulative] Final Exam 10:30-1:15 pm--Chapters 19-Epilogue;

Final Paper Due in hard copy--no exceptions!

Good Luck in all Your Classes!