

Introduction to World History
HIST125-010, Fall 2017
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am
David King Hall, Room 2053

Dr. Benjamin Hurwitz
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Robinson B 369

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays, 12-1:00 pm and by appointment

Course Description:

In this course, we will examine major events and processes in world history between 1200 and the present. We will focus on the changing nature of global interactions, involving Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Major topics in this course include global trade, colonialism, the development of nation-states, and technological development leading to and beyond industrialization. Students will practice historical skills by evaluating primary and secondary sources and forming arguments about the past. By the end of the semester, students should grasp major trends underlying eight centuries of world history and better understand the practice of historical research and writing.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of World history.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in World history.
3. Students will identify, evaluate and appropriately cite online and print resources.
4. Students will communicate effectively – orally and in writing – their understanding of patterns, processes, and themes in the history of the (entire) world.

Required Texts*:

1. Tignor, et al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World: From 1000 CE to the Present*, Vol. 2, 4th Edition ISBN-10: 0393123804

*This text is available at the GMU bookstore, but can also be purchased elsewhere. It can be rented from participating retailers if this option is available.

Grading and Course Policies:

Classroom Etiquette: During class, all **cellphones** must be switched completely off. Students may use their **laptop or tablet** to take notes during class if they wish. I encourage you to use laptops or tablets during class discussions and other activities that require Blackboard access.

Communications: Students are responsible for checking their **GMU email accounts** and Blackboard regularly. The instructor will communicate with students via email and announcements on the course's Blackboard site. Readings, assignment prompts, study guides, etc. will be posted and updated on Blackboard. Please be sure to use your GMU email account when corresponding with the instructor.

Reading: The readings for this class include a textbook and weekly primary source readings available online (mostly on Blackboard) that include first-hand accounts of historical moments, and a few other outside articles indicated as such below. Students should complete readings *prior* to coming to class. Students should bring notes on the readings to facilitate class discussion.

Reading Reflections: In addition to course readings, students will be required to submit regular reading reflections to Blackboard prior to most class meetings. These reading reflections are very short assignments and will be used to facilitate class discussion. There will be a total of fifteen reading reflections during our course.

Papers: Students will write **two** short papers throughout the semester. Both papers should be 3 pages in length. Due dates are listed in the course schedule below, and assignments/guidelines for each paper are available on Blackboard. The goal of these papers is to allow students to grapple with the material from the course and work on (and improve) their college-level writing.

Submission of Work: All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point, Times New Roman font. Your name should be on the paper. Papers and reading reflections must be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59pm on the due date. Group work will be turned in during/at the end of class and should include ALL group members' names on it.

Late Work: All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for course assignments. Late papers will be penalized ten points per day. Reading reflections will not be accepted after the due date. The only exceptions to these policies will be when you have explicit, advance permission from your instructor and can provide documentation (e.g. a doctor's note).

Participation and Attendance: Students must earn their participation grade through regular attendance and active engagement in class. Although this course is classified as a lecture, most sessions will combine lectures with discussion and group work, so participation is required for students to demonstrate engagement with the material. Attendance will be counted at the beginning of each class and absences will affect your grade. If you must miss class, please contact the instructor in advance. You are responsible for any material covered during missed sessions. The instructor will not re-teach a missed class session via email or office hours.

Midterm and Final Exams: Exams will cover material from lectures, readings, group work and classroom discussions. The final exam will be cumulative. A study guide will be provided in advance of both exams, detailing the format of the exam, key terms, and essay prompts. The University schedules all exams; thus, the reasons for re-scheduling final exams are few. Students must provide documentation in such cases, and make arrangements with the Dean of Student Life in advance of the exam date. **You must take the final exam in order to pass the class.**

Grade Distributions:

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Reading Reflections: 15%

Paper #1: 10%

Paper #2: 20%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 25%

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarizing the work of others will not be tolerated in this class. All work which you submit must be your own. You must cite all sources appropriately, whether the writing is paraphrased or quoted directly. Appropriating another author's work without proper acknowledgment of the source is plagiarism. For citations, we will use the Chicago Manual of Style (for sample citations, see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). If you have questions regarding what may or may not constitute plagiarism, please contact me.

Please read and familiarize yourself with The Mason Honor Code, available online at <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>

Student Disability Accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Diversity at Mason:

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

Miscellaneous:

No extra credit will be offered.

Important dates:

Last Day to add/drop with no tuition penalty: Tuesday, September 5

Last Day to drop with 33% tuition penalty: Tuesday, September 19

Last Day to drop with 67% tuition penalty: Friday, September 29

Selective withdrawal period: Monday, October 2 through Friday, October 27

Course Schedule

The schedule indicates themes, lecture topics, readings, and deadlines. Abbreviations used for the readings from "Worlds Together, Worlds Apart" are labeled "Textbook." Unless otherwise noted, readings are available on Blackboard.

Week 1 - Introduction to the Course

Tuesday, Aug. 29th: Introduction to the course and expectations

Readings:

- William H. McNeill, "Why Study History," available online at: [https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/archives/why-study-history-\(1985\)](https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/archives/why-study-history-(1985))

Thursday, Aug. 31st: World History and Western Civilization

Readings:

- "There is no such thing as Western Civilization"
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/09/western-civilisation-appiah-reith-lecture>
- "The Crisis of Western Civ" <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/21/opinion/the-crisis-of-western-civ.html>

Textbook:

- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, xliv.

Week 2 - Globalization: A Tradition

Tuesday, Sep. 5th: Expansion and Collapse of the 13th Century World System

Readings:

Excerpts about the Black Death (on blackboard)

Textbook:

- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 358-367; 394-400.

Reading Reflection #1 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Sep. 6th

Thursday, Sep. 7th: Recovery and Expansion in Eurasia, 1350-1550

Readings:

Letter from Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq
Visit to wife of Suleiman the Magnificent
Lady Montagu, smallpox vaccination in Turkey
Venetian Observations on the Ottoman Empire

Textbook:

- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 404-437.

Week 3 - Sailing the Ocean Blue before Columbus

Reading Reflection #2 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Sep. 11th

Tuesday, Sep. 12th: The Americas before 1492

Readings:

"How many people were here before Columbus?"

"Aztec and Maya Law" from the University of Texas Law School

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 389-391.

Reading Reflection #3 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Sep. 13th

Thursday, Sep. 14th: Travel in Afro-Eurasia before 1492

Readings:

Ibn Battuta, Travels in Asia and Africa (1325-1354)

Marco Polo's Travels

Zheng He's Inscription

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 440-444; 468-473.

Week 4 - Making the Atlantic World

Reading Reflection #4 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Sep. 18th

Tuesday, Sep. 19th: Contact between Europe and Americas

Readings:

Excerpt from the Broken Spears, an Aztec account of the Conquest of Mexico

Excerpt from Hernan Cortes's 2nd Letter to Charles V

Excerpt from Bernal Diaz's The True History of the Conquest of New Spain

Excerpt from In Defense of the Indians from Bartolome de las Casa

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 449-455.

Reading Reflection #5 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Sep. 20th

Thursday, Sep. 21st: The Columbian Exchange

Readings:

Excerpts from Charles Mann: 1493

Mcneil "The Flow from West to East"

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 482-487.

Week 5 - The World System of the 16th and 17th Centuries

Reading Reflection #6 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Sep. 25th

Tuesday, Sep. 26th: Global Trade: Silver, Sugar, and Slaves

Readings:

Feitorias and Engenhos in Brazil

The status of Africans in Virginia

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 457-462; 476-494.

Reading Reflection #7 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Sep. 27th

Thursday, Sep. 28th: Global Cities

Readings:

Cities of Atlantic Empires (Instructions on Blackboard)

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 495-506; 542-545.

Week 6 - An Age of Revolutions

Tuesday, Oct. 3rd: The Enlightenment

Readings:

Excerpt from Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations

Voltaire on the Relation of Church and State

Nested Hierarchies, the Order of Nature: Carolus Linnaeus

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 535-541; 546-550.

Paper #1 Must be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59pm on Oct. 4th

Oct. 5th: Revolution and the Nation-State

Readings:

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen [French]

Declaration of Independence [U.S.]

Toussaint L'Ouverture addresses the French Directory [Haiti]

Jose Morelos, Sentiments of the Nation [Mexico]

Simon de Bolivar, Message to the Congress of Angostura [Venezuela]

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 554-570.

Week 7 - The 'Modern World'

Tuesday, Oct. 10th: No Class (Columbus Day)

Thursday, Oct. 12th: Non-Industrial Revolutions and World Wars

Readings:

Excerpt from James Belich's Replenishing the Earth

Seven Years War Map

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 573-579.

Week 8 - The Industrial Revolution

Tuesday, Oct. 17th: What was it? When was it? Why Europe? An industrious revolution?

Readings:

Andrew Ure, The Philosophy of Manufactures

Friederich Engels, Industrial Manchester

Excerpt From Factory Rules in Berlin (1844)

Karl Marx and Friederich Engels, The Communist Manifesto (excerpt)

Parliamentary Report on English Female Miners

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 642-643.

Thursday, Oct. 19th: Mid-Term Exam

Week 9 - Industrialization and the World

Reading Reflection #8 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Oct. 23rd

Tuesday, Oct. 24th: Conflict and Change in Asia

Readings:

Letter to Queen Victoria by Lin Zexu

Memorials on the Legalization and Elimination of Opium

Great Divergence Charts

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 594-606.

Reading Reflection #9 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Oct. 25th

Thursday, Oct. 26th: Westernization as an idea and in practice

Readings:

Fukuzawa Yukichi, Goodbye Asia

The Rescript of Gülhane, <http://www.anayasa.gen.tr/gulhane.htm>

Textbook:

-*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 656-662.

Week 10 - New Imperialism

Reading Reflection #10 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Oct. 30th

Tuesday, Oct. 31st: Africa in the 19th Century

Readings:

David Livingstone's 1857 Cambridge Speech

Karl Pearson, Social Darwinism and Imperialism

Report of Roger Casement

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 647-652.

Reading Reflection #11 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Nov. 1st

Thursday, Nov. 2nd: Imperialism in the Indian and Pacific Oceans

Readings:

Excerpt from Senator Albert Beveridge

Dadabhai Naoroji on British Rule in India

Bal Gangadhar Tilak' Address to Indian National Congress

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 631-636; 644-647,

Week 11 - WWI: Apex of Imperialism

Reading Reflection #12 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Nov. 6th

Tuesday, Nov. 7th - Nationalism, Rivalry, and Global War

Readings:

Ernst Junger, Storm of Steel (Excerpt)

Robert Graves, Goodbye to All That (Excerpt)

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 666-687; 704-714.

Reading Reflection #13 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Nov. 8th

Thursday, Nov. 9th - A Fractured World System

Readings:

Josiah Gumede, African National Congress Against Imperialism

Mussolini Justifies War Against Ethiopia

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 715-739.

Week 12 - WWII and a New World Order

Reading Reflection #14 Due by 11:59pm Monday, Nov. 13th

Tuesday, Nov. 14th: WWII and Total War

Readings:

Account of Dr. Robert Wilson on Nanking Massacre, Dec. 15-18 1937

Witness and Survivor Accounts of Babi Yar Massacre

Dresden Bombing Survivor's Account

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 742-750.

Reading Reflection #15 Due by 11:59pm Wednesday, Nov. 15th

Thursday, Nov. 16th: New Powers and the Decline of Imperialism

Readings:

Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech

Belgrade Declaration, 1961

Mao on Anti-Imperialism

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 751-766.

Week 13 - The Age of Anxiety

Tuesday, Nov. 21st - Artistic, Cultural, and Countercultural movements

Readings: TBD

Thursday, Nov. 23rd - No Class

Week 14 - The Decline of the West?

Tuesday, Nov. 28th: The Cold war and Decolonization

Readings:

Toll Rises in Angola's Civil War, Washington Post 1987

Khmer Rouge Testimony

Textbook:

-Worlds Together Worlds Apart, 767-781.

Thursday, Nov. 30th: The End of the Cold War and the New World Order

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 784-813.

Paper #2 Must be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59pm on December 1st

Week 15 - The End of History?

Tuesday, Dec. 5th: The End of History?

Readings:

Francis Fukuyama "The End of History"

Textbook:

-Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, 824-845.

Thursday, Dec. 7th - Globalization: A Constant?

No Readings - Final Exam Review

Final Exam: Time and Location TBD