

HIST 125-013 – World History

Tuesday 4:30-7:10 pm ❖ Robinson Hall B201

Dr. Patricia Acerbi
Email: pacerbi@gmu.edu

Office hours: Thursday, 3:00-4:15 pm ❖ Location: Common Area, Exploratory Hall

Course Description

In HIST 125 we explore the sweeping historical changes that created today's modern world. Beginning around 1200, we trace key processes reshaping the politics, cultures, and economies of various regions. While Europe and the United States are part of our focus, we primarily consider Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Each of these geographic regions became enmeshed in a global system affected by far-reaching religious transformations, mercantile activity, industrial growth, and imperialism/colonialism. By semester's end, students should grasp the major trends underlying seven centuries of world history.

Course Objectives

- ✓ the global and transnational understanding of history
- ✓ the study of the relationship between human actions and events
- ✓ the critical understanding of cause and effect and change over time
- ✓ the analysis of the development of diverse world regions
- ✓ the exploration of historical debates
- ✓ the evaluation of sources involved in historical research

Required Reading

Textbook: Peter N. Stearns, *World History in Brief: Patterns of Change and Continuity*. Combined Volume. 8th Edition. Pearson Penguin Academics, 2012. (In the course schedule below, sections named "Part" and "Chapter" refer to this book.)

PDF/JPG: These readings are available on Blackboard.

Assignments & Grade Policy

GRADE ITEM	DATE DUE	GRADE VALUE
Quiz 1/Map Test	Sep. 5	5%
Quiz 2	Sep. 26	5%
Quiz 3	Nov. 7	5%
SWA 1	Sep. 19	10%
SWA 2	Oct. 31	10%
Midterm Exam	Oct. 17	20%
Book Review	Nov. 28	15%
Final Exam	Dec. 19	25%
Participation		5%

What is Participation?

- ✓ Arriving to class on time and practicing polite classroom behavior
- ✓ Keeping cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices in your bag
- ✓ Completing all readings and assignments on time (by 4:30 pm on the date due; submit SWAs and Book Review in paper at the beginning of class)
- ✓ Demonstrating in class and in your assignments your understanding of and response to readings
- ✓ Asking questions that encourage the evaluation of class material
- ✓ Clear and correct presentation of “Food for Thought”

Course Schedule

Part III: The Postclassical period, 500-1450: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14

Week 1 – August 29: Introduction & Civilization in the Middle East

Reading: Chapter 8

Syllabus, Map Test, Food for Thought, and SWA materials distributed

Week 2 – September 5: India and Southeast Asia; Africa and Islam (Part I)

Reading: Chapter 9; Crispin Bates, “The Hidden Story of Partition and its Legacies,”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/partition1947_01.shtml (go to website to read this story); Chapter 10

Quiz 1 (Map Test)

Drop without tuition penalty deadline: September 5

Week 3 – September 12: Africa and Islam (Part II); Byzantium and Russia

Reading: Chapter 10; book review by Paul Lovejoy, “Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia” (PDF); Chapter 11

Week 4 – September 19: Western Civilization: The Middle Ages

Reading: Chapter 12

Food for Thought presentations (Group 1)

SWA 1 due

Last day to drop with 33% tuition penalty

Week 5 – September 26: Centers of Civilization in the Americas

Reading: Chapter 14

Quiz 2

Food for Thought presentations (Group 2)

Mid-term Exam study guide distributed

Drop with 67% tuition penalty deadline: September 29

Columbus Day recess, October 10

Part IV: A New World Economy, 1450-1750: Chapters 16, 17, 18, 20

Week 7 – October 17

Midterm Exam (Part III)

Week 8 – October 24: The West and the World: Discovery, Colonization, and Trade
Reading: Chapter 16; Sermon by Antonio Montesinos in 1511 (PDF)

Selective withdrawal period: October 2-27

Week 9 – October 31: Western Civilization in the Early Modern Centuries; The Rise of Russia

Reading: Chapter 17; Voltaire, *Candide* (PDF), Chapters I and II (3 pages); Chapter 18
SWA 2 due

Week 10 – November 7: East Asia: Vital Trends in Politics and Trade

Reading: Chapter 20

Quiz 3

Food for Thought presentations (Group 3)

Part V: The World's First Industrial Period, 1750-1914: Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24

Week 11 – November 14: The First Industrial Revolution in Western Society

Reading: Chapter 21; Primary source: "Declaration of Dependence by the Children of America in Mines and Factories and Workshops" (JPG)

Food for Thought presentations (Group 4)

Final approval for book to review

Week 12 – November 21: World Economy & Western Imperialism: Africa, South Asia; The Settler Societies: The West on Frontiers

Reading: Chapter 22; Chapter 23

Thanksgiving recess, November 22-26

Week 13 – November 28: The Development of Latin American Civilization; Latin America in the Contemporary Era

Reading: Chapter 24, Chapter 29

Final Exam study guide distributed

Book Review due

Part VI: The Contemporary World, 1914 to Present: Chapters 27, 29, 33

Week 14 – December 5: The West in the Contemporary Period; Sub-Saharan Africa: From Colonies to New Nations

Reading: Chapter 27; Sarah Lyall and Sergey Ponomarev, "After Brexit, Will London Fall", <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/04/11/world/europe/uk-london-brexit.html> (go to website to read this story); Chapter 33

➤ **Final Exam (in class): Tuesday, December 19, 4:30 - 7:15 pm**

EMAIL, LAPTOP & PHONE POLICY

Always use your GMU email account to communicate with me. Expect an email response from me within 48 hours of sending your message (this excludes holidays/recesses). Please turn off cell phones during class and store them in your bag or a safe place. You may use a laptop during class only for taking notes or accessing electronic readings.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. For the purposes of this course, make sure that you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. You may not present anyone else's words or ideas as if they were yours. If you do, I will immediately turn your case over to the honor committee.

MASON EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

BLACKBOARD COURSES

To access Courses go to myMason portal: <http://mymason.gmu.edu>

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

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. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

WRITING CENTER

Robinson Hall A, Room 114; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

"Ask a Librarian "

<http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

History Librarian: George D. Oberle III (goberle@gmu.edu)

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

(703) 993-2380;

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

I, Patricia Acerbi, am a **responsible employee**. For an overview of Title IX and Sexual Harassment Prevention, as well as information about privacy and confidentiality, go to the Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics website: <https://diversity.gmu.edu/title-ix/what-title-ix>