

HIST 125 – World History, Fall 2017

Instructor: Claire P. Love

Time: T 4:30pm – 7:10pm

Location: East Building 201

Email: clove1@gmu.edu

Office: Basement of the Johnson Center outside Starbucks

Office Hours: 5pm – 7pm Tuesday; via Skype by Appointment

Course Description

“In this course, we will explore the sweeping historical changes that created today’s world. Beginning around 1450, we will trace key processes reshaping the politics, cultures, and economies of various regions. While Europe and the United States are part of our focus, we will also consider Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. We will survey major features of the principal civilizations of the world and the major types of global contacts and systems, and how these interactions shaped global power dynamics. By the end of the semester, students will have gained 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 throughout the past three-quarters of a millennium.”¹

Required Texts

Tignor, Robert, et al. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: Volume 2: From 1000 CE to the Present*. W.W. Norton & Co., 2014. ISBN: 978-0-393-92209-7

Course Requirements & Grading

Participation: Students are expected to attend all lecture periods. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If a student must miss a session that falls on a test day, they must provide adequate documentation satisfactory to produce an excused absence and generate a make-up day. Adequate documentation **does not** include a letter from one’s parents or family members. If the student has a question as to what does include adequate documentation, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor will not provide lecture notes or copies of Prezi slides. Students are responsible for obtaining notes from missed lecture sessions. A discussion board has been provided on Blackboard to help facilitate this exchange.

Grading: Grading will be conducted on a point value scale to be converted to a percentage at the end of the grading period. The student can obtain up to obtain a total of 250 points to be combined between take-home assignments and periodic quizzes. Quizzes will be worth a total of 200 points (50 each) and points earned on take-home assignments will be counted up to 100 points, with 50 fulfilling the grade requirement and the remaining extra 50 being counted as extra credit points. In other words, to obtain a complete grade on the take-home assignments, students must receive 50 points total. Anything after that up to 50 points count as extra credit.

Weekly Reading: Each student is expected to complete the assigned weekly reading from *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*. Though the text is meant to be supplementary to the lecture, questions and vocabulary words on the quizzes will be taken from the text.

Take-Home Assignments: Each week the student is expected to complete take-home assignments that consist of finding the thesis statements in academic articles cited on Blackboard. These articles can be

¹ Course description take from Jacqueline Beatty’s of the same course.

found in their entirety on JSTOR. The student may complete as few or as many articles as they like, with each correct thesis statement identified worth up to 5 points. Once the student has reached a total of 50 points, any extra points earned up to an additional 50 will count as extra credit. To complete the assignment, each student must print the page containing the thesis, underline or highlight the thesis, and turn it in to the instructor. **Take-home assignments must be turned in at the beginning of each class period. Absolutely no late submissions will be accepted for any reason. No electronic submissions will be accepted.**

Quizzes: A total of 4 quizzes will be held during the semester. Each quiz will be worth 50 points and will consist of 4 vocabulary words worth 5 points each and 3 short answer questions worth 5 points each. Vocabulary words and questions will come from the text, take-home assignments, and lecture. Extra credit opportunities may be provided on the quizzes. Students will be provided with a study guide to aid in identifying which areas to focus on, as well as to familiarize them with the format of the quiz. Each quiz will pertain to its identified unit, with the final quiz being cumulative over the whole semester.

Course Policies

Cell Phones, Laptops, and Electronic Devices: While the use of electronic devices during class is not prohibited, if the student's use of said devices becomes distracting to other students or the instructor, the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. The instructor also reserves the right to request that the student email her a copy of their notes at any time during the class period.

Late Policy: As noted above, **no late take-home assignment will be accepted. They also must be submitted in person. No electronic submissions will be accepted.** Quizzes may be made up if the student has a legitimate excuse, i.e. documented illness, documented travel for athletics, documented family emergency, etc. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation and schedule a make-up quiz with the instructor. Notes from parents or other family members do not count as legitimate documentation.

Plagiarism: Don't do it. Plagiarism is very easy to identify, and all cases will be referred to the Honor Committee. Plagiarism can result in failing the course, expulsion, or loss of degree. By signing GMU's Honor Code you have pledged not to partake in plagiarism. For more information on plagiarism, please view this page: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/guides/plagiarism>.

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity: All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>). All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review.

Academic Accommodations: If you are a student with a documented condition that warrants academic accommodations, please notify the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through ODS (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>). Additional support may be obtained through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://caps.gmu.edu/>.²

² Taken from Michael Chang's syllabus: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/chssweb/syllabuses/30411/original/HIST125-01-S17-Chang.pdf?1486495484>

Electronic Communications: **All communications must come for your gmu.edu email account.** As a rule, if you have a problem or a question, it is best to contact me right away. I will respond to emails between 5pm and 10pm M-W and F, though I may respond during the business day on weekdays and over weekends, time permitting. **When emailing me, please put HIST 125 in the subject line.** This will prevent your email from going to my spam folder and ensure a prompt response. Emails sent after 10pm will generally not receive a response until the next day, so please keep that in mind when planning your coursework. For those of you unable to attend office hours, I am happy to meet with you via Skype. This method has proven very effective in the past. My availability for Skyping is 5pm - 8pm M-W and F, and during limited times on weekends. Skype meetings are by appointment only. Please give me 24 hours' notice.

Course Schedule

Each lecture will be devoted to one topic relevant to world history, and will be explored in depth. Students are also expected to read assigned portions of the textbook for supplemental materials.

Week 1 08/29/2017: Introduction and Review of Syllabus

- Reading: Syllabus. Come prepared with questions.

Week 2 09/05/2017: Slavery: A Global Case Study

- Reading: Quirk, Joel. "Defining Slavery in All Its Forms." *The Anti-Slavery Project: From the Slave Trade to Human Trafficking*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt3fhp3h.8>
- Take-Home Assignment 1: Blackboard

Week 3 09/11/2017: Exploration/Colonialism

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 12 – Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600, p. 440-473.
- Take-Home Assignment 2: Blackboard

Week 4 09/19/2017: Revolutions Part I

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 14 – Cultures of Splendor and Power, 1500 – 1780, p. 518 - 526, 542 – 551.
- Take-Home Assignment 3: Blackboard

Week 5 09/26/2017: Quiz 1: Weeks 1 -4

Week 6 10/03/2017: Industrialization

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 15 – Reordering the World, p. 573, 576.
- Take-Home Assignment 4: Blackboard

Week 7 10/10/2017: Imperialism/Empire

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 17 – Nations and Empires, 1850 – 1914, p. 628 – 663.
- Take-Home Assignment 5: Blackboard

Week 8 10/17/2017: Turn-of-the-Century World

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 18 – An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, p. 666-701.
- Take-Home Assignment 6: Blackboard

Week 9 10/31/2017: Quiz 2: Weeks 6-8

Week 10 11/07/2017: World Wars

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 19 – Of Masses and Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, p. 706, 715-739.
- Take-Home Assignment 7: Blackboard

Week 11 11/14/2017: Cold War

- Take-Home Assignment 8: Blackboard

Week 12 10/21/2017: Thanksgiving – No Class

Week 13 10/28/2017: Decolonization

- Reading: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*: Chapter 20 – The Three-World Order, p. 754-780.
- Take-Home Assignment 9: Blackboard

Week 14 12/05/2017: Quiz 3: Weeks 9-11

Final Exam: December 19th, 7:30pm – 10:15pm.

- **Quiz #4:** Cumulative