

Introduction to World History
HIST 125:019, Fall 2017
Monday/Wednesday 12:00-1:15 pm

Dr. Robin Foster
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Office hours: M/1:30-3:00, Robinson B343 703-993-1250

Course Description:

This course will examine the rise of the city and the global trend towards urbanization as one of the greatest innovations in human history. What are the origins of the modern city and what were the guiding principles of urbanization during the ages of Antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Industrial Age, into the Modern Age and beyond? The city has served diverse functions since its roots in Mesopotamia, Tenochtitlan, and the Qin Dynasty; students will think critically about the benefits and perils of “the city” for citizens and non-citizens across the millennia. While the ancient Greek city-state gave rise to democratic principles of the *agora*, the fortress city of the Middle Ages privileged security from outsiders/barbarians over democratic principles. The city of industrialization and modernization shifted again, in which the demands of capitalism pit diverse urban communities against one another in struggles over rights to the city.

Students will examine a number of cultural, political, and economic landscapes as these have evolved, from King Hammurabi’s rule over Babylon to our own 21st century. We will study the role of religion, ideals of democracy, industrialization, political structures, capitalism, and the role of public space through the examination of primary source documents.

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 develop multiple historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events;
5. Students will communicate effectively – orally and in writing – their understanding of patterns, processes, and themes in the history of the (entire) world.

Requirements:

Required Texts*:

Reilly, Kevin. *Worlds of History, Volume 1: To 1550* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2013)
ISBN-13: 978-1457617829

Reilly, Kevin. *Worlds of History, Volume II: Since 1400* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2013)
ISBN-13: 978-1457617836

**All texts are available at the GMU bookstore, but can also be purchased/rented elsewhere or online via other sites, such as Amazon or Half.com*

Assignments:

2 close document analysis papers	30 points each
Midterm essay	100 points
Final essay	100 points
Class attendance/participation	40 points

Total possible points:	300 points

Close document analysis (2): 2 pages each (hardcopy, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, with one inch margins)

Reilly writes: *Reading a primary source differs greatly from reading a secondary source. Primary sources were not written with you or me in mind; the assumptions and intentions of the author may be very different from our own.* The historical and cultural context from which the sources were written often vary greatly from our own time and place. From a given list of primary source documents included in the Reilly book (which I will provide to you), perform a close analysis of the document in which you address the following questions: Who was the author(s) of this source? What was the intended audience(s) for this source? Why was this story originally told? What are the significant messages of this story and what did those messages mean to impart? What does this particular source add to your body of knowledge of the historical context and how does it do that?

Midterm exam/essay: 6-7 pages

Details will be provided as the midterm period approaches.

Essay must be turned in hardcopy, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, with one inch margins.

Final essay/critical response: 5-6 pages

Details will be provided as the second half of the term is underway.

Grading and Course Policies:

Class preparation and participation:

All students are expected to complete the reading assignments and come to class prepared to discuss these readings. Students' ability to actively participate in class discussions will directly factor into the Class Participation points. Attendance and active class participation are required. More than 2 absences will be considered unacceptable and will result in a lowering of your final grade.

Please bring all related reading and note-taking materials to class with you each session. Students who wish to use a laptop for note-taking are welcome to do so. However, the use of electronic devices for any purpose other than taking notes (email, chatting, internet browsing, social media...) is not acceptable and

will adversely affect your participation grade. During class, cell phones must be in silent mode/turned off and put away.

Late work:

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for course assignments. 5 points per day will be deducted from late work, unless advance arrangements have been made with me due to unique circumstances and documentation of such.

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 your writing consists of paraphrase or direct quotations. 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 feel free to contact me or refer to one of many style guides, such as *Cite Right: A Quick Guide to Citation Styles*.

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.

Schedule of Readings & Assignments due:

<i>Class Dates</i>	<i>Readings & Assignments due</i>
8/28 8/30	Review syllabus; review required readings; course intro Reilly, V1, Ch 2: The Urban Revolution and Civilization H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 3, 6
9/4 9/6	<i>Labor Day/no class</i> Ch 4: Empire and Government: China and Rome H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 3, 4, 6, 9
9/11 9/13	Ch 6: From Tribal to Universal Religion H.C./T.H./R + Doc's 2, 3, 5, 7 Ch 7: The Spread of Universal Religions H.C./T.H./R + doc's 2, 4, 6, 8
9/18 9/20	Ch 10: The First Crusade H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 5, 8, 9 Ch 11: Raiders of Steppe and Sea H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 5, 7
9/25 9/27	Ch 12: The Black Death H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3, 5, Close document analysis #1 due Ch 13: On Cities H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 (images)
10/2 10/4	Reilly V2, Ch 15: Overseas Expansion in the Early Modern Period H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 3, 4 Ch 16: Atlantic World Encounters H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 (images)
10/10 10/11	Ch 17: State and Religion H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 5, 6 <i>*note, today's class meets on Tuesday instead of Monday</i> Ch 19: The Scientific Revolution H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3, 4 <i>*midterm essay assignment given</i>
10/16 10/18	Ch 19: The Scientific Revolution H.C./T.H./R + doc's 5, 6, 7, 8 Ch 20: Enlightenment and Revolution H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
10/23 10/25	Ch 21: Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution H.C./T.H./R + doc's 2, 3, 4, 6 Ch 18: Women, Marriage, and Family: China and Europe H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 3, 4, 8

10/30	Midterm essay due
11/1	Ch 23: Westernization and Nationalism H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 4, 5, 7
11/6	Ch 24: World War I and Its Consequences H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3 (images), 6, 7
11/8	Watch in-class film, "Things to Come" (1936, H.G. Wells). <i>Take notes.</i>
11/13	"A Story of the Days to Come," (1899) short story by H.G. Wells. Work is in public domain and can be found at https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/wells/hg/w45da/ <i>*Class discussion will include the film and the short story</i>
11/15	Ch 25: World War II and Mass Killing H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 Close document analysis #2 due
11/20	Ch 26: The Cold War and the Third World H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11/22	<i>Happy Thanksgiving! No class</i>
11/27	Ch 27: New Democracy Movements H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 3, 6, 7
11/29	Ch 28: Globalization: The World 1990 to the Present H.C./T.H./R + doc's 1, 2, 4, 6 (images)
12/4	TBD reading will be posted on Blackboard
12/6	Wrap-up and Review <i>Last day of class</i>
12/18	10:30-1:15 FINAL EXAM