

HIST 615-004 | HIST 510-001 Development of Modern Societies

Spring 2021

This course focuses on the development of modern societies – in the United States, in Europe, and in other key world regions. The course thus serves students with interests in these three categories, with somewhat different readings depending on interest. And the course will be actively comparative. The fundamental issue involves exploring the tension between seeing modern societies largely in terms of economic and industrial change, and taking a wider perspective involving politics, family and gender, and popular culture.

Instructor: Peter N. Stearns

E-mail: pstearns@gmu.edu (best way to get in touch)

Class info: Posted to your Blackboard account

Office Hours: By appointment (email to schedule). Regular hours on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am.

Class Schedule: Tuesdays, 4:30-7:10 PM, East Building 134

Assessment

Reviews and short essays 35%: each student will do two book reviews (c. 500 words) and two 5-page papers relating to a relevant issue in your region, involving reading one additional book or cluster of articles for each; one must be on 20th century, and will be discussed in class

Class participation 35% (including helping to lead at least one discussion plus a contribution to the session on regions)

Take home final 30% (based on readings and class coverage)

Academic Honesty and Collaboration

The integrity of the University Community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple practices to follow at all times are that: 1) all work submitted be your own; 2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and 3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

Required Texts NOTE: students may propose alternate readings depending on particular regional interests, within the topical framework of the course

Available for purchase:

1. Thomas Bender, *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006), Fenwick E178. B428 2006

2. George Reid Andrews and Herrick Chapman (eds.), *The Social Construction of Democracy, 1870-1990* (New York: New York University Press, 1995), Fenwick JC421. S559 1995
3. Karen M. Offen, *Globalizing Feminisms, 1789-1945* (New York: Routledge, 2010), Fenwick HQ1121. G576 2010
4. Peter N. Stearns, *The Industrial Turn in World History* (New York: Routledge, 2016)
5. Bruce Mazlish, *The New Global History* (New York: Routledge, 2006), Fenwick HF1359. M388 2006
6. Florian Bieber, *Debating Nationalism* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020).

Available as E-books:

1. Paul S. Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994), ACLS Humanities E-Book, Fenwick E 169. 12. B684 1994
2. Seymour Drescher, *Abolition: A History of Slavery and Antislavery* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), ProQuest E-Book, Fenwick HT861. D74 2009
3. (optional) Steven Mintz, *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004), ACLS Humanities E-Book, Fenwick HQ792. U5 M57 2004

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1	Main Themes in Modern History Issues of Periodization	Reading: John Hall article on Japan Question: When does modern history begin?
Week 2	Cultural Change	Stearns article on Romantic Love and Clarke article on Death and the Enlightenment a Keith Thomas article on Magic (available on Blackboard)
Week 3	"Modernization" and the Industrial Revolution	Stearns, <i>Industrial Turn</i>

Week 5	US in World History and American Exceptionalism	Bender DUE: first book review
Week 4	The Issue of Regions in World History	Reading Cemil Aydin article on What is the Muslim World, ed. Haselby, on Blackboard Each student will pick a region and comment briefly on issues in dealing with it in modern world history
Week 6	Abolitionism	Drescher DUE: first short paper
Week 7	Nationalism	Bieber
Week 8	Democracy	Andrews and Chapman
Week 9	Feminism Also to discuss: contemporary periodization	Offen
Week 10	Childrearing	Mintz OR “Globalization and Childhood” special issue of J. of Social History 2005 available thru JStor DUE: second book review
Week 11	Consumerism	Frank Trentman, “How Humans Became Consumers” Atlantic 2016, on Blackboard
Week 12	Cold War	Boyer

Week 13	Class Presentations of Second Short Paper	DUE: paper
Week 14	Global History *LAST CLASS*	Mazlish; Zeiler article on Blackboard
Wednesday, May		<u>FINAL EXAM DUE</u>

Appendix with citations for additional articles, essays and book chapters:

Hall, John. "Japan: From Prehistory to Modern Times" (New York, Delacorte Press, 1970). Chapters 14-16.

Thomas, Keith. *Religion and the Decline of Magic* (New York: Penguin Books, 1991). Chapter 18.

Stearns, Peter. "Romantic Love" In *a Cultural History of Love in the Age of Empire* (Bloomsbury, 2020).

Clarke, Joseph. "Why may not man be one day immortal?: rethinking death in the age of enlightenment" In, *The Routledge History of Death Since 1800*. (London: Routledge, 2020). Pg. 177-193.

Ayin, Cemil. "What is the Muslim World?" *Aeon* (website), 2017.
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/aeon.co/amp/essays/the-idea-of-a-muslim-world-is-both-modern-and-misleading>

Trentman, Frank. "How Humans Became 'Consumers': A History" *The Atlantic*. November 29, 2016.

Zeiler, Thomas W. "Just Do It! Globalization for Diplomatic Historians." *Diplomatic history* 25, no. 4 (October 1, 2001): 529–551.