

HIST 510: Approaches to Modern World History Spring 2012

Instructor: Peter N. Stearns
Phone: (703) 993-8776
Fax: (703) 993-8871
E-mail: pstearns@gmu.edu

Office Hours: My office is located in Mason Hall room D111. The best procedure to schedule an appointment is to call my office; my assistant, Laura Bell, will find a time for you to meet with me.

Class Schedule: Tuesdays from 4:30pm to 7:10pm in Mason Hall, D101

Course Objectives:

This course will focus on comparative world history, with particular attention to responses to and initiatives in world economy, globalization and “modernization”. Readings will include both theoretical work and case studies on various parts of the world. In the process students will explore definitions of world history and the relationship between current issues and past processes.

Requirements and Grade Distribution:

Students are required to write (1 – 2 page) “reaction” papers on each week’s readings, to be submitted in class for that week. Reaction papers should address the arguments and approaches of the readings, and should comment on whether such approaches and arguments provide useful means of understanding the issues involved.

Students will also be required to write 2 book reviews (4 – 5 pages) and a historiographic or synthetic essay (12 – 15 pages). The book reviews will entail researching two additional books, each addressing a significant topic in world history. Book reviews can be on works used in the final historiographic essay. The historiographic or synthetic essay should cover a topic dealing with 19th or 20th century world history. If synthetic, pick a significant question and develop an appropriate response based on additional reading. Topics in either mode should be cleared with the instructor; papers will be due at the end of the term.

Class Participation and Attendance (includes weekly reaction papers)	30%
Book Reviews	30%
Historiographic Essay	40%

Required Textbooks: Mostly available for purchase at the GMU Bookstore.

- Peter N. Stearns, World History the Basics
- Patrick Manning, Navigating World History: Historians Create a Global Past
- Paul Adams, Erick Langer, Lily Hwa, Peter Stearns, Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Experiencing World History
- Jack A. Goldstone, Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History 1500-1850
- Peter N. Stearns, Western Civilization in World History
- Immanuel Wallerstein, World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction (A John Hope Franklin Center Book)
- Michael Adas, Machines as the Measure of Men: Science, Technology, and Ideologies of Western Dominance
- Peter N. Stearns, The Industrial Revolution in World History
- Seymour Drescher, From Slavery to Freedom: Comparative Studies in the Rise and Fall of Atlantic Slavery
- Peter N. Stearns, Childhood in World History
- Bruce Mazlish, The New Global History
- Stephen Mosley, The Environment in World History
- Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Gender in History

Class Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Jan 24 - Week 1	Introduction, Issues in World History	<u>World History the Basics</u>
Jan 31- Week 2	World history as a research and teaching field	<u>Navigating World History: Historians Create a Global Past</u>
Feb 07- Week 3	Periodization and the Social Aspect	<u>Experiencing World History</u>
Feb 14 - Week 4	Environment and Early Modern History	<u>The Environment in World History</u>
Feb 21 -Week 5	The Problem of the West	<u>Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History;</u> <u>Western Civilization in World History</u>
Feb 28 - Week 6	The World Economy	<u>World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction</u>
Mar 06 - Week 7	Technology and Culture	<u>Machines as the Measure of Men: Science, Technology, and Ideologies of Western Dominance</u>
Mar 13	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 20 - Week 8	Issues of Modernization	<u>The Industrial Revolution in World History</u>
Mar 27 -Week 9	Emancipations	<u>From Slavery to Freedom: Comparative Studies in the Rise and Fall of Atlantic Slavery</u>
Apr 3 -Week 10	Gender	<u>Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Gender in History</u>
Apr 10 - Week 11	Establishing the Contemporary Period	<u>World History the Basics</u>
Apr 17 -Week 12	NO CLASS	
Apr 24 -Week 13	New Topics in World History	<u>Childhood in World History</u>
May 01-Week 14	Globalization	<u>The New Global History</u>

Assignments: Two book reviews – first, Week 5; second, Week 9.

Paper, due at end of class with drafts submitted by week 13: placing a key topic in a modern world history context OR a comparative civilizations topic in modern world history; establishing major analytical issues; approximately 20 pages.