

Introduction to World History 1450 to Present

Instructor: Dexter Gabriel
Office Location: Robinson B 373B
Office Hours: 10:30 to 11:45 TTh
Email: dgabrie2@gmu.edu

HIS 125.001
Fall 2012
Class Time: TTh 12:00-1:15PM
Class Meets: Robinson Hall B124

Course Description: This course gives an overview of the major trends in global history that have created our modern world. Beginning in 1450, we will take a look at varied societies in world history not as individual civilizations or nation-states, but as part of a larger global community--exploring sites of contact, mutual interaction, co-dependence and conflict. Focusing on Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, the course will examine the cultural, technological, political, economic, religious and social transformations which shaped the societies of these geographic regions, as they became part of an interworking global system. From the Age of Discovery and Revolutions, to the rise of modern nation states, we will touch on issues of conquest, nationalism, imperialism, decolonization and globalization that have shaped the course of human history up to present day.

Learning Objectives: By successfully completing this course, students will to understand the diverse roles played in shaping human experience since 1450 and into the modern world; the dynamics of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time including politics, economics, technology and religion; the rise of nation-states and their conflicts; the challenges mounted by modernity and an increased reliance on technology; the new challenges created an increasingly interconnected world.

Required Books:

- Peter von Sivers et al., *Patterns of World History*. Volume 2: Since 1400. Oxford University Press, 2012
- Art Spiegelman, *MAUS: A Survivor's Tale*. Vol. 1 & 2. Pantheon Books, 1996
- Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*. Pantheon Books, 2007

- All other **required** readings will either be available in the "Course Documents Folder" on our Blackboard course web site, indicated (**BB**) on the syllabus. There will also be online article links and multimedia.

**** Please check Blackboard frequently for announcements (changes to readings, schedule, etc.)**

Course Evaluation:

Class Participation: Class participation will be based on your attendance, your overall contribution to discussion and how prepared you are to engage with the class and subject matter. You should expect to join in all classroom activities and any class discussions. Paying attention to lectures, visual media AND your reading assignments are thus vital to your ability to participate with your classmates.

Class Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered at any given time throughout the course. They will usually cover previously assigned readings and assignments. You will have 5 to 10 minutes to complete the quiz and turn in for a grade. If you arrive after a quiz or leave before a quiz, there are no make-ups. If you arrive late and a quiz is already being given, you will only have the remaining time to complete it. You will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz.

Homework Assignments: Short homework assignments will be assigned via BB. Their purpose is to help you better engage the readings, prepare you for class discussions and aid in studying for your exams. There are no make-ups for homework assignments.

Requirements: You are responsible for turning in no less than 6 HW assignments for the totality of the course: two before the 1st Exam, two before the Midterm and two before the Final. You must hand in **homework assignments by 12pm on the due date via Blackboard**. The assignments will usually consist of question(s) or required brief essays/analysis regarding your reading assignments. Each of your responses should show that you have fully comprehended and reasoned through the readings and/or visual material (required length- 2 pgs). You will NOT receive extra credit if you do more than four. Please keep copies of all work in case of Blackboard problems. You will be allowed to drop your lowest homework.

Primary Source Analysis Papers: There will be 2 short (2-3 pages) papers analyzing **primary** sources from either the text or blackboard documents. You will have several chances to complete these which will be noted on the syllabus as Primary Document Analyses. Each will involve identifying a historical question and analyzing how your primary source or sources adds to our knowledge on that question. More details will be available on Blackboard.

Book Reviews: There will be 2 short (3-4 pages) book review essays of selected narrative texts: *MAUS* and *Persepolis*. Further details will be provided via Blackboard.

Exams: All exams will be **in-class exams** consisting of multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions. Exams should be taken at the scheduled times. The First Exam will be on 10/2, the Midterm on 11/1 and the Final Exam on 12/13. In cases of a **documented** illness or life emergency ONLY, you may request a make-up exam.

Grading:

First Exam	15%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%
Primary Source Analysis Papers	10%
Book Review 1	10%
Book Review 2	10%
Homework Assignments	10%
Quizzes	10%
Class Participation	5%

Class and University Policies:

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes (that means arriving on time and staying for the duration- hint: *Quizzes*) and to actively participate in class discussion and activities. Attendance is required and will be recorded at each session. Unexcused absences, habitual lateness, and early departures will adversely impact your grade. If you miss class due to illness, a life emergency, or other serious reason, please let the instructor know as soon as feasible and provide documentation when you return.

Classroom Behavior:

*Cell Phones, Blackberries, PDAs, iPods, etc. should be off and put away during class. This means no texting as well. If you have an emergency, feel free to step outside for phone use. Take care not to abuse this policy.

*Laptops: Laptop computers are fine for use during class for note-taking only.

Respectful Exchange of Ideas: History is often a matter of perspective. Discussion is encouraged—in fact required. Be mindful however to be polite, courteous and respectful to your classmates.

Communication with Instructor: Please feel free to e-mail me at the address above. I will attempt to check my email at least twice daily. If you need to meet with me, I am available during office hours listed above.

Academic Integrity: George Mason University has very strong and clear policies regarding academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). Penalties could include an F in the course, and is required to be reported to the Academic Judiciary Committee. An explanation of what constitutes plagiarism can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>.

Student Behavior: George Mason University expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Equity and Diversity Services: <http://equity.gmu.edu/dadAct.html>. They will help determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Preliminary Course Schedule

Please check Blackboard (**BB**) regularly for updates or revisions.

T, 8/28 - Introduction

Course Overview and Syllabus
Patterns in World History
The Ancient and Medieval World

Th, 8/30- Ages of Exploration

Readings:

PWH pp. 524-529 (stop at Rise of the Ottomans); 530-531.
China's Great Armada: National Geographic (**BB** links)
World Wanderer Ibn Battuta: TIME (**BB** link)
Marco Polo: National Geographic (**BB** link)
Leo Africanus- Timbuktu 1526 (**BB** link)
Optional: African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean World: NYPL (**BB** link)

T, 9/04- Christian and Muslim Interactions: The Ottoman-Habsburg Struggle

Readings:

PWH pp. 520-523, 529, 532-555.
Video: History's Turning Points - AD 1453 Siege of Constantinople (**BB** link)
The Inquisition (**BB** link)

Th, 9/06- Early Modern Europe: Religious Wars and Empires

Readings:

PWH pp. 561-585; Skim rest of chapter.
Video: Reluctant Revolutionary: Martin Luther (**BB** link) *
Skim: The 95 Theses- a Modern Translation (**BB** link)

T, 9/11- Global Encounters: The Old and New Worlds

Readings:

PWH pp. 601-617; 618-621.
Las Casas excerpt (**BB** PDF doc)
Requerimiento- 1513 (**BB** PDF doc)

Th, 9/13- Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Readings:

PWH pp. 638-648; 648-666.
Rediker, *The Slave Ship*- Selected Excerpts (**BB** link)
Olaudah Equiano (**BB** PDF doc)

T, 9/18- Formation of American Societies

Readings:

PWH pp. 623-635; 666-670.

Video: Africans in America- Indentured Servants (**BB** link)

Salem Witch Trials- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

18th-Century Latin American Family Caste Paintings (**BB** link)

Th, 9/20 The Mughal Empire

Readings:

PWH pp. 677-695; 696 (Map); 697-700. Skim rest of chapter.

Worlds Within Worlds: Smithsonian Museum (**BB** link)

Malik Ambar: A Remarkable Life (**BB** link)

T, 9/25- China and Japan

Readings:

PWH pp. 711-741.

Video: The Way of the Samurai (**BB** link)

Th, 9/27

*Class does not meet.

Study for First Exam.

T, 10/2- First Exam

Th, 10/4- Nation-States and Atlantic Revolutions

Readings:

PWH pp. 744-745; 749-765; 934-939 (up to Nation-State Building)

Paine, "Common Sense" excerpts (**BB** link)

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (**BB** link)

Knight, "The Haitian Revolution" (**BB** link)

T, 10/9

*Class does not meet.

Th, 10/11- Nationalism, Upheavals and Instability

Readings:

PWH pp. 765-779; 939-957.

Video: PBS- Ken Burns Civil War (**BB** link)

Simón de Bolívar Speech- 1819 (**BB** link)

Giuseppe Garibaldi Speech – 1860 (**BB** link)

T, 10/16- The Industrial Revolution

Readings:

PWH pp. 789-815.

Video: The Industrial Revolution (**BB** link)

Photos of Child Labor in the US- Industrial Revolution (**BB** link)

Marx and Engels, Communist Manifesto- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

Th, 10/18- Reacting to a Changed World- China and Japan

Readings:

PWH pp. 822-833; 836-843; 849-854.

T, 10/23- Adaptation and Resistance- Ottoman and Russian Empires

Readings:

PWH pp. 858-869; 872-875; 878-892.

Th, 10/25- The New Imperialism- The Scramble for Africa

Readings:

PWH pp. 896-898; 913-923.

Rudyard Kipling, The White Man's Burden, 1899- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** PDF doc)

Edward Morel, The Black Man's Burden, 1920- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

T, 10/30- The New Imperialism- Asia, Latin America and the Pacific

Readings:

PWH pp. 899-913; 923-931.

Elisa Greathed on Sepoy Mutiny (1857)- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

American Anti-Imperialist League Platform, 1899- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

Bananas!: How the United Fruit Company Shaped the World –NY Times (**BB** link)

Th, 11/1- Second Exam

T, 11/6- From World War to Global Depression

Readings:

PWH pp. 977-988; 992-996 (stop at Latin America); 998-1001.

BBC- The Somme and Tolkien (**BB** link)

PBS- Red Summer of 1919 (**BB** link)

Songs of the Great Depression (**BB** link)

Th, 11/8- Supremacist Nationalism in Italy and Germany

Readings:

PWH pp. 1001, 1004-1010.

Spiegelman, *MAUS: A Survivor's Tale*. Vol. 1 (Chapters 1-4)

USHMM- Genocide of European Roma Gypsies (**BB** link)

USHMM- Blacks in Nazi Germany (**BB** link)

T, 11/12- Supremacist Nationalism in Japan

Readings:

PWH pp. 1010-1017.

Spiegelman, *MAUS: A Survivor's Tale*. Vol. I (Chapters 5-6); Vol. II.

Th, 11/15- Cold War

Readings:

PWH pp. 1023-1031 (thru The Berlin Wall); 1039-1041.

Video: "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" (**BB** link)

T, 11/20- Decolonization and the New Nations

Readings:

PWH pp. 1042-1057.

*Book Review 1 Due

Th, 11/22- Thanksgiving Holiday

T, 11/27- The American Era of Transformations

Readings:

PWH pp. 1031-1036 (stop at Existentialism); 1072-1075, 1078-1080; 1086-1087.

Malcolm X- What Does Mississippi Have to Do With Harlem? (1964) (**BB** link)

Lyndon B. Johnson- American Policy in Vietnam (1965)- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

Martin Luther King Jr.- Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence (1967)- Primary Source Analysis (**BB** link)

Th, 11/29- The Developing Worlds

Readings:

PWH pp. 1082-1085; 1088-1096.

Satrapi- *The Complete Persepolis*, Introduction to p. 125.

T, 12/4- Capitalist Democracies, Globalization and its Discontents

Readings:

PWH pp. 1103-1113; 1132-1137.

Satrapi- *The Complete Persepolis*, pp.126-341.

T, 12/6- Final Review

No Readings

*Due- Book Review 2

Th, 12/13- Final Exam