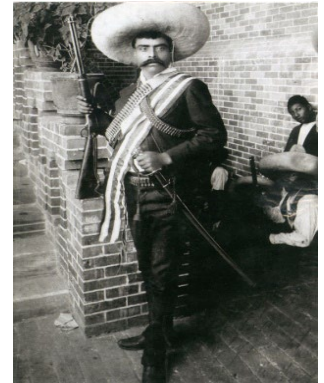


**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
Department of History and Art History

***Introduction to Global History***  
**Spring 2024**

Course	Building/Hall	Room	Class meets	Time
<b>HIST 125/003</b>	<b>Innovation</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>Mondays &amp; Wednesdays</b>	<b>9.00-10.15 a.m.</b>



INSTRUCTOR:  
OFFICE:  
OFFICE HOURS:  
E-MAIL:

Dr Kevin Matthews  
Horizon Hall 3120  
By appointment: in person or via Zoom  
[cmathe2@gmu.edu](mailto:cmathe2@gmu.edu)

### REQUIRED TEXT and MATERIALS:

1. Duiker, William J & Jackson J Spielvogel. *World History Since 1500*, Vol. II, 9<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN-13: 978-1-337-40106-7)
2. Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (ISBN-13: 978-0-451-52493-5)
3. Three Scantron cards Form No. 882-E. Keep these but make sure you have one with on exam days.
4. You should expect to receive additional, brief reading assignments which are listed in the syllabus calendar.

### COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES - Making the modern world:

This course will explore the sweeping historical changes that have created today's world by examining the interactions of the Americas, Europe, Asia, & Africa from 1500 to the present. The aim is to show how political, economic, and social forces have led to a paradox for those living in the early 21st century: a globalized world, yes, but also one in which the histories, cultures, and values of nations and regions often result in conflict. Students will examine the impact of colonialism and imperialism, war and revolution, as well as social movements that are the basis for the challenges men and women around the globe face today.

### TEACHING TECHNIQUES and EXAMINATIONS:

This course is based on lectures, classroom discussions, & readings. **Come to class prepared to answer questions based on the assigned readings.** If you are prepared, the result will lead to a more lively, interesting experience for everyone. Your participation also will benefit your final grade. Depending on your participation, a "C" grade might become a "C+", or a "B+" might become an "A-".

All examinations will be given in class. A **study guide** will be supplied prior to each of the three exams. The first exam will cover material assigned for the first day of class up through the session prior to the exam itself. The second exam will only cover material between the first and second exams. The final exam will only cover material after the second exam — meaning these exams are **not cumulative**.

Students who are permitted to take exams at the **Test Center** must obtain the paperwork & send it to me immediately: I also **require** a paper copy for my records so I know who is allowed this extra time for exams.

You are **personally responsible** for knowing the time and date of all exams and other assignments. Check your E-mail daily. You are **required** to take each exam on the date set by the instructor; students are not allowed to take exams at a time of their choosing. If you fail to take an exam without a **documented excuse** (usually medical in nature), you will **not** be **allowed** to take a make-up exam. You will be given a zero grade without appeal. The dates for exams are given in the syllabus calendar. (**Note:** the dates for the first and second exams are tentative.)

**Make-up exams** will be given at a mutually convenient time for the instructor and student. It is up to the student to resolve the matter of make-up work with the instructor — not the other way around.

Regarding the **final exam**: The date for this last test is set by the University and does not conflict with exam times for other courses. Because this date is announced now, **I do not make allowances for students' travel plans.** If you make travel plans that **conflict** with the final exam you will, as stated above, be assigned a zero grade for this test by failing to take the test at the announced time.

## ATTENDANCE:

### IF YOU DON'T SHOW / YOUR GRADE WILL BE LOW — IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT

Since lectures and discussions are the foundation of this course, **class attendance is mandatory**. Each student is responsible for all material and all announcements presented at each lecture. Students should also be aware that they will be tested on material covered in class but which will not necessarily be found in the assigned readings - and vice versa. If a student **must** miss a class, (s)he should arrange to obtain class notes from a fellow student. Lecture notes **will not - under any circumstances - be provided** by the instructor.

A **great amount of reading is required** for this course and it is important that students stay ahead of the readings to be prepared for classroom discussions. **Failure to attend class on a regular basis** makes it extremely difficult to keep abreast of the course; the result is a lower or even a failing grade for the course. **Specifically**, the final course grades for students who fail to attend class on a **regular basis** (as determined by the instructor) will **drop an entire letter grade** - without exception. This is beyond the 10 percent part of your grade covered by "classroom participation/attendance and quizzes". Valid excuses for missed lectures (again, usually medical in nature) must be in **writing**.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

**Classroom decorum** - Students are expected to **show up for class on time** and, once in class, to **remain for the entire session**, except in case of emergency. Arriving late or leaving in the middle of a lecture is **disruptive and disrespectful** to your fellow students. Students who leave in the middle of a session can expect to be called out to explain why they are disrupting class in this manner. Those who violate these rules can expect to receive a lower course grade.

**Use of lap-top computers & audio-recorders** - **All** lap-top computers & any other such devices (e.g., Tablets) are **banned** from these sessions. You should use paper & pen or pencil for taking lecture notes. If you are unable to do so because of a medical issue, you **must provide** documentation, usually in the form of a **doctor's letter**, to be exempted from this ban. You may record lectures if you wish but only after consulting with me, first.

Cell phones are to be **turned off** at the beginning of each class. Repeated failure to do so will adversely affect your course grade. Any attempt to use unauthorized devices during an examination will constitute grounds for failing the course. You are welcome to bring drinks to class. However, **eating** in class is **forbidden**. Put another way, **I don't lecture in your kitchen; don't eat in my classroom**.

**Cheating and plagiarism** - **Either offense will constitute grounds for failing the course**. The university has a code governing academic ethics. Any student who is caught cheating on a quiz or exam or who plagiarizes will have his or her case sent to the Dean's Office for adjudication.

**E-mail** - I am happy to answer your questions via E-mail. Because over 180 students are taking courses with me this semester, however, **I cannot — & will not — respond** unless you identify yourself in the **subject line** of each E-mail, beginning with the course number & section number. For example:

**HIST 125/03 – YOUR LAST NAME, & the reason for your letter.**

## STUDY GROUPS:

If history is not a topic you like and/or if English is a second language, I strongly recommend that you form study groups. Students who fall into either or both of these categories have told me that forming small groups of seven or eight students helped them immensely in this course. It also helps for sharing lecture notes. Again — I do not provide lecture notes to students for any reason.

## GRADING SCALE:

First examination	25 percent
Second (mid-term) examination	30 percent
Final examination	35 percent
Classroom participation/attendance/quizzes:	10 percent
Total:	<hr/> 100 percent

90-100	A - signifies <u>remarkable, outstanding</u> work showing complete mastery of the subject. A+     97 - 100 A       93 - 96.9 A-      90 - 92.9
80-89	B - signifies work that is <u>above the average</u> expectations for this course. B+     87 - 89.9 B       82 - 86.9 B-      80 - 81.9
70-79	C - signifies work that meets <u>average</u> university standards. C+     77 - 79.9 C       72 - 76.9 C-      70 - 71.9
60-69	D - signifies work that is <u>below average</u> but is a passing grade.
59-below	F - signifies failure.

I do not grade on a curve. Nor is it possible to offer extra credit work - for any reason. Students should instead devote their energies to the assignments laid out in this syllabus. If a student merits an “A”, that is the grade that he or she will receive. Having said that, I again point out that “A” work as defined above is genuinely outstanding and shows complete mastery of the subject. While I hope that every student will strive to meet this standard, it will not be easy to obtain such a grade.

## IMPORTANT DATES & READING ASSIGNMENTS:

{NOTE: Each week’s reading assignments are set out below. You are required to have these readings completed by the first class of the week in which they are given. However, you are only required to read the pages given in parentheses ( ) following each chapter number. For example, for Week 1 you are only required to read pages 53-60 of chapter 2, pages 67, 74-75, and 82-88 of chapter 3, and so forth.}

**Week 1**      15 – 19 January      **A trip around the world — circa 1500**

*We have traversed more than 100,000 li [Chinese miles] of immense water spaces and set eyes on barbarian regions far away hidden in a blue transparency of light vapors.*

- Zhen He, Chinese explorer, 1432

17<sup>th</sup> - **First session of HIST 125**

Readings: Chp 14, 16, 17

**Week 2**      22 – 26 January      **The Scientific Revolution & the Enlightenment**

*I think, therefore I am.*

- René Descartes, French scientist, 1637

Readings: Chp 15, Chp 18 (stop at section 18-3)

**Week 3**      29 January – 2 February      **America's Revolution as a global event**

*If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.*

- Abigail Adams to John Adams, 1776

Readings: Chp 18 (p. 521-524; skip section 18-4 “Toward a New Political Order”); the American *Declaration of Independence* & the U.S. Constitution (to be sent by the instructor)

**Week 4**      5 – 9 February      **The French Revolution & beyond**

*My arm shall not rest nor my mind be at peace until I have broken the chains that bind me by the will and power of Spain.*

- Simón Bolívar, South American revolutionary, c. 1805

Readings: Chp 18 (p. 527 to the end of the chapter); Chp 20 (stop at section 20-2)

**Week 5**      12 – 16 February      **The Industrial Revolution**

*Hegel remarks somewhere that all facts and personages of great importance in world history occur, as it were, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.*

- Karl Marx, 1852

Readings: Chapter 19 (stop at section 19-3e)

**Week 6**      19 – 23 February      **America's Civil War and the rise of nationalism**

*Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S., a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.*

- Frederick Douglass, 1863

19<sup>th</sup> - **First examination** (tentative)

Readings: Chp 19 (Section 19-4 to the end of the chapter; Chp 20 (p. 584 to section 20-3)

**Week 7**      26 February – 1 March      **Imperialism**

*When someone steals your ox, it is killed and roasted and eaten. One can forget. When someone steals your land, one can never forget. It is always there, its trees, its little streams. It is a bitter presence."*

- Kikuyu elder, Kenya, undated

Readings: Chp 21-22

**Week 8**      4 – 8 March      **Spring Break (No class meetings this week)**

**Week 9**      11 – 15 March      **The Great War as a world war**

*Mother, if God spares me to get home safe, I will have something awful to tell you. If Hell is any worse, I would not like to go to it.*

- Herbert Beattie, 17-year-old soldier, at the Somme, 1916

Readings: Chp 23, pp. 664-676 & pp. 680-684

**Week 10**      18 – 22 March

**Bolshevism & fascism**

*Freedom only for the supporters of the government, only for the members of one party — however numerous they may be — is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently.*

- Rosa Luxemburg, Polish-German revolutionary, 1918

Readings: Chp 23 (section 23-3 to p. 680 & section 23-4e); Chp 25 (stop at section 25-1c)

**Week 11**      25 – 29 March

**The Great Depression as a global phenomenon**

[Asked if there was any historical parallel to the Great Depression:] *Yes. It was called the Dark Ages, and it lasted 400 years.*

- John Maynard Keynes, British economist, 1932

25<sup>th</sup> - **Second examination** (tentative)

Readings: Chp 23 (Section 23-4, except for 23-4e, to the end of the chapter); Chp 24

**Week 12**      1 – 5 April

**Appeasement & the road to war**

*Nothing is won forever unless you fight for it.*

- Ruth Davidow, U.S. nurse, Spanish Civil War, 1936-39

Readings: Chp 25 (section 25-1c - stop at section 25-3)

**Week 13**      8 – 12 April

**Into the abyss: World War II**

*What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible they do not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them until they have been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?*

- Winston Churchill addressing the US Congress, 1941

Readings: Chp 25 (section 25-3 to the end of the chapter)

**Week 14**     15 – 19 April

**Life in the cold war/The end of imperialism**

*I am not less life-loving than you are. But I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free.*

- Nelson Mandela, 1985

Readings: Chp 26-27, 29-30

**Week 15**     22 – 26 April

**The world of 1984**

*If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.*

- George Orwell, preface to his novel, *Animal Farm*

Readings: You are required to have Orwell's novel, *1984*, read to discuss in class by this week.

**Week 16**     29 April

**The dawning of the rest of your lives**

*The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know.*

- Harry Truman

29<sup>th</sup> - **Last session of HIST 125**

Readings: Chp 28

**Week 17**     6 May

**Final exam**     8.15 a.m. - 10.15 a.m.

6<sup>th</sup> - **Final exam for HIST 125/003**

{The date for the final exam is set by the University and does not conflict with exam times for other courses. I cannot make allowances for students who have **multiple final exams** scheduled on this date. Nor is it possible for students to take the final exam at another time because of **travel plans.**}

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.**