

George Mason University  
HIST 125: Introduction to Global History  
Spring Term 2024

Course: Introduction to Global History 125 (019)  
Time: Monday 7.20pm – 10pm  
Location: Exploratory Hall L003  
Instructor: Dr. Jessica Legnini  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Contact: [jlegnini@gmu.edu](mailto:jlegnini@gmu.edu)

### Course Description:

This course uses the theoretical framework of global history to survey our past. It will examine how societies around the world are shaped, culturally, and politically, through interregional contact. The course will center specifically on the role of the “Silk Roads” as an important site of contact between Asia, Africa, Europe and eventually the Americas. It will examine how the trade route enabled the spread of religion, material goods and technologies, science, and imperialism. It will also examine more contemporary uses of the network by nations aiming to integrate economies and consolidate political power. By primarily examining the experiences of non-western societies, this course encourages students to develop a global outlook, and to deepen their understanding of the ways in which interregional contact shapes political, social, and racial distinctions.

### Mason Core General Education Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of Global History.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in Global History.
- Students will identify, evaluate, and appropriately cite online and print resources.
- 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.
- Students will communicate effectively—orally, in writing, and/or using digital media—their understanding of patterns, processes, and themes in the history of the world.

### Required Readings:

Bonnie G. Smith et.al., *World in the Making: A Global History: Volume 2: Since 1300*, Oxford University Press, Second Edition, 2023: ISBN 9780197608371. Additional readings are available on Blackboard.

### Course Expectations:

- **This is an in-person class and therefore you MUST attend every class.** If you must miss a class let me know ahead of time by email.
- A fundamental skill you will learn in this class is how to read at the college level. Weekly **readings are between 50 and 100 pages.** Budget your time appropriately.
- Due to the chronological nature of the course, **work must be completed on time.** Students who fail to submit work on time will be unable to keep up with the course’s progression and continuity and, therefore, can expect their grade to suffer. **Be aware of deadlines.**
- For a complete list of university-wide policies see: “Student Rights and Responsibilities” at: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/student-rights-responsibilities/>

## Honor Code

**Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses.** Students that engage in academic dishonesty discredit not only themselves, but also the reputation of the university and, therefore, damage the reputation of their fellow students and weaken the value of a Mason degree. Students will abide by the University's Academic Honor Code. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the applicable academic program.

<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/> **All assignments submitted on Blackboard will be run through SafeAssign antiplagiarism software.**

Please remember that **Chatbot is a form of academic dishonesty** if you are passing off what it wrote as your own work. **SafeAssign picks up AI generated content.** If you are having trouble with any of the assignments let me know so I can help you.

## Disability Services

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 1973, colleges are required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to students who they determine to have disabilities. GMU disability Services collaborates with students to provide reasonable accommodations that are individualized and based on documentation, functional limitations, and a collaborative assessment of needs. **If you require accommodations, contact Disability Services** at: <https://ds.gmu.edu/>.

## Course Requirements:

There will be **ONE mid-term exam (100pts)**. Questions concerning **assigned readings (50pts)**. **ONE final exam, worth 100pts**. In-class **attendance/discussion/activities count as 50 pts**. Grades will given according to the following grading scale:

|             |            |             |            |          |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| A+ : 98-100 | B+ : 87-89 | C+ : 77 -79 | D+ : 67-69 | F : 0-59 |
| A : 93-97   | B : 83-86  | C : 73-76   | D : 63-66  |          |
| A- : 90-92  | B- : 80-82 | C- : 70-72  | D- : 60-62 |          |

**\*\*\* Class review materials made available within 24 hours after each class.**

## Important Dates:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Class Begins                   | Monday January 22nd                              |
| Last Day to Drop w/full refund | Tuesday January 30th                             |
| <b>Spring Recess</b>           | Monday March 4 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday March 10th |
| Last Day of Class              | Monday April 29th                                |
| Final Exam                     | Monday May 6th (7.30pm – 10.15pm)                |

## Weekly Schedule

### Module 1: Foundations and Classical Era (8,000 BCE – 600 CE)

**Week 1: Monday January 22nd:** Introduction, Course Overview, Prehistory, and Classical Civilizations.

- **No assigned readings for this week.**
  - Lecture: Migration, Early Civilization, and Classical Civilizations.

- The Earth at Night.
- How to Analyze a Primary Source.
- Primary Source Analysis: Cave paintings and Venus Figurines, Images of Ancient Egypt, *The Story of Re*, Code of Hammurabi, Classical Art, *The Analects*, “First Sermon,” and the *Bible*.

## Module 2: Post-Classical Era (600 CE – 1450 CE)

**Week 2: Monday January 29th:** Encounters and Conversions.

- **Read Assigned Reading A and B on Blackboard. Submit responses by 7pm.**
- **Read Chapter 14 *World in the Making*.**
  - Assigned Reading (A): “Where did Agriculture Begin?”
  - Assigned Reading (B): “The Development of City-States.”
  - Lecture: Post-Classical Overview.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Excerpts from the *Quran*, “Book of Matthew.”

**Week 3: Monday February 5th:** Medieval Civilizations.

- **Read Chapter 15 and 16 *World in the Making***
  - Lecture: Europe, Vikings, Mongols. Primary Source Analysis: Song Dynasty Scroll, *An Oath of Homage and Fealty*, Sources from the Crusades, *Secret History of the Mongols*, Images of the Black Death.

## Module 3: Early-Modern Era (1450 – 1750)

**Week 4: Monday February 12th:** Overseas Expansion and Atlantic World Encounters.

- **Read Chapter 17 and 18 *World in the Making*.**
  - Lecture: Early-Modern Era Overview, Africa and the Americas, the Plantation.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Letter from Kongo, Columbus, *Letter to King Ferdinand*, *Aztec Account*, Olaudah Equiano, *The Middle Passage*.

**Week 5: Monday February 19th:** Reactions to the Rise of Europe.

- **Read Chapter 19 and 20 *World in the Making*.**
- **Read Assigned Reading A and B on Blackboard. Submit responses by 7pm.**
  - Assigned Reading (A): “Is ‘Race’ Modern?”
  - Assigned Reading (B): “Why Haiti Should be at the Center of the Age of Revolution.”
  - Assigned Reading (C): “How Slaveholders in the Caribbean maintained Control.”
  - Assigned Reading (D): “Chinese Civil Service Exam.”
  - Lecture: Japan, China, Islam, and Russia.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Matteo Ricci, Akbar, Peter the Great.

**Week 6: Monday February 26th: Mid-term.**

**Week 7: NO CLASS SPRING BREAK**

## Module 4: Modern Era (1750-1900)

**Week 8: Monday March 11th:** Enlightenment and Revolution

- **Read Chapter 21 and 22 *World in the Making***

- Lecture: Modern Era Overview.
- Primary Source Analysis: Immanuel Kant, *On Enlightenment*, Condorcet, *On the Progress of the Human Mind*, Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, American Declaration of Independence, Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

**Week 9: Monday March 18th: Capitalism, Liberalism, and Industrialization**

- **Read Chapter 23 *World in the Making*.**
- **Read Assigned Reading A on Blackboard. Submit responses by 7pm.**
  - Assigned Reading (A): African Enlightenment
  - Lecture: Revolution and Reform.
  - Primary Source Analysis: “Communist Manifesto,” Karl Marx; “On Liberalism,” John Stuart Mill.

**Week 10: Monday March 25th: NO CLASS**

**Week 11: Monday April 1st: Colonization, Westernization, and Nationalism**

- **Read Chapter 24 *World in the Making***
  - Lecture: Imperialism in Asia and Africa.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Pears Soap, Mohandas K. Gandhi, from *Hind Swaraj*.

**Module 5: Contemporary Era (1900-Now)**

**Week 12: Monday April 8th: World War I and its Consequences**

- **Read Chapter 25 *World in the Making***
  - Lecture: Contemporary Era Overview, World War I, Russian Revolution.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Wilfred Owen, *Dulce et Decorum Est*, V. I. Lenin, *War and Revolution*.

**Week 13: Monday April 15th: Economic Depression and World War II**

- **Read Chapter 26 *World in the Making***
  - Lecture: Economic Depression and the Rise of Dictators, WWII.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Mussolini, “What is Fascism?” and *Triumph of the Will*
  - Website: Holocaust Museum, Washington DC.

**Week 14: Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Decolonization and the “Cold War”**

- **Read Chapter 27 *World in the Making***
  - Lecture: The “Cold War” and Decolonization.
  - Primary Source Analysis: Coca Cola Advertisement.

**Week 15: Monday April 29th: Globalization and the New Silk Roads + Review**

- **Read Chapter 28 *World in the Making***
- Final Exam instructions made available.

**Week 16: Monday May 6th: Final Exam (7.30pm – 10.15pm).**