

HIST 125-KD1: INTRODUCTION TO WORLD HISTORY

Summer 2019

Professor John Garnett

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Office: N/A

Office hours: Online, by appointment any day/time. Available live for questions every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:00 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. KST.

Course time and location:

Online, weekly due dates.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we explore the sweeping historical changes that created today's world. Beginning around 1250, we trace key processes reshaping the politics, cultures, and economies of various regions. While Europe and the United States are part of our focus, we primarily consider Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Each of these geographic regions became enmeshed in a global system affected by far-reaching religious transformations, mercantile activity, industrial growth and imperialism/colonialism. Finally, we study the influences of modern nationalism, Cold War dynamics, and anti-colonial movements in the twentieth century. By the end of the semester, students should have a grasp of the major trends underlying six centuries of world history.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the basic facts and identify the central trends of the history of the world since 1250.
2. To interpret and approach world history in a way which recognizes the continuities and connections while also stressing the importance of historical disjuncture.
3. To understand different ways of 'doing' history, through exposure to a variety of primary and secondary sources.
4. To develop evaluative skills with which to critique historiography.
5. To demonstrate sophisticated historical analysis in both online (discussion groups) and written form (essays and exams).

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Rafe Blaufarb and Liz Clarke, *Inhuman Traffick: The International Struggle against the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Graphic History*. Oxford University Press, 2014.
ISBN-13: 978-0199334070
2. Robert B. Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Environmental Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century (3rd Edition)*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2015.
Available [online here](#).
ISBN-13: 978-1442212404.

There are also multiple readings that you will access on Blackboard under "Course Readings" or online via links provided in the syllabus or in weekly emails.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading:

Readings for this class include various online readings instead of a traditional textbook. Links for reading will appear in the syllabus, but there will also be selected readings placed on Blackboard. Two additional texts are required: *Inhuman Traffick*, and *The Origins of the Modern World*.

Class readings are all very different. They include a narrative textbook, first-hand accounts of historical moments, historians' interpretations, one graphic novel, one memoir, and a "biography" of electricity. The amount of reading varies each week, but the average week's reading is between 50 and 75 pages.

As a general rule of thumb, students should plan to spend at least **two hours** studying and reading outside of every hour of "class". As this is an online class, you will be required to also listen to online lectures and participate in Blackboard discussion boards as a substitute for in class work. In total, students should allocate at least fifteen to twenty hours per week to complete homework assignments because of the condensed nature of this course.

Blackboard Posts and Short Essays:

Students are expected to keep up with all reading and weekly assignments in this course. Blackboard Posts/Replies are particularly important as they will serve as our class discussion board. This course is structured to reward students who consistently keep up with their work and stay on top of their assignments. In your blackboard posts and short essays, be prepared to reflect critically on the material, not just summarize.

Most weeks you will have a Blackboard Post and/or a Short Essay due. Blackboard Posts will need to be posted online in the class discussion board. A Blackboard post should be at least 1/2 page long and should include critical analysis or reflection of the required reading. **You will need to create one original post and respond to one classmate's post.**

Short Essays are more formal. These will need to be about at least 1 page long (200-600 words) and respond to the question posted for the weekly reading. You will submit these online through Blackboard for grading, and they will not be shared with the class. Use parenthetical citations to cite your sources in your Short Essays (author, page #). There are 4 Short Essays.

Midterm Examination: The course will have one take-home midterm that will require writing a paper on primary and secondary sources provided to you prior to the exam.

Final Project: The course will culminate with a take-home final paper of 5-7 pages. Further instructions on the final paper are on Blackboard. All citations will be in Chicago style for the Final Paper. This will serve as your final exam in this course.

GRADING

Final course grades will be calculated according to the following rubric:

Blackboard Post and Reply	20%
Short Essays (3 total)	40%
Take-Home Midterm	20%
Take-Home Final	20%

To do well in this course you must **keep up with the readings, complete all weekly assignments**, and work hard on your papers.

Late assignments will be assessed a 20% penalty. Late work will be accepted up to 1 week late.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

George Mason University has an honor code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process: <http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/honor-code/>

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. For the purposes of this course, make sure that you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. You may not present anyone else's words or ideas as if they were yours. All work you submit in this class must be original. **You cannot submit work you have already submitted in another class.** If I suspect that you have, I will immediately turn your case over to the Honor Committee.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule indicates themes, readings, and deadlines.

Week 1: "Becoming Modern" June 24 to June 30

Day 1: Why History Matters?

- Peter N. Stearns. "Why Study History?" *American Historical Association* (1998). [Online here](#).
- Jared Diamond. "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race." [Online here](#).
- Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter "Introduction: The Rise of the West?"

Blackboard Post #1 Due

Day 2: On the Cusp of Modernity, the "World" before 1400

- Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 1 "The Material and Trading Worlds, circa 1400."
- "Mongols in World History." *Asia for Educators, Columbia University*. [Online here](#). (Note you can download and read the entire website in one document on the right where it says "Printing Transcript (PDF).")
- Listen to BBC Discussion on Ming Voyages. [Online here](#). Discussion is 45 minutes.
- View map of Zheng He. [Online here](#). Description for map [here](#).

Blackboard Post #2 Due

Day 3 and 4: The Americas Before Europe, Exploration, Conquest

- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 2 "Starting with China."
- Charles C. Mann. "1491." [Online here](#).
- Listen to Charles C. Mann on NPR on "1493". [Online here](#). Interview is 37 minutes.

- Review UC Berkeley's site on the travels of Ibn Batutta. [Online here.](#)

Week 2: "Becoming Modern" July 1 to July 8

Day 1 and 2: Columbian Exchange and "Birth" of Global Economy

- Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 3 "Empires, States, and the New World 1500-1775."
- Read on Blackboard Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, "The Columbian Exchange A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas." [Online here.](#)
- Review website on *The Amboyna Conspiracy Trial*. [Online here.](#) Review all the "exhibits."

Short Essay #1 Due July 2nd at 11:59 p.m. KST

Day 3 and 4: Slave Trade and Abolitionism

- Read Rafe Blaufarb and Liz Clarke, *Inhuman Traffick: The International Struggle against the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Graphic History*.
- View timelapse video on slave trade. [Online here.](#) Video is 2 minutes.

Short Essay #2 due July 8th on *Inhuman Traffick*

Week 3: Midterm and the Rise of the West July 8 to July 14

Day 1 and 2: Midterm due on Blackboard July 12th by 11:59 KST

Day 3: TBD Video.

Day 4: The West and Japan

- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 5 "Gap."
- Listen to online lecture on Japan/China. [Online here.](#)
- Read Primary Source on Japan on Blackboard.

Blackboard Post #3 Due

Week 4: The U.S. and the Birth of the Contemporary World July 15 to July 21

Day 1: The Rise of America, World Wars and Depression

- Listen to online lecture on 20th Century as a new period. [Online here.](#)
- Watch documentary on decolonization. [Online here.](#)
- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 6 "The Great Departure."

Day 2: Holocaust, Genocide, and the Birth of Universal Rights

- TBD

Blackboard Post #4 Due

Day 3: The Cold War

- Choose two articles on Cold War to read on Blackboard.

Day 4: The Middle East and the Iranian Revolution

- Read article on Blackboard
- Read “Book Two” of the graphic novel *Persepolis* on Blackboard.(You may want to skim or quickly read “Book One” as well.)

Short Essay #3 Due July 21st at 11:59 p.m. KST

Take-Home Final Exam Due July 25th at 11:59 p.m. KST.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.

(Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website or Academic Calendar, <http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendar/>.)

Last day to add a class: March 5

Last day to drop a class with no tuition penalty: March 5

Last day to drop a class with 67% tuition penalty: March 30

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

MASON EMAIL ACCOUNT

Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

WRITING CENTER

For help with your writing, please use the services available on campus at Mason Korea or the library. You can also get help online from the George Mason Writing Center remotely:

<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/tutoring/make-an-appointment>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.