

HIST 125: Introduction to World History

Fall 2018

Instructor: Peter N. Stearns
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Class Info: Posted to your Blackboard account

Office Hours: Robinson B, Room 344. Office hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 am, or by appointment (email to schedule).

Class Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-10:15 am, David King Jr. Hall 2053.

Required Textbooks

Stearns, Peter N. (2012) 8th ed., *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity, Combined Volume*. London: Pearson.

Important:

Please consult the Blackboard course site **before** every class. The Blackboard site has discussion questions and, often, Document readings. Click on “Course Content” on the left menu bar to find the relevant course materials.

Course Objectives and Goals

This course surveys major features of the principal existing civilizations of the world, and the major types of global contacts, as they were originally formed and as they have been altered during the past two to four centuries by the “forces of modernity.” We will try to define what the major traditional features of each civilization were, and particularly how cultures persisted and changed, and what the “forces of modernity” have been. The chief goals of the course involve enhancing three habits of mind that are essential in understanding a globalizing world: the ability to assess change over time on a global level; the capacity to compare different societies; and the understanding of the emergence and impact of global processes.

Academic Honesty and Collaboration

The integrity of the University Community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple practices to follow at all times are that: 1) all work submitted be your own; 2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and 3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No

grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

Exams, Papers and Quizzes (dates subject to change)

Wednesday, September 5	Quiz #1 on Maps
Monday, September 17	Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations
Wednesday, September 26	First Paper due (500 words)
Wednesday, October 3	Mid-Term Examination
Wednesday, October 24	Second Paper due (3 pages)
Wednesday, November 7	Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam
Monday, December 3	Third Paper due (4-5 pages)
TBA	Final Examination

Components of Grade

Class Participation and Attendance	30%
Papers (3)	35%
Mid-term Examination	10%
Final Examination	25%

Class Participation

I take class participation and its grade component seriously. But it can occur in several ways (besides the small quizzes). 1. Active participation in class discussion, at least recurrently, and I hope many of you will do this. 2. But you can also email thoughts to me, again recurrently, to show your involvement, raise issues. And 3. emails at any point on your thoughts on relationships between developments we're discussing in World History and issues in the world today. Of course, you can engage in all three options.

Date	Topic	Assignment
Mon, Aug 27	Introduction: Why and what is World History? Contemporary Issues: Globalization	Review Syllabus Think: what are the 3-4 most important trends in the world today
Wed, Aug 29	The Nature of Agricultural Societies and Early Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp 1-48 Document: Code of Hammurabi
Mon, Sep 3	Labor Day, No Class	
Wed, Sep 5	The Classical Period; Classical Civilizations: China and India Quiz #1 on Maps	WH in Brief text pp. 49-91

Mon, Sep 10	Understanding Cultures: Indian and Chinese Philosophy Contemporary Issues: China	Documents on classical cultures: Analects, Confucius; Classical China: Legalism; Faxian, Record of Buddhist Countries.
Wed, Sept 12	Social Structure, Gender and the Classical World <i>Were agricultural societies less happy than hunting and gathering?</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 92-116
Mon, Sep 17	Theories on the Rise and Fall of Civilizations Quiz #2 on Classical Civilizations	WH in Brief text pp. 116-138
Wed, Sep 19	The Post-Classical Period: Change, Continuity and the Spread of World Religions	WH in Brief text pp. 139-177
Mon, Sep 24	Islam in Comparative Perspective Contemporary Issues: Islam	Documents on Islam.
Wed, Sep 26	The World Network: New Exchanges Expanding Civilization and the World Network: Japan and Europe	WH in Brief text pp. 193-247 Documents on feudalism. 1st Paper Due (500 words)
Mon, Oct 1	Civilizations in Africa and the Americas and the End of the Post-Classical Period	WH in Brief text pp. 178-192; 248-282
Wed, Oct 3	<u>Mid-Term EXAM (1 hour)</u>	
Tue, Oct 9 (Monday classes meet Tuesday)	Periodization and World trends, 1450-1750	WH in Brief text pp. 273-306 <u>For Discussion:</u> What caused change: Technological determinism; western strengths v. western problems; “mistakes” outside the west; cultures?
Wed, Oct 10	The World Economy and Forced Labor	Handout: “Development of the World Economy” Documents on slavery.
Mon, Oct 15	Transformation of the West: The “Big Changes”	WH in Brief text pp. 307-332
Wed, Oct 17	The Rise of Russia Contemporary Issues: Russia	WH in Brief text pp. 333-349 Document on Peter the Great, serfdom
Mon, Oct 22	Categorizing Early Modern Reactions: Asia, Africa and the Americas Contemporary Issues: Middle East	WH in Brief text pp. 350-386
Wed, Oct 24	The Industrial Revolution: The West and the World: Impacts on Daily Life	WH in Brief text pp. 387-419 2nd Paper Due (3 pages)
Mon, Oct 29	Modernization Theory and Historical Change; The Place of Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 419-438; 469-484 Handout: “Modernization Theory”

Wed, Oct 31	The Development of Latin American Civilization and the “New Nations” issue The United States and World History	WH in Brief text pp. 449-468 WH in Brief text pp. 439-448
Mon, Nov 5	The US politics in global context.	Assignment: Each student should pick a significant country and write a paragraph or two on that country’s concerns and interests about current U.S. policies. Use good, relevant data available on the Internet.
Wed, Nov 7	Latecomer Modernizers: Russia and Japan Quiz #3 on Material since Mid-Term Exam	WH in Brief text pp. 485-506 Documents on Meiji, Japan.
Mon, Nov 12	The 20 th century as a World History Period; Changes in the World Economy and the “Third World” Contemporary Issues: Global Economy	WH in Brief text pp. 507-540
Wed, Nov 14	Revolution, Decolonization and Comparative Nationalism	WH in Brief text pp. 541-586 Documents on revolution and nationalism.
Mon, Nov 19	The World Economy: Global Industrialization World Politics	WH in Brief text pp. 587-651
Nov 21-25	Thanksgiving Recess	
Mon, Nov 26	World Politics Contemporary Issues: Democracy and Human Rights	
Wed, Nov 28	Cultural Patterns in the 20 th Century; The Case of Africa Contemporary Issues: Identity	WH in Brief text pp. 652-673 Documents on African culture.
Mon, Dec 3	Globalization Contemporary Issues: Globalization <i>Are modern societies happier than agricultural societies?</i>	WH in Brief text pp. 674-697 3rd Paper Due (4-5 pages)
Wed, Dec 5	Issues on Women, and Prediction REVIEW SESSION The world is a mess?	Discussion Questions on Documents
TBA		<u>FINAL EXAM</u>