

**George Mason University**  
**History: 125-021**  
**Introduction to World History 1200-Present:**  
**Meetings: Tues/Thurs 9:00-10:15 am**  
**Location: Planetary Hall Room 212**  
**Instructor: Dr. David J. Gerleman**



**[🔔 All course-related materials, announcements, and scores will be posted online on BlackBoard 🗨️]**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Today's world is intimately connected by commerce, technology, and migration yet these links have origins stretching back centuries. This course traces the sweeping trends and historical forces that have both helped and hindered the development of the modern world. Beginning circa 1200 CE we will explore some of the most important people, events, and movements that altered the politics, cultures, and economies of Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. War, trade, industrialization, religious upheaval as well as conquest and colonialism meshed these geographic regions into a shifting global system that has only grown in size and complexity. We will additionally examine how the powerful dynamics of nationalism, ethnicity, neocolonialism, and globalism have unleashed relentless forces that we grapple with today and which are destined to shape much of the foreseeable future.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Tignor et al., *Worlds Together/Worlds Apart, vol. 2, From 1000 CE to the Present, 4th edition*, ISBN 9780393922097.

### **COURSE METHODOLOGY:**

GMU's core courses are designed to promote student's personal success and complement any chosen major by molding participants into critical thinkers, self-reflective scholars, and ethical citizens. This course upholds those goals and will be structured around lecture and class discussion, however, to survey nine hundred years of world history we will have to move rapidly. It is crucial therefore that you read the text to fill in details that class time will not allow. You are strongly encouraged to utilize the wide range of online supports offered by the textbook publisher to help you tackle the material including study plans, outlines, quizzes, maps, and term flashcards which can be found at: <http://wwnorton.com/college/history/worlds-together-worlds-apart4/ch/10/outline.aspx>. Upon successful completion of this course students will be expected to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the chronology of world history after 1200CE.
- Comprehend and explain long-term changes and trends in global connectivity.
- Recognize how historians piece together the past using a variety of source materials.
- Acquire new global perspectives of people, places, and the impact of world events.

### **GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades will be based on the standard grading percentage scale of 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 59%=F. Grades will not be curved but to better calibrate your overall performance the plus+/minus- system may be applied to the final grade if warranted. You must complete all requirements in order to receive a passing grade and the instructor reserves right to determine what constitutes completion. Exams and final papers are not optional.

## **GRADE TOTALS:**

First Exam:	100 pts.	25%
Second Exam:	100 pts.	25%
Third Exam:	100 pts.	25%
Final Paper:	50 pts.	12%
Map Component	20 pts.	5%
Participation:	<u>30 pts.</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total:	400 pts.	

**1. Exams: [75%]** Three mixed format exams [multiple choice/ true-false/matching] will each constitute 25% of your final grade. All students must bring pencils, a Scantron [Form No. 882-E], and a blank blue book [of any size] sold at the GMU bookstore to all exams; no one will be permitted to take an exam without one, but you may use the same booklet for all three tests. The final non-cumulative third exam will take place on December 13 from 7:30 am-10:30 am.

**2. Map Component: [5%]** During the final exam period, in addition to the test, students will complete a separate map exercise that will examine their acquired geographic knowledge. Twenty major geographic places will be marked on a current world map and students will match the correct assigned letter with numbered description that defines or describes it.

**3. Final Paper: [12%]** This essay will be the only cumulative portion of your coursework. Students will be given a choice of answering an overarching question to answer in a reflective and well-argued essay that demonstrates understanding of the readings, historical trends, and your thoughts as to how they fit together. Paper guidelines and questions will be posted on Blackboard at the start of the semester. You must submit a final paper to fulfill the assigned course requirement. Award of your final exam scores or participation points are contingent upon that submission. **Papers are due at the final exam; stapled; hardcopy-no exceptions!**

**4. Attendance and Participation: [8%]** Participation grades are a distillation of a student's presence and effectiveness through regular attendance and active class engagement. This course is structured to reward students who come to class, complete the readings, and participate in discussion; the instructor will make a subjective evaluation of the student's class contribution at semester's end. Roll will be taken daily. If you leave class after signing the roll your name may be stricken from the list, and signing-in anyone other than yourself is an honor code violation. Participation points are contingent upon submission of the final paper.

**5. Optional Current Events Paper:** Students seeking to boost their final course point total by a maximum 15 points may submit a 3 to 4 page paper [950 words minimum adhering to the same rules specified for the final paper] which describes how a current news story connects to [and may be a continuation of] one of the larger issues or conflicts discussed in this course. For example, a recent report of an outbreak of Bubonic Plague in Arizona could be discussed in context of the Black Death that swept across part of the globe during the fourteenth century. All articles must be approved in advance by the instructor and a hardcopy of the story submitted along with the paper. Current Events papers can be submitted anytime up to the last regular day of class. All articles must be approved one week prior to the end of class. ☞NOTE: Articles must be current and come from reliable national or international news outlets: blog posts, Op-Eds, Encyclopedia entries, etc. do not count as substantive news articles. ☞

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**1.) Class Absences:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings, and if absences occur for any reason, they remain responsible for the contents of those lectures. Please come to class on time--late-comers may miss important information and announcements; late arrivals to exams will not be granted any extra time. Students who miss an exam will not be permitted to make it up without instructor permission.

**2.) Cell Phones:** Professional courtesy requires all telephones to be turned off or switched to airplane mode during class; this also applies to composing, reading, or responding to text messages. Recording lectures without permission is disallowed as are use of headphones or earbuds during classtime. If you are an emergency responder, please notify the instructor.

**3.) Laptop Computers:** Students may not use laptops during class, however, if you are a student who has a documented condition that warrants academic accommodations for class or testing please notify the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474. **All accommodations must be arranged through that office.** (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

**4.) Late Policy:** Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to course deadlines. Late work will not be accepted.

**5.) Plagiarism and Cheating:** It is your responsibility to be familiar with the Honor Code as stated in the George Mason University *Undergraduate Catalog*. Students who engage in any form of academic dishonesty fail the course and face further university disciplinary action. If you have questions about the honor system or what constitutes plagiarism see: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm#plagiarism>.

**6.) Office Hours and Email:** My office hours are Tuesdays from 11:30am-1:00pm and Thursdays by appointment only in Robinson B 226A. There is no direct office phone, but I can always be reached via e-mail [dgerlema@gmu.edu](mailto:dgerlema@gmu.edu); please allow 12-24 hours for a reply. Professors have hundreds of students each semester so be sure to include your course number/section in the subject line as well as your first and last name in your signature. For advice on the best way to professionally communicate via email, see: <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>.

☞ **Final note:** You are responsible for managing your own academic career—failing to attend class, submit assignments, or take exams can be academically fatal. Anyone seeking to maintain set grade point averages for scholarships, sports, etcetera, should take proactive measures BEFORE the semester ends. The syllabus may be subject to adjustment as the semester proceeds; changes will be announced in class and students are responsible for adhering to any alterations.

### **Class Schedule:**

#### Week 1:

August 28-30: Introduction to the course; **Article: “China’s Empire of Money Is Reshaping Global Trade,”** *Bloomberg News*, August 1, 2018 {posted on BlackBoard}: Text: **Becoming the World 1000-1300 CE, Chap. 10:** Primary Document: “The Birch Bark Letters of Novgorod”: Just for Fun: The Rise of the Mongol Empire [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP-csR\\_XuoE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP-csR_XuoE) Genghis Khan--Rise Of Mongol Empire <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAFnxV2GYRU>; The Mongols! Crash Course World History #17 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szxPar0BcMo>

### Week 2:

September 4-6: Text: **Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia 1300-1500, Chap. 11**: Primary Document: "The Hongwu Emperor's Proclamation": Just for Fun: Terry Jones' Medieval Lives: The Peasant [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn6KioEogdM&list=PLcMNaTUIX\\_mbUTs2IlqXSgmhJd-SfXWME](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn6KioEogdM&list=PLcMNaTUIX_mbUTs2IlqXSgmhJd-SfXWME); there are additional installments about "The King," "The Knight," "The Damsel," "The Minstrel," "The Monk," "The Outlaw," and "The Philosopher;" also Harem (Suleiman the Magnificent Documentary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEDWaBmKpfY> and "The Ottomans": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnlvxXnFPnl>

### Week 3:

September 11-13: Text: **Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600, Chap 12**; Primary Document: "Silver, the Devil and Coca Leaf in the Andes": Just for Fun: America before Columbus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkicPYuEv2E>

### Week 4:

September 18-20: Text: **World's Entangled 1600-1750, Chap. 13**: Primary Document: "Olaudah Equiano on the Atlantic Crossing": Just for Fun: Slave Trade of Africans to Brazil <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qX25w-TRa0>

### Week 5:

September 25-27: Text: **Cultures of Splendor and Power, 1500-1780, Chap. 14**: Primary Document: "European Views of the World"; Just for Fun: Warrior Empire -The Mughals of India [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqXI7DW\\_FwA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqXI7DW_FwA)

### Week 6:

October 2-4: **First Exam Chapters--10-14**; Text: **Reordering the World, 1750-1850, Chap. 15**: Primary Document: "Mary Wollstonecraft on the Rights of Women": Just for Fun: All About the Enlightenment The Age of Reason [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0B28\\_gwj0M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0B28_gwj0M); Why the Enlightenment still matters today Professor Justin Champion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcrYefMB3qM>

### Week 7:

October 9-11: **Fall Break October 9--Tuesday classes do not meet**: Text: **Chap. 15 [continued] + Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16**: Primary Document: "Bourgeoisie and Proletariat from the Communist Manifesto": Just for Fun: Taiping Rebellion | 3 Minute History <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaWv5cE-hM>; Karl Marx -The Revolutionary Scholar [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8gT7HN\\_fyM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8gT7HN_fyM)

### Week 8:

October 16-18: Text: **Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16 continued + Nations and Empires, 1850-1914, Chap. 17**.

### Week 9:

October 23-25: Text: **Nations and Empires, 1850-1914, Chap. 17**: Primary Document: "The Origin of Species": Just for Fun: Queen Victorias Empire Engines of Change <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ickSPXVIJVVY>; Passage to India <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEExp3DeRNY>

### Week 10:

October 30-November 1: Text: **An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, Chap. 18**: Primary Document: "A Muslim Describes why Islam has become Weak": Just for Fun: BBC Last Emperor of China <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HETE0clKM20>; Meiji Japan: Reforming a Nation Through Western Development <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPhi7mZmsSY>

Week 11:

November 6-8: **Second Exam--Chapters 15-18**: Text: **Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19**: Primary Document: "India and Self Government": Just for Fun: Joseph Stalin Red Terror of Russia  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVBzNEgtBZQ>

Week 12:

November 13-15: Text: **Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19 [continued]**: Just for Fun: The Ottoman Empire--demise of a major power (2/2) | DW Documentary  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvVLxBaN3k>

Week 13:

November 20: **[Thanksgiving Break November 21-25]** Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20**: Primary Document: "The Problem that has No Name": Just for Fun: Decolonization and Nationalism Triumphant: Crash Course World History #40  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_sGTspaF4Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_sGTspaF4Y); and Decolonization: The End of Empire? Professor Richard J. Evans <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LzatfgOQ9c>

Week 14:

November 27-29: Text: **Globalization, 1970-2000, Chap. 21**: Primary Document: "Tidal Pull of the West: East Germany Disappears": Just for Fun: Globalization I -The Upside: Crash Course World History #41 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SnR-e0S6lc>; Globalization II - Good or Bad? Crash Course World History #42 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_iwrt7D5OA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_iwrt7D5OA)

December 4-6: Text: **Epilogue 2001-Present; [Last week to submit extra credit current events papers]** Just for Fun: Timeline: Promises and Betrayals: Britain and the Holy Land  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VBIBekw3Uk>

**December 13: [Non- cumulative] Third Exam + map component 7:30 am-10:30 pm--Chapters 19- Epilogue--Final Papers due in hard copy--no exceptions!**