

George Mason University
Fall 2018

HIST 125 DL1 Introduction to World History (online)

Course No. 73810

Instructor: Dr. Gail Hook

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Course meets August 27 – December 19



13th century terracotta sculpture from Djenné-Jeno, the oldest known city in sub-Saharan Africa

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a survey of the development of the world from early civilizations to the present. Major themes include the rise and fall of governments and empires, the evolution of cultures and society, economics, and commerce, and in the end, globalization. We will examine these themes through a variety of venues including readings in the textbook, primary documents, articles, and film. **IMPORTANT: Students should possess college-level reading and writing skills. If you have a question about this, please see the instructor or your academic advisor.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of World Civilization.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in World Civilization.
- Students will develop 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—in writing and on discussion board—their understanding and response to patterns, processes, and themes in the history of world civilization.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History* (Boston & NY: Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2016), ISBN 9781319022518 **NOTE: We are using the third edition.** Be sure to get the correct ISBN number. ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK on Amazon.

GRADING AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92;

B+ = 87-89; B = 82-86; B- = 80-81;

C+ = 77-79; C = 72-76; C- = 70-71;

D+ = 67-69; D = 62-66; D- = 60-61; F = below 60

Final semester grades are based on weekly participation in Discussion Board (20% all together), two 2-3 page response papers (a mid-term and a final, 25% each), and a 6-8 page short research paper (30%). See "Discussion Board," "Response Papers" and "Research Paper" below.

• DISCUSSION BOARD

You will be assessed on your participation in the class discussion. You should submit one thoughtful comment or question on Discussion Board each week in order to receive full participation credit.

Your answer should be at least 3 or 4 substantial sentences and demonstrate your engagement with the class material. Questions and suggestions for discussion will be available on Blackboard each week. Each week is worth up to 3 points (only one post counts per week, but feel free to submit multiple posts in a discussion).

The discussion board grade is not just an average of the number of points in each week's discussion board. The discussion board posts are all together worth 20% of the final semester grade. This is calculated by the Blackboard computer.

- **RESPONSE PAPERS**

There are no formal exams for this course. Instead, two times during the semester you will be asked to write a 2-3 page (typed) response paper related to the material we studied in class. You will be given several questions to answer within the response paper. Response papers are worth up to 100 points each. They each count 25% of the semester grade.

- **RESEARCH PAPER**

You will also be asked to write a 6-8 page research paper on a topic related to this class. A list of topics will be provided but you must have your choice of topic approved by the professor. The paper should include at least one primary source, and at least one photographic illustration and a map, and all sources will be footnoted. You can use any scholarly system of footnoting as long as it is consistent throughout the paper. The intent of the paper is to reference and expand on the material studied in the class, and to explore further a topic of particular interest to you. You may also choose to include a summary paragraph that relates the historical material to current events today. The research paper is worth 100 points, like an exam, and counts as 30% of the final semester grade. More information will be available on Blackboard.

- **Understanding your "Grade so far" on Blackboard:**

In the Grade Center on Blackboard, you will see a column labeled "Grade so far." This shows your current course grade based on the work you have completed and I have graded so far. This lets you know how you have performed in this course so far. It does NOT say "this will be your final grade if you stop working now." So use "Grade so far" to know how you have performed so far and to inspire you to keep your work at a high quality for the rest of the semester!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must be responsible for their own work. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Any student found cheating, including plagiarism, will receive a grade of "0" for the assignment or exam and may also be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional disciplinary action. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, you should read through this website: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

MasonLive/EMAIL (GMU Email)

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students must follow the university policies. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>].

RESPONSIBLE USE OF COMPUTING

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

If you choose to withdraw from this class, it is your responsibility to check the appropriate deadlines and proceed with the withdrawal process.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

NOTE: This schedule is an outline only and subject to change. See Blackboard for weekly assignments.

*Each week begins on Monday, on this date

WEEK 1

August 27

Introduction to class / Getting to know each other

Read: Strayer, Chapter 1

Study topics: First Peoples, First Farmers, to 4000 BCE

WEEK 2

September 3

Monday, Sept. 3, Labor Day, university closed

Read: Strayer, Chapter 2

Study topics: First civilizations 3500 BCE-500 BCE

WEEK 3

September 10

Read: Strayer, Chapters 3-4

Study topics: Second-Wave Civilizations: Eurasia

WEEK 4

September 17

Read: Strayer, Chapters 5- 6

Study topics: North Africa 500 BCE-500 CE / Africa and the Americas, 500 B.C.E. – 1200 C.E.

WEEK 5

September 24

Read: Strayer, Chapters 7-8

Study topics: Commerce & Culture, 500-1500 C.E. / East Asian Connections, 500-1300

WEEK 6

October 1

Read: Strayer, Chapters 9-10

Study topics: Islam 600-1500 / Christendom, 500-1300

WEEK 7

October 8

Monday, Oct. 8, Fall Break, no class

(Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)

Read: Strayer, Chapter 11; and film on Blackboard: "Wild Horses of Mongolia, with Julia Roberts"

Study topics: The Mongols 1200-1500

WEEK 8**October 15 RESPONSE PAPER #1 IS DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 P.M. ON SUNDAY, OCT. 21**

WEEK 9**October 22 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 12-13
Study topics: Worlds of the Fifteenth Century / Empires and Encounters, 1450-1750**

WEEK 10**October 29 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 14-15
Study topics: Commerce and Consequences 1450-1750 / Religion and Science 1450-1750
RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC PROPOSAL is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4**

WEEK 11**November 5 *Read:* Strayer, Chapters 16-18
Study topics: Atlantic Revolutions, 1750-1914/ Industrial Revolution and Latin America, 1750-1914 / European Colonization 1759-1914**

WEEK 12**November 12 *Read:* Strayer, Chapters 19-20
Study topics: Empires in Collision 1800-1914 / World War I and II**

WEEK 13**November 19-20, Mon-Tues: Research paper work days
November 21-25, Wed – Sun: Thanksgiving recess**

WEEK 14**November 26 RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE on Blackboard no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 2. No other assignments this week.**

WEEK 15**December 3 *Read:* Strayer, Chapter 21-23
Study topics: Rise and Fall of Communism / Decolonization in India and Africa / Capitalism and Culture: The Acceleration of Globalization since 1945****(Saturday, December 8: Last day of classes)**

EXAM WEEK**December 10-11, Mon-Tues: Reading Days. No classes.
December 12-19, Wed–Wed: Exam Period****RESPONSE PAPER #2 due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16**
