

**HIST 125.001: Introduction to World History
Spring 2019**

Lecture: Thursday 12 pm – 1:15pm Exploratory Hall L004

Discussion sections:

HIST 125 302: Research Hall 202 (Endo) T 12:00-1:15

HIST 125 305: Robinson B 205 (Bristol) T 12:00-1:15

HIST 125 304: Engineering Nguyen 1110 (Endo) T 1:30-2:45

Professor Joan Bristol

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Robinson B 345

Office hours: Wednesday 1-2, Thursday 10 -11

Teaching Assistant Mika Endo

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Robinson B 369

Office hours: Thursday 1:30-2:30

This course covers the thirteenth through the twentieth centuries and explores the political, economic, and cultural events that created the world we live in. We focus on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East while taking the US and Europe into account as well. Over the period considered here these 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.

Required texts:

Kevin Reilly, *Worlds of History A Comparative Reader*, Volume 2: Since 1400.

Wole Soyinka, *Aké: The Years of Childhood*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*.

Optional text:

James Carter and Richard Warren, *Forging the Modern World*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Assignments and grading:

1) Participation (20% of final grade):

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the course, both the lectures and the discussion sections. We expect all students to participate in the discussion section, and your instructors will document your participation. To participate effectively you must read and think about the assigned reading before you come to class. In class, be prepared to ask questions and think critically about the material. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the group or have trouble contributing to the discussion, please talk to your instructor after class.

2) Quizzes (15% of final grade):

You will take 6 quizzes (1 map quiz and 5 reading quizzes). These will be simple quizzes (usually true/false) based on the class readings. The quizzes do not require any study beyond reading the assignments and paying attention in class. There is no way to make up a missed quiz.

3) Short Papers (15% each, 30% total):

Students will write two short papers (3-4 pages). Due dates are listed in the course schedule below, and assignments for each paper will be handed out in class. The goal of these papers is to allow you to engage with the course material and work on (and improve) your writing skills. Your discussion section leader is available to help you think about your papers. Hand them in BB.

4) Examinations (Midterm 15% each, final 20%, 35% total):

The course will have an in-class midterm and a cumulative final examination. Both will have identifications (matching or short answer) and essay questions. The questions will cover material from the readings and lectures.

To do well in this course you must come to class, read weekly, take part in discussions, and put time and energy into writing your papers.

Class policies:

- 1) You may bring a drink to class. Do not bring food to class.
- 2) If you use a laptop please sit in the front row so that you do not distract other students.
- 3) If a paper is late you must speak to me to make arrangements with me to hand it in. If you hand it in without making arrangements there is a possibility that you will not get credit for the paper.
- 4) Quizzes are taken at the beginning of class. If you miss a quiz you cannot make it up.
- 5) You are responsible for keeping track of assignments and the class schedule. I suggest that you exchange email addresses with another student so that you can catch up on any notes or assignments that you might miss.

Academic Accommodations:

If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <https://ds.gmu.edu/>. Accommodations are arranged through that office.

Honor Code:

This class operates under GMU's Honor Code, which states, "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Plagiarism means presenting another person's words, ideas, or arguments as your own without giving that person credit. I am obligated to report all violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Committee. See <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/> for more information about the GMU honor code and violations.

Class schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Tuesday 1/22 Discussion section (go to your section meeting – see above): Introduction to the course.

Week 2: Before European Hegemony, The World System 1250-1450

Thursday 1/24 Lecture

Tuesday 1/29 Discussion section: **Map quiz**

Assignment (to be done before discussion section on Tuesday):

- 1) Reilly, Introduction for Students,” (Reilly, ix-xiii).
- 2) Reilly, “Overseas Expansion in the Early Modern Period,” (Reilly, 514-517).
- 3) Ma Huan, “On Calicut, India, 1433” (Reilly, 527-534).
- 4) Ibn Battuta, “[Travels in Asia and Africa](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1354-ibnbattuta.asp) 1325-1354,”
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1354-ibnbattuta.asp>. Please stop reading at the section labelled “Camels, hyenas, and bejas.”

Tuesday, January 29 is the last day to add classes.

Week 3: The Americas to 1491

Thursday 1/31 Lecture

Tuesday 2/5 Discussion section

Assignment (to be done before discussion section on Tuesday):

“A View from Above,” introduction to Charles Mann, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, pp. 3-27. PDF on Blackboard

Tuesday February 5 is the last day to drop classes with a 100% tuition refund.

Week 4: Contact and Columbian Exchange

Thursday 2/7 Lecture

Tuesday 2/12 Discussion section: **Reading quiz**

- 1) “Atlantic World Encounters,” Reilly, 563-566.
- 2) Bernal Diaz, “The Conquest of New Spain, c. 1560” Reilly, 566-575.
- 3) “The Broken Spears, c. 1540s” Reilly, 575-581.
- 4) Bartolomé de Las Casas, “The Devastation of the Indies, 1555,” Reilly, 609-612.

Tuesday February 12 is the last day to drop classes.

Week 5: Pre-modern world systems

Thursday 2/14 Guest lecture. The material in this lecture will appear on the next quiz.

Tuesday 2/19 Discussion section

Paper-writing workshop

Paper #1 prompt is posted on Blackboard 2/19.

Week 6: Atlantic Plantation Complex and Slavery

Thursday 2/21 Lecture

Tuesday 2/26 Discussion Section: **Reading quiz**

- 1) Nzinga Mbemba, “Appeal to the King of Portugal, 1526” Reilly, 584-587.
- 2) Thomas Phillips, “Buying Slaves in 1693,” Reilly, 587-591.

3) Venture Smith, "Life and Adventures, 1798," Reilly, 600-607.

Tuesday February 26 – Monday March 25 is the selective withdrawal period.

Week 7: The Atlantic Revolutions and Limits of Enlightenment

Thursday 2/28 Lecture

Paper #1 is due at 11 am 3/4. Hand it in using Blackboard.

Tuesday 3/5 Discussion section.

- 1) "The American Declaration of Independence, 1776," Reilly, 726-730.
- 2) "The French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789," Reilly, 733-735.
- 3) Olympe De Gouges, "French Declaration of Rights for Women, 1791," Reilly, 735-738.
- 4) Toussaint L'Ouverture, "Letter to the Directory," Reilly, 738-741.

Week 8 & 9: Midterm

Thursday 3/7 Lecture: Midterm review.

Tuesday 3/12 No class (Spring break)

Thursday 3/14 No class (Spring break)

Tuesday 3/19 Discussion section: midterm examination

Week 10: The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of the British Empire.

Thursday 3/21 Lecture

Tuesday 3/26 Discussion section

- 1) "Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution," Reilly, 750-751,
- 2) Arnold Pacey, "Asia and the Industrial Revolution," Reilly, 752-756.
- 3) "Sadler Report of the House of Commons, 1832," Reilly, 765-769.
- 4) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto, 1848," Reilly 769-776.

Week 11: High Imperialism and White Settler Colonialism

Thursday 3/28 Lecture

Paper #2 is posted on Blackboard 3/28.

Tuesday 4/2 Discussion section: **Reading quiz**

- 1) "Colonized and Colonizers," Reilly, 797-798.
- 2) Joseph Conrad, "Heart of Darkness, 1899," Reilly, 812-815.
- 3) "How Conrad's imperial horror story Heart of Darkness resonates with our globalized times,"
<http://theconversation.com/how-conrads-imperial-horror-story-heart-of-darkness-resonates-with-our-globalised-times-94723>

Week 12: Anti-imperialism, Inequality, and the Rise of Japan 1895-1945.

Thursday 4/4 Lecture

Tuesday 4/9 Discussion section

- 1) "Westernization and Nationalism," Reilly, 827-829.
- 2) Fukuzawa Yukichi, "Good-bye Asia, 1885," Reilly, 829-833.
- 3) Kakuzo Okakura, "The Ideals of the East, 1904," Reilly, 835- 840.

Week 13: The Not So Cold War in Asia and Latin America

Thursday 4/11 Lecture

Paper #2 is due 11 am 4/11. Hand it in using Blackboard.

Tuesday 4/16 Discussion section: **Reading quiz**

- 1) "The Cold War and the Third World," Reilly, 935-936.
- 2) Ho Chi Minh, "The Vietnamese Declaration of Independence, 1945," Reilly, 944-947.
- 3) Edward Lansdale, "Report on CIA Operations in Vietnam, 1954-1995," Reilly, 947-952.
- 4) "Transcript of the Secretary of State's Staff Meeting,"
<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76ve11p2/d40>

Week 14: Africa and the End of Colonization

Thursday 4/18 Film, *Wind of Change: The End of Colonialism in Africa* (2002).

Tuesday 4/23 Discussion section

Wole Soyinka, *Aké: The Years of Childhood*. Material from this book will appear on the final examination.

Week 15: The Iranian Revolution and Geopolitics

Thursday 4/25 Lecture: The (Not Very) Cold War in Asia and Latin America

Tuesday 4/30 Discussion section: **Reading quiz**

Assignment: Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*. Material from this book will appear on the final examination.

Week 16: Exam review

Thursday 5/2 Lecture

Study Guide for In-class Map Quiz

Please locate the 29 items listed below on a world map. At the beginning of section on **Tuesday, 1/29** you will receive a blank map and a list of 15 of the following terms which you will write in the correct places on the map.

Africa	Brazil	Afghanistan
Australia	Haiti	Iran
Eurasia (Europe and Asia)	Mexico	Iraq
North America	Venezuela	Saudi Arabia
South America		Turkey
	Ghana	
Atlantic Ocean	Guinea	China
Indian Ocean	Kenya	India
Pacific Ocean	Nigeria	Japan
Mediterranean Sea	South Africa	Pakistan
Red Sea		Vietnam
Persian Gulf		