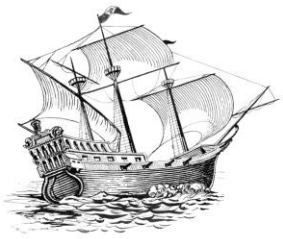
Introduction to World History 1200-Present:



History: 125-004
Meetings: Monday/Wednesday 10:30-11:45 AM
George Mason University
Location: Planetary Hall 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 being reshaped as peoples around the globe become more closely interconnected by commerce, technology, and migration yet these links have deep origins stretching back centuries. To make sense of the modern world it is necessary to examine the sweeping historical trends and accompanying benefits and problems that created it. This course begins circa 1200 CE and analyzes some of the most important people, global events, and movements that altered the politics, cultures, and economies of Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. It also explores how the forces of war, industrialization, religion as well as conquest and colonialism integrated these regions into the vast global system that continues to impact our present day and shape our future.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Tignor et al., *Worlds Together/Worlds Apart, vol. 2, From 1000 CE to the Present, 5*th edition.

COURSE METHODOLOGY:
This class reflects GMU's core courses goals to promote student success and complement any chosen major by molding participants into critical thinkers, self-reflective scholars, and ethical citizens. It is structured around lecture and discussion; however, surveying nine hundred years of world history will force us to move rapidly. Therefore it is crucial that you read and take notes from the text to fill in details that class time will not allow. You are encouraged to utilize the wide range of online supports offered by your textbook publisher to help you tackle the material including study plans, outlines, quizzes, maps, and term flashcards. Upon successful completion of this course students will be expected to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the chronology of world history after 1200 CE.
- 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 percentage scale of 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 59%=F. Curved grades are not used but to better calibrate your overall performance the plus+/minus- qualifier may be applied to the final grade. You must complete all requirements in order to pass the course and the instructor reserves right to determine what constitutes completion. Final papers are not optional.

1.] Exams: [75%] Three [3] mixed format exams [multiple choice/ true-false/matching] will each count 25% toward your total grade. Students must bring to all exams pencils, Scantron Form [No. 882-E], and a blank blue book [of any size] sold at the GMU bookstore; no one may take an exam without one [the same booklet may be used for all three tests.] The final non-cumulative third exam will take place on December 11 from 10:30AM-1:15PM. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474 http://ods.gmu.edu/ if you have a documented condition requiring testing accommodations.

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:	30 pts.	8%
Total:	400 pts.	

2.] Map Component: [5%] During the final exam period students will complete a separate map exercise that will examine their acquired geographic knowledge. Twenty major geographic places will be marked on a 2019 world map and students will match the assigned letter with numbered description that defines or describes it.

3.] Required Final Paper: [12%] This is the ONLY cumulative portion of your coursework. Students will respond to one [out of two] overarching questions by writing a reflective and well-argued essay that demonstrates an understanding of the readings, historical trends, and your thoughts as to how they fit together. Paper guidelines and questions are posted on Blackboard at the start of the semester. You must submit a final paper to fulfill the assigned course requirement. Award of any participation points are contingent upon submission. **Papers are collected individually at the final exam in stapled hardcopy form--no exceptions**!

4.] Attendance and Participation: [8%] Participation grades are a distillation of your presence and effectiveness through regular attendance and active class engagement. Roll will be taken daily--you must be present to receive credit. If you leave after signing your name may be stricken from the list and signing for someone else is an honor code violation.

5.] Optional Current Events Paper: Students may earn a maximum 15 extra points by submitting a 4 page paper [975 words minimum adhering to the same grammatical rules as the final paper] describing how a current news event connects to [or is a continuation of] one of the larger issues or conflicts discussed in this course. For example, an outbreak of Bubonic Plague in Arizona could be discussed in context of the 14th century Black Death or the discovery of the last slave ship *Clotilda* to arrive in the US can be related to the Atlantic slave trade. Email the article source link to the instructor for approval and submit a hardcopy of the story along with the paper anytime up to the last regular day of class. All articles must be approved one week prior to the last class meeting; they must be current [less than 12 months old] and come from recognized news outlets NOTE! Opinions or Editorials, Encyclopedia entries, etc. do not count as substantive articles.

6.] Current News Events: A semester-long homework assignment is for students to scan the international pages [or web pages] of any leading news outlet weekly to be cognizant of ongoing global events. Downloading the *Reuters News* app [among many others] is an easy way to get quick updates of world-wide events that have direct linkages to most of the themes and trends discussed in this course.

COURSE POLICIES

1.] Class Absences: Students are expected to attend all class meetings and they are responsible for the contents of those lectures. Please arrive on time--late-comers may miss important information and announcements and late arrivals to exams will not be granted any extra time. All students are granted one [1] open absence. Only students participating in official university events can have additional absences excused; anyone compiling more than six [6] total absences forfeits all points for this portion of the grade.

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 ear buds during class time. If you are an emergency responder, please notify the instructor.

3.] Laptop Computers: Students may use laptops during class for note taking only; abuse of this privilege will result in all computers being banned from use for the remainder of the semester.

4.] Late Policy: Students are responsible for adhering to deadlines. Late work is not 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: Office hours are Wednesdays from noon-2pm in Robinson B 226C; other times can be arranged by advance appointment. I can be reached via e-mail dgerlema@gmu.edu; please allow 12-24 hours for a reply. Professors have hundreds of students--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 how to professionally communicate via email at university 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 are academically fatal. Remember 75% of the work for this course occurs outside of lecture. The syllabus may be adjusted during the semester; changes will be announced in class; students are responsible for adhering to all alterations.

For answers to frequently asked questions see the course FAQ sheet posted on BlackBoard.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:
August 26-28: 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 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 **2** (Labor Day; no Monday class)-4: Text: **Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia 1300-1500, Chap. 11**: Primary Document: "The Hongwu Emperor's Proclamation": Just for Fun: The Peasants Revolt of 1381: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kq9sbtFCR8; Terry Jones' Medieval Lives: The Peasant https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn6KioEogdM&list=PLcMNaTUIXmbUTs2IIqXSgmhJd-SfXWME; 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=xnIvxXnFPnI

Week 3:
September 9-11: 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 16-18: Text: **World's Entangled 1600-1750, Chap. 13:** Primary Document: "Olaudah Equiano on the Atlantic Crossing": Just for Fun: Slave Trade to Brazil https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qX25w-TRa0

Week 5:
September 23-25: 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

Week 6:
September 30-October 2: **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; Why the Enlightenment still matters today Professor Justin Champion https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcrYefMB3qM

Week 7:
October 7-9: Text: **Chap. 15 [continued]; begin Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16**

Week 8:
October 15-16: **Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16 [continued]:** 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

Week 9:
October 21-23: 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=ickSPXVIJVY; Passage to India https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AExip3DeRNY

Week 10:
October 28-30: 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=HETE0cIKM20; Which Chinese Emperor are You? http://www.pbs.org/story-china/interactive/which-emperor/; Meiji Japan: Reforming a Nation through Western Development https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPhi7mZmsSY. An excellent 26 episode series about events around the globe from 1900-1999 called *People's Century* can be found at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuL26fXZ8eTNLLnugg2BTyOZQ7HT-QZk4

Week 11:
November 4-6: Text: **An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, Chap. 18 continued: 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 11-13: Text: **Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19 [continued]** Begin Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20:** Just for Fun: The Ottoman Empire–demise of a major power (2/2) | DW Documentary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvVLxlBaN3k

Week 13:
November 18-20: Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20 [continued]:** 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; and Decolonization: The End of Empire? Professor Richard J. Evans https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LzatfgOQ9c: Shashi Tharoor, Does Britain Owe Reparations? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7CW7S0zxv4 Globalization, 1970-2000,

Week 14:
November 25 [-**27 Thanksgiving Break**]: Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20** [continued]. Begin Text: **Globalization, 1970-2000, Chap. 21**: "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-e0S6Ic; Globalization II - Good or Bad? Crash Course World History #42 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_iwrt7D5OA

Week 15:
December 2-4: Text: **Epilogue 2001-Present [Chap. 22]: [Last day to submit extra credit current events paper]**: Just for Fun: Timeline: Promises and Betrayals: Britain and the Holy Land https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VBlBekw3Uk

December 11 [Non- cumulative] Third Exam + map component from 10:30AM-1:15PM--Chapters 19-22 [Epilogue]; Final Papers due in stapled hard copy--no exceptions!