

# HIST 615-004 | HIST 510-001 Development of Modern Societies

## Spring 2020

This course focuses on the development of modern societies – in the United States, in Europe, and in other key world regions. The course thus serves students with interests in these three categories, with somewhat different readings depending on interest. And the course will be actively comparative. The fundamental issue involves exploring the tension between seeing modern societies largely in terms of economic and industrial change, and taking a wider perspective involving politics, family and gender, and popular culture.

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**Class info:** Posted to your Blackboard account

**Office Hours:** Robinson B, Room 344, by appointment (email to schedule). Regular hours on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am.

**Class Schedule:** Tuesdays, 4:30-7:10 PM, East Building 134

### Assessment

Reviews and short essays 35%: each student will do two book reviews (c. 500 words) and two 5-page papers relating to a relevant issue in your region, involving reading one additional book or cluster of articles for each; one must be on 20<sup>th</sup> century, and will be discussed in class

Class participation 30% (including helping to lead at least one discussion)

Take home final 35% (based on readings and class coverage)

### 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.

**Required Texts (all books are available on 2-hour reserve at Fenwick Library, though some are accessible as e-books). NOTE: in many sessions, students choose between a US and a world/Europe option.**

### Available for purchase:

1. Nicole Eustace, *Passion is the Gale: Emotion, Power, and the Coming of the American Revolution* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), Fenwick E210. E96 2008

2. Daniel T. Rodgers, *The Work Ethic in Industrial America, 1850-1920* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014), Fenwick HD8072. R76 2014
3. Thomas Bender, *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006), Fenwick E178. B428 2006
4. George Reid Andrews and Herrick Chapman (eds.), *The Social Construction of Democracy, 1870-1990* (New York: New York University Press, 1995), Fenwick JC421. S559 1995
5. Karen M. Offen, *Globalizing Feminisms, 1789-1945* (New York: Routledge, 2010), Fenwick HQ1121. G576 2010
6. Peter N. Stearns, *The Industrial Turn in World History* (New York: Routledge, 2016)
7. Bruce Mazlish, *The New Global History* (New York: Routledge, 2006), Fenwick HF1359. M388 2006

**Available as E-books:**

1. Paul S. Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994), ACLS Humanities E-Book, Fenwick E 169. 12. B684 1994
2. Seymour Drescher, *Abolition: A History of Slavery and Antislavery* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), ProQuest E-Book, Fenwick HT861. D74 2009
3. Peter N. Stearns, *The Industrial Revolution in World History* (Boulder: Westview Press, 2007), ACLS Humanities E-Book, Fenwick HD2321. S74 2007
4. Steven Mintz, *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004), ACLS Humanities E-Book, Fenwick HQ792. U5 M57 2004
5. Dror Wahrman, *The Making of the Modern Self: Identity and Culture in Eighteenth-Century England* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004). ProQuest E-Book, Fenwick DA485. W34 2004
6. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (London: Verso, 2006). ACLS Humanities E-Book.

**ONLY on reserve:**

1. Richard Wightman Fox and T.J. Jackson Lears (eds.), *The Culture of Consumption: Critical Essays in American History, 1880-1980* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983), Fenwick HC110. C6 C84 1983
2. Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (New York: Knopf, 2003), Fenwick HC110. C6 C537 2003
3. Matthew Hilton, *Consumerism in Twentieth-Century Britain: The Search for a Historical Movement* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), Fenwick HC260. C6 H55 2003
4. Emanuela Scarpellini, *Material Nation: A Consumer's History of Modern Italy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), Fenwick HC310. C6 S3313 2011
5. Colin Heywood, *Growing Up in France: From the Ancient Regime to the Third Republic* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Fenwick HQ792. F7 H393 2007

**Class Schedule:**

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Assignment</b>   |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Tue, Jan 21          | Main Themes in Modern History<br>Issues of Periodization | Reading: John Hall article on Japan<br>Question: When does modern history begin?  |
| Tue, Jan 28          | Cultural Change  | Wahrman OR Eustace<br>Article on American character   |
| Tue, Feb 4           | “Modernization” and the Industrial Revolution            | Stearns, <i>Industrial Turn</i>   |
| Tue, Feb 11          | US in World History and American Exceptionalism          | Bender<br><b>DUE: first book review</b>   |
| Tue, Feb 18          | The Issue of China and Regions in World History          | Chapter 5, <i>World History: The Basics</i> , Stearns<br><br>Chapter 7, <i>Debating the Industrial Revolution</i> , Stearns |
| Tue, Feb 25          | Abolitionism   | Drescher<br><b>DUE: first short paper</b>   |
| Tue, Mar 3           | Nationalism  | Anderson  |
| Mon Mar 8-Sun Mar 15 | <b>SPRING BREAK – No Classes</b>                         |   |
| Tue, Mar 17          | Democracy  | Andrews and Chapman   |
| Tue, Mar 24          | Feminism<br>Also to discuss: contemporary periodization  | Offen   |
| Tue, Mar 31          | Childrearing   | Mintz OR Heywood<br><b>DUE: second book review</b>  |

|                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Tue, Apr 7                   | Consumerism                               | Hilton OR Fox&Lears; Cohen OR Scarpellini |
| Tue, Apr 14                  | Cold War                                  | Boyer                                     |
| Tue, Apr 21                  | Class Presentations of Second Short Paper | <b>DUE: paper</b>                         |
| Tue, Apr 28                  | Global History<br><br><i>*LAST CLASS*</i> | Mazlish, Zeiler article                   |
| <b><i>Wednesday, May</i></b> |   | <b><u>FINAL EXAM DUE</u></b>              |