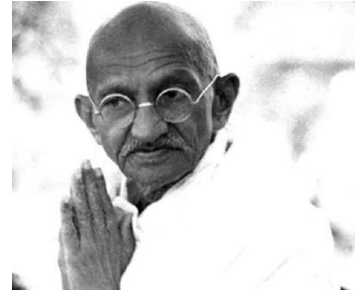


GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Department of History and Art History

Introduction to World History
Autumn 2020

Course	Building/Hall	Room	Days	Time
HIST 125/023	Online	N/A	Mondays/Wednesdays	1.30-2.45 p.m.



INSTRUCTOR:
OFFICE:
OFFICE HOURS:
TELEPHONE:
E-MAIL:

Dr Kevin Matthews
Not applicable; Mason's offices are closed
Please contact me via E-mail
Not applicable; Mason's offices are closed
cmathe2@gmu.edu

REQUIRED TEXT and MATERIALS:

1. Duiker, William J. & Jackson J. Spielvogel. *World History*, Vol. II, Since 1500, 9th edition (ISBN-13: 978-1-337-40106-7)

2. You should expect to receive additional, brief reading assignments via Blackboard which are listed in the syllabus calendar. Students will also receive material via Blackboard - maps, cartoons, etc. - to enhance the student's understanding (and, it is hoped, enjoyment) of the topics covered in this course.

COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES - Making the modern world:

This course will explore the sweeping historical changes that have created today's world by examining the interactions of the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa from 1500 to the present. The aim is to show how various political, economic, and social forces have led to a paradox for those living in the early 21st century: a globalized world, yes, but also one in which the histories, cultures, and values of nations and regions often result in conflict. Students will examine the impact of colonialism and imperialism, war and revolution, as well as social movements that are the basis for the challenges men and women around the globe will face in the new millennium.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES and EXAMINATIONS:

Because this course was designed for in-class instruction, it will follow that structure as closely as possible in this online setting. This makes your cooperation vital. It also means that your cooperation, or non-cooperation, will directly affect your final course grade. **Read these conditions carefully.** By remaining enrolled in this course, you are accepting these conditions.

My plan is to send each week's lectures to you with the accompanying visuals at the time we would meet every Monday. This will cover both that day's session as well as the one for Wednesday.

As you will see below, 10 percent of your final grade depends on "Attendance/Participation". Receiving credit for this part of your grade means that you meet the deadlines for informing me via E-mail that you have received the course material. Once the class is up and running, I plan to arrange discussions via Blackboard — again, at the time this class would meet on campus. If you have issues with these requirements — if, for instance, your work schedule conflicts with this class time — you should **drop this course** to take one of the other HIST 125 courses offered this semester.

All of the examinations will be composed of a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. These questions will be based solely on the reading assignments listed below, along with the lectures that will be sent to you. A study guide will be supplied prior to each of the three tests. The first exam will cover material assigned for the first day of class up through the session prior to the exam itself. The second exam will only cover material between the first and second exams. Similarly, the final exam will only cover material after the second exam. In other words, these exams are **not cumulative**.

These timed exams will be held during the time this class would meet on campus.

Students who are permitted to take exams at the **testing center** must obtain the paperwork regarding this matter and send it to me immediately. Once approved, you will be given the extra time allotted to take these tests. All students are **personally responsible** for knowing the times and dates of all exams and assignments. This means regularly checking your E-mail.

You are **required** to take each exam on the date set by the instructor; students are not allowed to take exams at a time of their choosing. If you fail to take an exam at the appointed time without a **documented excuse** (usually medical in nature), you will **not** be **allowed** to take a make-up exam. You will be assigned a zero grade without appeal.

Although the dates and times for the first and second exams are tentative, the final exam is set by the University. It does not conflict with exam times for other courses. Because this date is announced now, **I do not make allowances for students' travel plans.** If you make travel plans that conflict with the final exam you will, as stated above, be assigned a zero grade for this test.

Make-up exams will be given at a mutually convenient time for the instructor and student. It is up to the student to resolve the matter of make-up work with the instructor — not the other way around.

GRADING SCALE:

First examination	25 percent
Second (mid-term) examination	30 percent
Final examination	35 percent
Classroom participation/attendance/quizzes:	10 percent
Total:	<hr/> 100 percent

90-100 A - signifies **remarkable, outstanding** work showing complete mastery of the subject.
 A+ 97 - 100
 A 93 - 96.9
 A- 90 - 92.9

80-89 B - signifies work that is **above the average** expectations for this course.
 B+ 87 - 89.9
 B 82 - 86.9
 B- 80 - 81.9

70-79 C - signifies work that meets **average** university standards.
 C+ 77 - 79.9
 C 72 - 76.9
 C- 70 - 71.9

60-69 D - signifies work that is far **below average** but which is passable.

59-below F - signifies failure.

I do not grade on a curve. Nor is it possible to offer extra credit work - for any reason. Students should instead devote their energies to the assignments laid out in this syllabus. If a student merits an “A”, that is the grade that he or she will receive. At the same time, I do not distribute grades based on some sort of percentage basis, meaning that only a certain number of students can earn an “A”, a certain number a “B”, and so forth. If every student deserves an “A”, that is the grade that each student will be given. Having said that, I again point out that “A” work as defined above is genuinely outstanding and shows complete mastery of the subject. While I hope that every student will strive to meet this standard, **it will not be easy to obtain such a grade.**

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION & RELATED ISSUES:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. You should contact me about this matter immediately so that ODS can plan for the specific accommodation to assist you.

Cheating and plagiarism - **Either offense will constitute grounds for failing the course.** The university has a code governing academic ethics. Any student who is caught cheating on a quiz or exam or who plagiarizes will have his or her case sent to the Dean's Office for adjudication.

IMPORTANT DATES & READING ASSIGNMENTS:

{**NOTE:** Each session's readings are set out below. You are required to have these readings completed in time for the session in which they are given. As you will see, some of the reading assignments are heavier than others. However, you are only required to read the pages and/or sections given in parentheses () following each chapter number. For example, for Week 2 , you are required to read Chapter 18 only up to the section numbered 18-3; you may stop there for that week's readings. If you look further, you will see that the rest of Chapter 18 is assigned for other sessions.}

Week 1 24 – 28 August A trip around the world — circa 1500

We have traversed more than 100,000 li [Chinese mile] of immense water spaces and set eyes on barbarian regions far away hidden in a blue transparency of light vapors.

- Zhen He, Chinese explorer, 1432

24th - **First session of HIST 125/023**

Readings: Chp 14, 16, 17

Week 2 31 August – 4 September The Scientific Revolution & the Enlightenment

I think, therefore I am.

- René Descartes, French scientist, 1637

Readings: Chp 15, Chp 18 (stop at section 18-3)

Week 3 7 – 11 September **America's Revolution as a global event**

If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.
- Abigail Adams to John Adams, 1776

Readings: Chp 18 (p. 521-524; skip section 18-4 "Toward a New Political Order"); the American *Declaration of Independence* & the U.S. Constitution (to be sent by the instructor)

Week 4 14 – 18 September **The French Revolution & beyond**

My arm shall not rest nor my mind be at peace until I have broken the chains that bind me by the will and power of Spain.
- Simón Bolívar, South American revolutionary, c. 1805

Readings: Chp 18 (p. 527 to the end of the chapter); Chp 20 (stop at section 20-2)

Week 5 21 – 25 September **The Industrial Revolution**

Hegel remarks somewhere that all facts and personages of great importance in world history occur, as it were, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.
- Karl Marx, 1852

21st - **First examination** (tentative)

Readings: Chapter 19 (stop at section 19-3e)

Week 6 28 September – 2 October **America's Civil War and the rise of nationalism**

Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S.; and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.
- Frederick Douglass, 1863

Readings: Chp 19 (Section 19-4 to the end of the chapter; Chp 20 (p. 584 to section 20-3)

Week 7 5 – 9 October **Imperialism**

We cannot wait for our neighbor countries to become so civilized that all may combine together to make Asia progress. We would do better to treat China and Korea in the same way as do the Western nations.

- Fukuzawa Yukichi, 1885

Readings: Chp 21-22

Week 8 12 – 16 October **The Great War: Europe & beyond**

Mother, if God spares me to get home safe, I will have something awful to tell you. If Hell is any worse, I would not like to go to it.

- Herbert Beattie, 17-year-old soldier, at the Somme, 1916

Readings: Chp 23, pp. 664-676 & pp. 680-684

Week 9 19 – 23 October **Bolshevism & fascism**

Freedom only for the supporters of the government, only for the members of one party — however numerous they may be — is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently.

- Rosa Luxemburg, Polish-German revolutionary, 1918

Readings: Chp 23 (section 23-3 to p. 680 & section 23-4e); Chp 25 (stop at section 25-1c)

Week 10 26 – 30 October **The Great Depression as a global phenomenon**

[Asked if there was any historical parallel to the Great Depression:] *Yes. It was called the Dark Ages, and it lasted 400 years.*

- John Maynard Keynes, British economist, 1932

26th - **Second examination** (tentative)

Readings: Chp 23 (Section 23-4, except for 23-4e, to the end of the chapter); Chp 24

Week 11 2 – 6 November

Appeasement & the road to war

Nothing is won forever unless you fight for it.

- Ruth Davidow, U.S. nurse, Spanish Civil War, 1936-39

Readings: Chp 25 (section 25-1c - stop at section 25-3)

Week 12 9 – 13 November

Into the abyss: World War II

What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible they do not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them until they have been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?

- Winston Churchill addressing the US Congress, 1941

Readings: Chp 25 (section 25-3 to the end of the chapter)

Week 13 16 – 20 November

Life in the Cold War

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.

- George Orwell, preface to his novel, *Animal Farm*

Readings: Chp 26-27

Week 14 23 – 27 November

The end of imperialism

I am not less life-loving than you are. But I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free.

- Nelson Mandela, 1985

25th – 29th – Thanksgiving break; **HIST 125** will not meet on Wednesday, the 25th

Readings: Chp 29, 30

Week 15 30 November – 4 December **The dawning of the rest of your lives**

The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know.

- Harry Truman

2nd - Last session of HIST 125/023

Readings: Chp 28

Week 16 9 December

Final exam 1.30 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.

9th - Final exam for HIST 125/023

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.