

# Introduction to World History: 1200-Present

History: 125-DLG

Fall 2020 Syllabus

George Mason University

Instructor: Dr. David J. Gerleman



## **SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS STATEMENT:**

*All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to take Safe Return to Campus Training prior to visiting campus. Training is available in Blackboard (<https://mymason.gmu.edu>). Students are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage ([www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-plan](http://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-plan)). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily, seven days a week. If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get tested.*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

History is a prism through which we can view the past in order to better understand the present and perhaps even reveal hints of the future. Today's world is being reshaped and remolded as peoples around the globe become more closely interconnected by commerce, technology, migration, and even sickness and disease. Yet these links have origins harkening back centuries and consequences stretching far into the future. To make sense of how the modern world came into being it is necessary to examine the sweeping historical trends and problems that shaped it. This course begins circa 1000 CE and analyzes some of the most impactful 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 war, industrialization, religion as well as conquest and colonialism not only molded these regions, but will continue serving as catalysts shaping our future.

## **COURSE THEMES:**

The course is underpinned by five overarching 'big picture' themes providing a multifaceted examination of global history; these categories can be used to organize and compare global changes and interconnectivity.

**Theme 1 Humans and the Environment:** Demography, Disease and Death • Migration and Settlement Patterns • Inventions and Technology • Climate Change

**Theme 2 Cultural and Religious Development and Interaction:** Beliefs, Philosophies, and Ideologies • Thought and Knowledge • Arts and Architecture • Science

**Theme 3 State-Building, Expansion, and War:** Political Structures and Forms of Government • Empire Building and Colonialism • Nations and Nationalism • Revolts and Revolutions

**Theme 4 Creation of Economic Systems:** Agriculture • Trade and Commerce • Labor Systems and Industrialization • Capitalism, Socialism, Utopianism, Fascism, and Communism

**Theme 5 Transformation of Social Structures:** Gender Roles, Family Relations, and Sexual Freedoms • Racial Constructions • Social and Economic Classes • Modernity

## **COURSE METHODOLOGY:**

Integrated into this course are GMU's CORE goals to promote success and complement any major by molding students into critical thinkers, self-reflective scholars, and ethical citizens. Upon successful completion of this course students are expected to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the chronology of world history after 1000 CE.
- Comprehend and explain long-term changes and trends in global connectivity.
- Develop and utilize professional research, analytical, evaluation, reading, and writing skills.

- Recognize how historians piece together the past using a variety of source materials.
- Acquire new global perspectives of people, places, and the impact of history upon current world events.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:**

The course is asynchronous which means that there will be no officially set meeting times. HOWEVER: course materials will be posted on blackboard on Mondays and Wednesdays with quizzes and exams taking place online on Fridays. Asynchronous courses have positives and negatives--it allows student's time flexibility to work at their own pace, but with freedom comes responsibility, meaning students must actually do the work assigned and on schedule.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

The official textbook is **Tignor et al., *Worlds Together/Worlds Apart, vol. 2, From 1000 CE to the Present, 5th edition*** available to you in a variety of formats to rent or buy. If you have an earlier version, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> editions, they likely can be used without difficulty; *however*, you may miss out on recent updates or ability to access to Norton’s online website via a set code provided when purchased. Surveying a thousand years of world history will force us to move rapidly, so it is crucial that you read the assigned chapters to fill in missing details. Textbooks are never a thrilling read, so put aside the standards you have for pleasure reading; it is better to think of the text as a users manual that contains important information and explanations that you need to weigh and consider. One of your most important tasks as a student is to learn how to grapple with large amounts of information and decipher what are the most important themes and trends.

**ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

Primary source materials to enhance understanding to the people and events discussed in each chapter will be posted for each weekly module. These selected readings are also found in the text and assigned in the course schedule. Applicable current news story may also be sent out and students are encouraged to pay attention to the web pages of leading international news outlets to follow current events. The *Reuters News* app efficiently gives quick updates of events that link to many course themes and it allows you to consider how constantly the past impacts the present.

**ONLINE LECTURE PRESENTATIONS:**

These are the PowerPoint slides that normally would accompany in-person lectures containing important [but not exhaustive] highlights of the chapters in a very condensed manner along with illustrative pictures and maps. They currently lack voice-over narration, but improvements are underway.

**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. Grades are NOT curved but to better calibrate your overall performance the plus/minus- qualifier may be applied to the final grade. **You must complete all set requirements to pass this course;** the instructor reserves right to determine what constitutes completion. **Final papers are not optional.**

**1.] Exams and Quizzes:** There are three exams [100 pts each] and six quizzes [24 pts each] comprised of multiple choice/ true-false or matching questions. [\*Note: You will not be tested on dates—if a date appears in a question it will be correct! It is important, however, that you have a sense of chronology and the general flow of events.] **All exams and quizzes will take place online via Blackboard and you will be required to use the *Respondus* lockdown browser to**

<b><u>GRADE TOTALS:</u></b>		
Exam 1:	100 pts.	20%
Exam 2:	100 pts.	20%
Exam 3:	100 pts.	20%
Bi-weekly Quizzes	144 pts.	26%
Final Paper:	50 pts.	10%
Map Component	20 pts.	4%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>514 pts.</b>	

**complete them.** You should find the necessary link under the My-Mason tab on your Blackboard page if you have not used it before. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474 <http://ods.gmu.edu/> if you have a documented condition requiring additional testing accommodations and please see this update from the Office of Disability Services for their COVID 19 services and operations: <https://ds.gmu.edu/response-to-covid-19/>

**a.] Guidance Sheets:** Students will receive a guidance sheet for each assigned chapter to help focus your studies and including key terms. They contain a synopsis highlighting the general content of the chapter, providing general questions for consideration in addition to reading, online view suggestions, and related movie and internet web pages to help your further explore people, places, and topics. There is no right or wrong way to study--just find a system that works best for you.

**b.] Online Viewing Recommendations:** Crash Course World History on Youtube.com offer excellent and condensed mini-lectures of all the themes covered in this course. It is available in World History, European, and American History versions [with a good deal of cross-pollination between them]. John Green's 15 minute installments explore the major events and trends in world history [along with some feeble attempts at humor] that do more in a limited time than could effectively be done in class. You can find the full range of selections below [FYI--although the World History selections start in the ancient world, we are entering the global story circa 1000 CE] Your suggestions for new viewing option are welcomed!

Crash Course World History:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja\\_N5s1l&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja_N5s1l&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9)

Crash Course European History:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhtuC9dp0Hk&list=PL8dPuualjXtMsMTfmRomkVQG8AqrAmJFX>

Crash Course American History:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E9WU9TGrec&list=PL8dPuualjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s>

**c.] Improvement Bonus Dividend:** If you demonstrate improvement by scoring higher on your final exam than on the second exam, the positive point difference will be added to your total course points. [\*If you scored 75 on the second exam and 85 on the final then 10 additional points would be awarded to you!] The maximum point dividend award is capped at 35 points.

**2.] Map Component:** A map exercise will give students the chance to demonstrate their geographic knowledge at the end of the semester. Twenty-two major geographic places will be marked on a 2020 world map and students will match the assigned letter with numbered description that defines or describes it using references descriptions encountered throughout the semester.

**3.] REQUIRED Final Paper:** Final papers and the map component are the ONLY cumulative portions of your coursework. Students will respond to **one** [of three] overarching questions by writing a reflective and well-argued essay that demonstrates an understanding of the readings, lecture, historical trends, and your thoughts as to how they fit together. Paper guidelines and questions will be posted on Blackboard at the start of the semester. **You must submit a final paper to fulfill the assigned course requirement. Papers are submitted to the instructor via email the day of the final exam to dgerlema@gmu.edu.**

**5.] OPTIONAL Current Events Paper:** Students may earn 15 extra points by submitting a 4 page [1000 words] paper explaining how a current news event connects to [or is a continuation of] one of the historical trends or issues discussed in this course. For example, recent cases of Bubonic Plague in the U.S. could be discussed in context of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Black Death or the discovery of the *Clotilda*, the last slave ship to arrive in the US, can be related to the Atlantic slave trade. **You MUST email the article source link to the instructor for approval and submit a digital copy of the story along with your 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 from recognized news outlets **NOTE! Opinions, editorials or encyclopedias do not count.**

## STANDARD COURSE POLICIES

**1.] Blackboard:** Logging on to the site gives you access to all course-related materials, announcements, scores, and exams. It will be the means by which the course is conducted. **Additional online study tools can be found at:** <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldstogether5>

**2.] Late Policy:** Students are responsible for adhering to all deadlines. Late work is not accepted.

**3.] 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>.

**4.] Office Hours and Email:** As the course is asynchronous, there will be no formally set office hours, BUT anytime you have a question, email me at [dgerlema@gmu.edu](mailto:dgerlema@gmu.edu) and I will respond as quickly as possible. I am also happy to arrange to meet with students individually via ZOOM to answer questions or discuss difficulties with the material. Never be shy about ASKING if assistance is needed! Remember when emailing professors often 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 the university level 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 submit assignments or take exams are academically fatal. This syllabus may be adjusted as needed throughout the course.

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

### Class Schedule:

#### Week 1:

August 24/26/28: 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”

#### Week 2:

August 31-September 2/4: Text: **Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia 1300-1500, Chap. 11:** Primary Document: “The Hongwu Emperor’s Proclamation”; **Online Quiz #1 [Sept. 4]**

#### Week 3:

September 7 [holiday] /9/11: Text: **Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600, Chap 12:** Primary Document: “Silver, the Devil and Coca Leaf in the Andes”

#### Week 4:

September 14/16/18: Text: **World’s Entangled 1600-1750, Chap. 13:** Primary Document: “Olaudah Equiano on the Atlantic Crossing”; **Online Quiz #2 [Sept 18]**

#### Week 5:

September 21/23/25: Text: **Cultures of Splendor and Power, 1500-1780, Chap. 14:** Primary Document: “European Views of the World”

#### Week 6:

September 28/30/October 2: **First Exam Chapters--10-13 [Oct. 2];** Text: **Reordering the World, 1750-1850, Chap. 15:** Primary Document: “Mary Wollstonecraft on the Rights of Women”

Week 7:

October 5/7/9: **Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16 [continued]**: Primary Document: “Bourgeoisie and Proletariat from the Communist Manifesto”; **Online Quiz #3 [Oct. 9]**

Week 10:

October 12 [holiday] 13/14/16: Text: **Nations and Empires, 1850-1914, Chap. 17**: Primary Document: “The Origin of Species”

Week 11:

October 19/21/23: Text: **An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, Chap. 18**: Primary Document: “A Muslim Describes why Islam has become Weak”; **Online Quiz #4 [Oct 23]**

Week 12:

October 26/28/30: Text: **An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, Chap. 18 continued**: Text: **Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19**: Primary Document: “India and Self Government

Week 13:

November 2/4/6: Text: **Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19 [continued]** Begin Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20** **Second Exam--Chapters 14-17 [Nov. 6]**

Week 14:

November 9/11/13: Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20 [continued]**: Primary Document: “The Problem that has No Name”; **Online Quiz #5 [Nov. 13]**

Week 15:

November 11/16/18/20: Text: **Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20 [continued]**. Begin Text: **Globalization, 1970-2000, Chap. 21**: “Tidal Pull of the West: East Germany Disappears”

Week 16:

November 23/**25/27 [holiday]**; Text: **Globalization, 1970-2001 Chap. 21 [continued]**

Week 17:

November 30-December 2/4: Text: **Epilogue 2001-Present [Chap. 22]** **Online Quiz #6 [Dec. 4]** **All Current Events extra credit papers due!**

Week 18:

**Final Exam December 11: Final Exam--Chapters 18-22 [Epilogue] + map component + Final Papers Due!**

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Have a safe and effective semester—Let’s get through it together!