

HIST100-K01: HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Spring 2021
Professor John Garnett
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Office: N/A
Office hours: Online, by appointment any day/time.

Course time and location:
Asynchronous online, weekly due dates
Optional synchronous, Monday/Wednesday
5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. KST

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to enable students to gain a more thorough understanding of “the West” from its Mediterranean origins to its role in producing the modern world. The course will begin with a consideration of the context behind the rise of the West and begun with the world just prior to the Columbian Exchange (circa 1400). The course will revolve around four specific topics: Modernity; Industrialization, Nation, and Empire; War, Violence, and the Nation-State; and Mass Culture and Globalization. The class will fulfill three specific objectives: students will gain a basic chronological understanding of Western history; they will be able to contextualize and gain a deeper understanding of key problems faced by “the West” since the 1500s; and they will be introduced to the fundamentals of historical analysis through the extensive use of primary source materials. Emphasis will be placed upon the application of history as a means for gaining a more meaningful conception of current political and social developments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic chronology of themes, people, and events in “Western Civilization”.
2. To interpret and approach world history in a way which recognizes the continuities and connections while also stressing the importance of historical disjuncture.
3. To understand different ways of ‘doing’ history, through exposure to a variety of primary and secondary sources.
4. To develop evaluative skills with which to critique historiography.
5. To demonstrate sophisticated historical analysis in both online (discussion groups) and written form (essays and exams).

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Rafe Blaufarb and Liz Clarke, *Inhuman Traffick: The International Struggle against the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Graphic History*. Oxford University Press, 2014. Available [online here](#) from Oxford University Press.
ISBN-13: 978-0199334070
2. Robert B. Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Environmental Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century (4th Edition)*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2019. Available [online here](#) from Amazon or [online here](#) from Google.
ISBN-13: 978-1538127032.

There will be no required synchronous meetings of this course. There will be recorded lectures to help you better understand the material. There will also be opportunities to drop in during our scheduled course time for live discussions, questions, and interaction with the professor and fellow students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading:

Readings for this class include various online readings instead of a traditional textbook. Links for reading will be provided on Blackboard. Four texts are required reading in this course. Students need to purchase *The Origins of the Modern World (4th edition)* as soon as possible as this serves as the main textbook for this course. They should also look to rent or buy *Inhuman Traffick* online.

Class readings are all very different. They include a narrative textbook, first-hand accounts of historical moments, historians' interpretations, a graphic novel, and one memoir. The amount of reading varies each week, but the average week's reading is between 50 and 75 pages.

As a general rule of thumb, students should plan to spend at least two hours studying and reading outside of every hour of "class". As this is an online class, you will be required to also listen to online lectures and participate in Blackboard discussion boards as a substitute for in class work. In total, students should allocate at least five hours per week to complete homework assignments.

Students are expected to keep up with all reading and weekly assignments in this course. Blackboard Posts/Replies are particularly important as they will serve as our class discussion board. This course is structured to reward students who consistently keep up with their work and stay on top of their assignments. In your blackboard posts and weekly responses, be prepared to reflect critically on the material, not just summarize.

Most weeks you will have a Blackboard Post and/or a Short Essay Paper due. Blackboard Posts will need to be posted online in the class discussion board. A Blackboard post should be at least 1/2 page long and should include critical analysis or reflection of the required reading. **You will need to create one original post and respond to at least one classmate's post. There are 7 opportunities to complete a Blackboard Post/Reply; the 5 highest grades will be counted.**

Short Essays are more formal. These will need to be at least 1-page long (400-600 words minimum) and respond to the essay prompt provided. You will submit these online through Blackboard for grading, and they will not be shared with the class. Use parenthetical citations to cite your sources in your short essays (author, page #). **There are 4 short essays. The short essay with the lowest grade will be dropped from the total.**

The course will have one take-home midterm that will require writing a paper on primary and secondary sources provided to you prior to the exam. The course will culminate with a Final Essay of 7-10 pages. Further instructions on the final paper are on Blackboard. All citations will be in Chicago style for the Final Essay. This will serve as your final exam in this course.

GRADING

Final course grades will be calculated according to the following rubric:

Blackboard Post and Reply (5 of 7 required)	20%
Short Essays (3 of 4 required)	40%
Take-Home Midterm	20%
Final Essay	20%

To do well in this course you must **keep up with the readings, complete all weekly assignments**, and work hard on your papers.

Late assignments will be assessed a 20% penalty. Late work will be accepted up to 1 week late.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

George Mason University has an honor code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process: <http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/honor-code/>

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. For the purposes of this course, make sure that you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. You may not present anyone else's words or ideas as if they were yours. All work you submit in this class must be original. **You cannot submit work you have already submitted in another class.** If I suspect that you have, I will immediately turn your case over to the Honor Committee.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule indicates themes, readings, and deadlines.

Week 1: Introduction. Why History Matters? Monday, February 22nd – Friday, February 26th

Homework:

- Peter N. Stearns. "Why Study History?" *American Historical Association* (1998). [Online here](#).
- Jared Diamond. "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race." [Online here](#).
- Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter "Introduction: The Rise of the West?"

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #1 introducing yourself to the class and reflecting on Diamond and/or Marks reading due on Sunday, February 28th 11:59 p.m. KST. This post is required.**

Week 2: On the Cusp of Modernity, the "World" before 1400 – Monday, March 1st – Friday, March 5th

Homework:

- Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 1 "The Material and Trading Worlds, circa 1400" and Chapter 2 "Starting with China."

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #2 due by Sunday, March 7th 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 3: Columbian Exchange and Birth of a Global Economy Monday, March 8th – Friday, March 12th

Homework:

- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 3 “Empires, States, and the New World 1500-1775.”
- Read on Blackboard Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, “The Columbian Exchange A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas.”
- Review website on *The Amboyna Conspiracy Trial*. [Online here](#). Review all the “exhibits.”

One Assignment Due:

1. **Short Essay #1 due by Sunday, March 14th 11:59 p.m. KST on Columbian Exchange.**

Week 4: “Becoming Modern”: Enlightenment and Revolutions Monday, March 15th – Friday, March 19th

Homework:

- Read Rafe Blaufarb and Liz Clarke, *Inhuman Traffick: The International Struggle against the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Graphic History*.
- BB Reading on Transatlantic Slave Trade
- View timelapse video on slave trade. [Online here](#). Video is 2 minutes.

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #3 due by Sunday, March 21st 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 5: Slave Trade and Abolitionism Monday, March 22nd – Friday, March 26th

Homework:

- BB Readings on U.S. and French Revolutions
- Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (1784)
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (26 August 1789)
- Excerpts from Jean-Jacques Rousseau “The Social Contract” (1762)

One Assignment Due:

1. **Short Essay #2 due by Sunday, March 28th 11:59 p.m. KST on *Inhuman Traffick*.**

Week 6: Scientific Revolution Monday, March 29th – Friday, April 2nd

Homework:

- Blackboard readings on scientific revolution.

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #4 due by Sunday April 4th 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 7: Midterm on Industrial Revolution Monday, April 5th – Friday, April 9th

Midterm due on Blackboard by Monday, April 12th 11:59 p.m. KST.

Week 8: Monday April, 12th – Friday, April 16th

Homework:

- To Be Announced.

No Assignments Due

Week 9: The Rise of the West: Nationalism and Imperialism Monday, April 19th – Friday, April 23rd

Homework:

- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 5 “Gap.”
- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 6 “The Great Departure” Part 1, pages 175 to 187.
- Reading material on Blackboard.

One Assignment Due:

1. **Short Essay #3 due on Sunday, April 25th 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 10: The “American Century”? Monday, April 26th – Friday, April 30th

Homework:

- Blackboard Readings

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #5 due by Friday, April 30th 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 11: BREAK: No class Monday, May 3rd – Friday, May 7th

Week 12: The “Invention” of the First World and Neo-imperialism in the Postwar Order Monday, May 10th – Friday, May 14th

Homework:

- Read Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*. Chapter 6 “The Great Departure” Part II, pages 188 to 212.
- Blackboard Readings.

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #6 due by Sunday, May 16th 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 13: The “Hot” Cold War Monday, May 17th – Friday, May 21st

Homework:

- Read Bao Ninh’s *Sorrow of War* (available on Blackboard).

One Assignment Due:

1. **Short Essay #3 due by Sunday, May 23rd 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 14: The Cold War Monday, May 24th – Friday, May 28th

Homework:

- Read article(s) on Blackboard on Russia/Soviet Union as Western or not?

One Assignment Due:

1. **Blackboard Post and Reply #7 due by Sunday, May 30th 11:59 p.m. KST.**

Week 15: Globalization Monday, May 31st – Friday, June 4th

Homework:

- Read Mark’s *Origin of the Modern World*. “Conclusion: Changes, Continuities, and the Shape of the Future.”
- Read articles on Globalization on Blackboard.

One Assignment Due:

1. **Course Reflection due by Friday, June 4th 11:59 p.m. KST. Required Assignment.**

Week 16: Take Home Final Essay: Due June 16th, 11:59 p.m on Blackboard.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.

Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website or Academic Calendar, <http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendar/>.

Last day to add a class: March 2

Last day to drop a class with no tuition penalty: March 8

Last day to drop a class with 50% tuition penalty: March 15

If you have questions on withdrawal and refund dates, please contact mkaa@gmu.edu.

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

MASON EMAIL ACCOUNT

Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

WRITING CENTER

For help with your writing, please use the services available on campus at Mason Korea or the library. You can also get help online from the George Mason Writing Center remotely: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/tutoring/make-an-appointment>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.