

# Introduction to World History: 1200-Present

History: 125-007

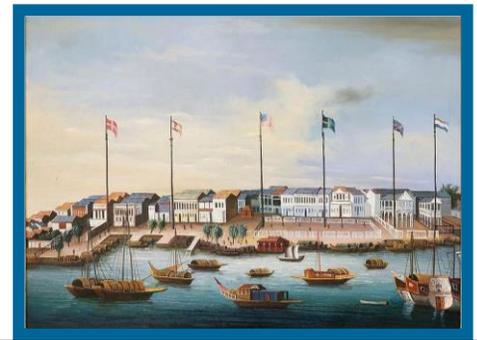
M/W 1:30-2:45 PM

Horizon Hall Rm. 1012

Fall 2021 Syllabus

George Mason University

Instructor: Dr. David J. Gerleman



**SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS STATEMENT:** Please review and abide by the safe return to campus directives concerning masking and health check requirements found at <https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus>, the Code of Student Conduct at <https://studentconduct.gmu.edu/our-process/university-policies/code-of-student-conduct/> and <https://core.sitemasonry.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus/faqs-safe-return/faqs-face-coverings>. Students failing to abide by these expectations will be referred to the disciplinary Office of Student Conduct.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Why study history? Because history is a prism through which we view *previous* human actions, desires, and miscalculations in order to better understand the *present* and thus avoid *future* mistakes. Such knowledge is increasingly important as today's world is being rapidly reshaped by interconnected commerce, digital technologies, surging migration, and the challenges of disease and climate change. Yet these events and their consequences have origins dating back many centuries. This lecture course introduces students to *some* of the most impactful people, events, and movements that changed the politics, cultures, and economies of Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East beginning circa 1000 CE. It also explores how industrialization, religion, war, conquest, and colonialism have altered these regions and continue to influence the future.

**COURSE THEMES:** Five overarching 'big picture' themes underpin this course providing a multifaceted approach to global history. These categories can be used to understand 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

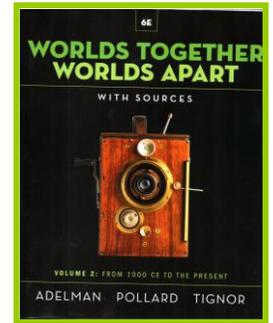
**Theme 5** Transformation of Social Structures: Gender Roles, Family Relations, and Sexual Freedoms • Racial Constructions • Social and Economic Classes • Modernity • Mass Societies

**COURSE METHODOLOGY:** GMU's CORE goals for success are integrated into this by molding students into critical thinkers, self-reflective scholars, and informed and ethical citizens enabling students 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 world events.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:** Lecture meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:45 PM in Horizon Hall Rm. 1012. As with any new building, necessary adjustments and glitches may need to be worked out. All relative course materials will be posted on Blackboard with quizzes and exams taking place online using the Respondus lockdown browser. A final paper will be due at the end of the course.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** One of your most important tasks as a student is to learn how to process and grapple with large amounts of information and to identify important themes, events, and trends. Surveying a thousand years of world history necessitates a rapid pace so it is crucial that you read the assigned chapters to pair with lecture and other readings. The official course textbook is **Adelman, Pollard, and Tignor, *Worlds Together/Worlds Apart, vol. 2, From 1000 CE to the Present, 6th edition*** which is available in a variety of formats for rent or purchase [<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393532074>]. Earlier versions, such as the 5<sup>th</sup> edition *may* be used PROVIDED you accept responsibility that updates, new information or ability to access to Norton's online website could be lacking. Textbooks are not pleasure reading so do not judge them by those standards, rather approach them as a necessary manual containing important information and explanations.



**GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Grades are based on standard percentage scales of 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 59%=F and are NOT curved. However, to better calibrate your overall performance the plus+/minus- qualifier may be applied to the final grade. **Final papers are not optional. You must complete all set requirements to pass this course;** the instructor reserves right to determine what constitutes completion.

**I.] Exams and Quizzes:** To gage your absorption of course content and ideas there will be three exams [100 pts each] and six quizzes [24 pts each] comprised of multiple choice/ true-false or matching/ identification questions. **All exams and quizzes will take place online via Blackboard using GMU's LockDown browser.** [\*Note: You will not be tested on dates—if a date appears in a question it will be correct!]

<b>GRADE TOTALS:</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>	

**II.] Map Component:** At the end of the semester a map exercise will give students the chance to demonstrate their geographic knowledge. Twenty-two major geographic places will be marked on a 2021 world map and students will match the assigned letter with numbered description that defines or describes it using references descriptions comprehensively encountered throughout the semester.

**III.] REQUIRED Final Paper:** 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 are posted on Blackboard at the start of the semester. **You must submit a final paper to fulfill a course requirement. Send papers in pdf format via email [dgerlema@gmu.edu](mailto:dgerlema@gmu.edu) before 11:59 PM on December 8.**

**IV.] Bonus-Credit Selections: Current Events/ Public History Paper or PowerPoint Presentation: [15 pts.] All submissions due by the last day of class 3 December.**

**Option #1** Students may write a 4 page [1000 words] paper explaining how a 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. **You MUST email the article source link to the instructor** for approval BEFORE the last week of class; they must be less than 12 months old and from recognized news outlets. **NOTE! Opinions and editorials are not allowed! Submit a pdf copy of the story along with your paper at anytime up to the last official day of class.**

**Option #2** Students may submit a 4 page [1000 words] paper themed *My Encounters with Public History* in which you chronicle at least four examples of public history that you have recently encountered on GMU's campus or the local area. Describe the type or form of public history represented, the conveyed meaning or intent behind its construction in a public space, and your reaction to it. Does it still fulfill its intended purpose or has it [or should it] be reimagined or altered?

**Option #3** Students may create a visual presentation highlighting an individual, event, technology, or social/cultural trend that deserves additional exploration. Create a PowerPoint presentation [of 10 max. slides similar to the course lecture presentations] explaining its importance and impact. Wide ranging topics can be considered! Select something that interests you [examples might range from the Battle of Plassey, Queen Nzinga, the drinking of chocolate, the high heeled shoe, the Menai Bridge, the Amritsar massacre, hip-hop music, the spread of soccer, etc.] Contact the instructor for topic approval. You can also choose to have your presentation posted to Blackboard so that your creativity can benefit everyone in the course!

**V.] \*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!] Dividend awards are capped at 20 points.

### **STANDARD COURSE LAYOUT, POLICIES, AND STUDY AIDS:**

**I.] Blackboard:** Logging on to <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/> gives you access to Blackboard course-related materials, announcements, scores, and exams. It will be an important learning component of the course.

**A. Syllabus Folder:** Course syllabus laying out set guidelines as well as readings and assessment schedule.

**B. Course Content Folder:** Contains the following sub-folders:

1. **Course Study Guides:** Guidance sheets for each chapter, including key terms, are provided to help focus your studies. They contain chapter overviews; provide questions for consideration, as well as additional reading and movie and internet web pages suggestions to further explore people, places, and topics. There is no right or wrong way to study--just find a way that works for you or speak to your instructor to devise new strategies.
2. **Assigned Primary Source Readings:** Primary source materials enhance understanding the people and events discussed in each chapter therefore assigned readings will be posted weekly. Current news stories may also be sent out and all students are encouraged to pay attention to leading international news outlets to follow current events.
3. **PowerPoint Class Lecture Slides:** The lecture slides presented in class containing SOME of the important highlights of the assigned chapters will be posted at the end of each week.
4. **Additional Course Study Materials:** Additional aids provided by the textbook publisher [there are even more if you log onto the publisher's website <https://www.norton.com/student> with the access code found in your text.] You will find here:

*a. Chapter Outlines*

*b. Additional Primary Sources*

*c. Maps*

*d. Chronology Timelines*

*e. Key Term Flash Cards*

*f. Practice Quizzes [These do NOT count towards your final grade!]*

5. **Final Paper Questions:** Selection of final paper questions, grading rubric, and completion checklist.
6. **History Student's Tool Box:** A primer for freshmen to adjust to university expectations and advice how to go about organizing and writing a history research paper and how to properly cite sources.
7. **FAQ:** A general catch-all for questions that may not have been answered in the syllabus.
8. **GMU Support Services:** Offers general guidance on student services offered through the university.

**C. Assessments Folder:** Exams and graded quizzes will be located here but accessed only through the Respondus LockDown Browser. See additional information below.

**II.] Online Viewing Recommendations:** *Crash Course World History* on YouTube.com offers excellent and condensed mini-lectures of all the themes covered in this course and is available in World History, European, and American History versions [with a good deal of cross-pollination]. John Green's 15 minute installments on the major events and trends in world history [along with attempts at humor] can greatly augment class lectures. You can find the full range of selections below [Although the World History selections start in the ancient world our global journey begins circa 1000 CE]. New viewing suggestions are welcomed!

**Crash Course World History:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9>

Crash Course European History:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMsMTfmRomkVQG8AqrAmJFX>

Crash Course American History:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s>

**III. Exam and Quiz Policy:** All exams and quizzes will take place online via Blackboard using GMU's LockDown browser which is installed on university machines but must be downloaded from the My-Mason tab on your Blackboard page to personal computers. To understand how the LockDown Browser operates, please watch this short video <https://web.respondus.com/lockdownbrowser-student-video/>. If you encounter installation difficulties, GMU's ITS can assist you at [support@gmu.edu](mailto:support@gmu.edu). We will not formally meet on exam days in order to allow you to find a quiet and distraction-free environment in order to maximize test performance. Exams will ONLY be accessible during our regular class period with set time limits. Bi-weekly quizzes will also occur online on appointed days BUT OUTSIDE of class time with 24 hour access windows. **The final exam occurs 8 December from 1:30-4:15 PM.**

**IV.] 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>.

**V.] Late Policy:** Late work is not accepted; students are responsible for adhering to all deadlines. Make up exams are at the discretion of the instructor and are only be permitted due to extraordinary circumstances.

**VI.] Electronics Policy:** Please keep cell phones stowed away and out of sight during class time. Students are permitted to use personal laptops or tablets for note taking, but be respectful of your instructor and peers and do not engage in unprofessional activities such as gaming, email, chat, etc.

**VII.] Disability Services and Accommodations:** If you have a documented condition requiring testing accommodations and please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) | Phone: (703) 993-2474.

**VIII.] Campus Closure or Class Cancellation:** Students should always check Blackboard their GMU email accounts before class for updates and for information about changes to assignments or if class has been canceled due to weather or other concerns.

**IX.] Office Hours and Email:** Current university policy mandates office hours take place over ZOOM, but never be shy about ASKING if assistance or clarification if needed! Email me at [dgerlema@gmu.edu](mailto:dgerlema@gmu.edu) with questions or to schedule a meeting. Most time slots can be accommodated with advance notice. Remember also that professors have many students therefore 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>. It is strongly

advised that you fill out the automatic signature component on your GMU email account [go to settings/email signature] so you never have to worry about forgetting to identify yourself--your recipients will thank you!

➤ **FINAL NOTE:** *You are responsible for managing your own academic career*—failing to submit assignments or take exams are academically fatal. This syllabus and schedule may be adjusted as needed during the course.