

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD HISTORY

Fall 2022

HIST 125-011

3:00 pm- to 4:15 pm Tuesday and Thursday

Horizon Hall 2008

Professor Joan Bristol

Associate Professor of History

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Office hours: Zoom MWTR 1 pm – 2pm by appointment. Please email me to set up an appointment. I am happy to meet at other times as well.

Course description:

In the 21st century our world and our lives have been defined by rapid change. Climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic and emerging diseases such as monkeypox, increasing wealth inequality, and conflict across the globe have affected all people's access to health, shelter, food, and wellbeing. This course helps us understand our place in the global community by examining the political, economic, and cultural events that created the world we live in. We focus on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and we take the U.S. and Europe into account as well. Over the period considered here these regions became enmeshed in a global system affected by far-reaching religious transformations, mercantile activity, industrial growth, imperialism, and colonialism. These transformations produced modern nationalism, populism, anti-colonial movements, Cold War dynamics, and ecological changes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. By the end of the semester we will have a firmer understanding of how the modern world came to be.

Required texts:

Robert B Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century*

Gabriel Garcia Márquez, *100 Years of Solitude*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*.

Assignments and grading:**1) Participation (20% of final grade):**

You are expected to attend all meetings of the course. To participate effectively you must read and think about the assigned reading before you come to class on TUESDAY unless otherwise indicated on the syllabus. In class, be prepared to ask questions, think critically about the material, and talk to your fellow students and instructor. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the group or have trouble contributing to the discussion that is not a problem at all, just talk to me about it and we can figure out ways to participate.

2) Quizzes (20% of final grade):

You will take quizzes in class many weeks (there are 9 total). These will be simple quizzes (usually true/false) based on the class readings. The quizzes do not require any study beyond reading the assignments and paying attention in class. If you pay attention in class, the quiz is an

easy way to get a good grade. There is no way to make up a missed quiz but I will drop the two lowest grades.

3) Short Papers (each one is 20% of final grade):

You will write three short papers (750-1,000 words, 3-4 pages). The goal of these papers is to allow you to engage with the course material and improve your writing skills.

Paper 1 is due Friday 9/22. The assignment is on Blackboard, in the left-hand tool bar, under "Paper assignments."

Paper 2 is due Friday 11/3. The assignment is on Blackboard under "Paper assignments."

Paper 3 is due Friday 12/2. The assignment is on Blackboard under "Paper assignments."

To do well in this course you must come to class, read weekly, take part in discussions, and put time and energy into writing your papers.

Class policies:

- 1) You may bring a drink to class. Do not bring food to class.
- 2) If a paper is late you must speak to me to make arrangements with me to hand it in. If you hand it in without making arrangements there is a possibility that you will not get credit for the paper.
- 3) If you miss a quiz you cannot make it up.
- 4) You are responsible for keeping track of assignments and the class schedule. I suggest that you exchange email addresses with another student so that you can catch up on any notes or assignments that you might miss.

Academic Accommodations:

If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <https://ds.gmu.edu/>. Accommodations are arranged through that office.

Honor Code:

This class operates under GMU's [Honor Code](#), which states, "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Plagiarism means presenting another person's words, ideas, or arguments as your own without giving that person credit. I am obligated to report all violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Committee.

Class schedule:

Week 1 (8/23 & 8/25) Introduction: History and Globalization

Reading:

Marks, Introduction "The Rise of the West?," pp. 1-18. **PLEASE READ THIS FOR THURSDAY'S CLASS.**

Schedule:

Tuesday: Introduction to the class, primary sources, and secondary sources.

Thursday: Syllabus quiz (you may look at the syllabus during the quiz) and discuss reading.

Monday 8/29 Last day to add classes.

Week 2 (8/30 & 9/1) Before European Hegemony, The World System 1250-1450Reading:

- 1) Marks, 19-41.
- 2) Marks, 43-68.
- 3) Ma Huan, "[On Calicut, India](#)"

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings. THIS CLASS WILL BE ON ZOOM. The link is on Blackboard, on the left-hand tool bar, under "Zoom meeting 9/1."

Tuesday 9/6 Last day to drop with full tuition refund.

Week 3 (9/6 & 9/8) The Americas to 1491Reading:

- Jiménez, "[Defining 'Pre-Columbian' and 'Mesoamerica'](#)"
Cohen-Aponte, "[Introduction to Ancient Andean Art](#)"

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Monday September 12th 3:00-4:15 Dr. Steven Barnes will give a Zoom webinar "[How Do Historians Make Sense of the Present: Reflecting on the Russo-Ukrainian War.](#)" The talk will be recorded. This is the homework assignment for the last week of class so if you want to watch it live on the 12th you may, or you may watch the video later in the semester.

Wednesday 9/14 - Tuesday 9/27 Unrestricted withdrawal period (no tuition refund)

Week 4 (9/13 & 9/15) Contact and Columbian ExchangeReading:

- 1) Marks, pp. 69-84.
- 2) "The Cholula Massacre" ([Mexica](#) and [Spanish](#) Versions), ed. Fitch
- 3) "Spaniards Demand Gold" ([Mexica](#) and [Spanish](#) Versions), ed. Fitch

Schedule

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Paper-writing workshop (no quiz this week).

Week 5 (9/20 & 9/22) Atlantic Plantation Complex and SlaveryReading:

- 1) Marks, 85-87.
- 2) Excerpt of [Letter from Nzinga Mbemba to Portuguese King João III](#)
- 3) Excerpts from [The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano](#),

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Friday: Paper 1 (on Mexica/Spanish documents) due 9/23.

Wednesday 9/28 – Monday 10/24 Selective withdrawal period: you may withdraw (no tuition refund) but there are certain restrictions. Speak with your advisor about this.

Week 6 (9/27 & 9/29) The Atlantic Revolutions and Limits of Enlightenment

Reading:

- 1) Marks, 91-102.
- 2) [United States Declaration of Independence](#), 1776, focus on first two paragraphs
- 3) “[The French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen](#), 1789”
- 4) Olympe De Gouges, “[French Declaration of Rights for Women, 1791](#)”

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Week 7 (10/4 & 10/6) The Industrial Revolution in Britain and the World

Reading:

- 1) Marks, 103-134
- 2) Friederich Engels, [Industrial Manchester](#), 1844

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Week 8 (10/11 & 10/13) Industrialization and High Imperialism

No class Tuesday (Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday classes this week because of Indigenous People’s Day)

Reading:

Marks, 135-174

Schedule:

Tuesday: No class

Thursday: Lecture (no quiz this week).

Week 9 (10/18 & 10/20): Non-Western Imperialism and the Rise of Japan

- 1) Fukuzawa Yukichi (attributed), “[On Leaving Asia](#)”
- 2) Kakuzo Okakura, “[The Range of Ideals](#)”
- 3) Begin Garcia Márquez, *100 Years of Solitude*, pp. TBA.

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Week 10 (10/25 & 10/27) World Wars and Populism

Reading:

- 1) Marks 175-186.
- 2) Garcia Márquez, *100 Years of Solitude*, pp. TBA.

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Week 11 11/1 11/3: 100 Years of Solitude

Reading:

García Márquez, *100 Years of Solitude*, pp. TBA.

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Paper-writing workshop (no quiz this week).

Week 12: (11/8 & 11/10): The Not So Cold War in Asia and Latin AmericaReading:

Marks, 188-212.

1) Introduction (first four paragraphs) of “[CIA and Assassinations: The Guatemala 1954 Documents](#),” Doyle and Kornbluth eds.

2) “[287. Memorandum Prepared in the Central Intelligence Agency](#)”

3) Ho Chi Minh, “[The Vietnamese Declaration of Independence](#)”

4) Think about beginning Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Quiz and continue discussing readings.

Friday: Paper 2 (on *100 Years of Solitude*) due.

Monday November 14th 3:00-4:15 Olesya Khromeychuk will give a Zoom webinar, [Writing History, Narrating War](#). The talk will be recorded. This is a homework option for week 15 so if you want to watch it live on the 14th you may, or you may watch the video later.

Week 13:(11/15 & 11/17): The Iranian Revolution and Geopolitics

Reading: Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings.

Thursday: Paper-writing exercise (no quiz this week).

Week 14 (11/22): History Past, Present, and FutureReading

1) Watch talk by Dr. Steve Barnes, “[How Do Historians Make Sense of the Present: Reflecting on the Russo-Ukrainian War](#).” (Recorded on Monday, September 12, 2022.)

2) Peter Stearns, [Why Study History?](#)

NO CLASS THURSDAY – Thanksgiving.

Tuesday: Discuss video and reading (no quiz this week).

Week 15 (11/29 & 12/1): Today’s World

1) Marks, 213-248.

2) Watch [How History Writes the Present: A Conversation](#), with Anne Applebaum and Dr. Steve Barnes (November 28, 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm)

OR [Writing History, Narrating War](#), a talk by Olesya Khromeychuk (originally recorded November 14, 2022).

Schedule:

Tuesday: Lecture and begin discussing readings and video.

Thursday: Continue discussing readings and video (no quiz this week).

Friday: Paper 3 (on *Persepolis*) due.

