

# **HIST 510-001/615-002 Development of Modern Societies**

**Spring 2023**

This course focuses on the development of modern societies – in the United States, in Europe, and in other key world regions. The course thus serves students with interests in these three categories, with somewhat different readings depending on interest. And the course will be actively comparative. The fundamental issue involves exploring the tension between seeing modern societies largely in terms of economic and industrial change, and taking a wider perspective involving politics, family and gender, and popular culture.

**Instructor:** Peter N. Stearns

**E-mail:** [pstearns@gmu.edu](mailto:pstearns@gmu.edu) (best way to get in touch)

**Class info:** Posted to your Blackboard account

**Office Hours:** By appointment (email to schedule). Regular hours on Tuesdays after 2:45 (but make appointment to be sure of availability). East 207A

**Class Schedule:** Tuesdays, 4:30-7:10 PM, Peterson 1111

## **Assessment**

Reviews and short essays 35%: each student will do two book reviews (c. 500 words) and two 5-page papers relating to a relevant issue in your region, involving reading one additional book or cluster of articles for each; one must be on 20<sup>th</sup> century, and will be discussed in class

Class participation 35% (including helping to lead at least one discussion plus a contribution to the session on regions)

Take home final 30% (based on readings and class coverage)

## **Academic Honesty and Collaboration**

The integrity of the University Community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple practices to follow at all times are that: 1) all work submitted be your own; 2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and 3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

**Required Texts - NOTE: students may propose alternate readings depending on particular regional interests, within the topical framework of the course**

## **Available for purchase:**

**Note** please check as desired for used copies, electronic versions, and possibilities of sharing

1. Thomas Bender, *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006), Fenwick E178. B428 2006
2. Peter N. Stearns, *The Industrial Turn in World History* (New York: Routledge, 2016)
3. Diego Holstein, *A Brief History of Now* (Palgrave, 2021) (may also be available as ebook)
4. Florian Bieber, *Debating Nationalism* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020).
5. Peter N. Stearns, *Happiness in World History* (New York: Routledge, 2021)
6. David Stasavage, *Decline and rise of democracy* (Princeton: Princeton U Press, 2021)

**Available as E-books:**

1. Seymour Drescher, *Abolition: A History of Slavery and Antislavery* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), ProQuest E-Book, Fenwick HT861. D74 2009
2. (optional) Steven Mintz, *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004), ACLS Humanities E-Book, Fenwick HQ792. U5 M57 2004

**Class Schedule:**

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1, Tuesday, January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Main Themes in Modern History  Issues of Periodization	Reading: John Hall article on Japan  Question: When does modern history begin?
Week 2 Tuesday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Cultural Change	Stearns article on Romantic Love and Clarke article on Death and the Enlightenment  Keith Thomas article on Magic (available on Blackboard)
Week 3 Tuesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>	"Modernization" and the Industrial Revolution	Stearns, <i>Industrial Turn</i>
Week 4 Tuesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	US in World History and American Exceptionalism	Bender  <b>DUE: first book review</b>
Week 5 Tuesday, February 21 <sup>rd</sup>	The Issue of Regions in World History	Reading Cemil Aydin article on What is the Muslim World, ed. Haselby; and Emilio Lamo de Espinosa, "Is Latin America Part of the West", on Blackboard

		Each student will pick a region and comment briefly on issues in dealing with it in modern world history
Week 6 Tuesday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Nationalism and Imperialism	Bieber  Ashkat Rathi, “The Lies Brits Tell Themselves, On Blackboard  <b>DUE: first short paper</b>
Week 7 Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Abolitionism	Drescher
Spring Break, March 13 <sup>th</sup> through March 19 <sup>th</sup>		
Week 8 Tuesday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Democracy	Stasavage
Week 9  Tuesday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Feminism and global women’s history  Also, to discuss: contemporary periodization	Stearns Gender ch 11, on Blackboard
Week 10  Tuesday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Childrearing	Mintz OR “Globalization and Childhood” special issue of J. of Social History 2005 available thru JStor  <b>DUE: second book review</b>
Week 11  Tuesday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Consumerism	Frank Trentman, “How Humans Became Consumers” Atlantic 2016, on Blackboard
Week 12  Tuesday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Cold War and Globalization	Holstein; Zeiler article on Blackboard
Week 13  Tuesday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Class Presentations of Second Short Paper	<b>DUE: paper</b>

