

George Mason University
Summer 2023

HIST 125 C02 History of World Civilizations (online)

Course No. 202340.40466

Instructor: Dr. Gail Hook

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Session C (5 weeks)

Course meets June 26-July 29, 2023



13th century terracotta sculpture from Djenné-Jeno, the oldest known city in sub-Saharan Africa

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a survey of the development of the world from early civilizations to the present. Major themes include the rise and fall of governments and empires, the evolution of cultures and society, economics, and commerce, and in the end, globalization. We will examine these themes through a variety of venues including video lectures on Blackboard, primary documents, articles, and film. **IMPORTANT: Students should possess college-level reading and writing skills. If you have a question about this, please see the instructor or your academic advisor.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of World Civilization.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in World Civilization.
- Students will develop historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events.
- Students will communicate effectively—in writing and on discussion board—their understanding and response to patterns, processes, and themes in the history of world civilization.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

- There is no required textbook for this course. But if you want a world history book for your own information, try Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History, Fourth Edition* (Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2019), ISBN 978131911317-9 (Combined edition). This book is also available as an E-book.
- Additional readings and study materials will be available on Blackboard

GRADING AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 82-86; B- = 80-81; C+ = 77-79; C = 72-76; C- = 70-71; D+ = 67-69; D = 62-66; D- = 60-61; F = below 60

Final semester grades are based on weekly participation in Discussion Board (20% all together), two slide quizzes (25% each) and one response paper (30% each). See "Discussion Board" and "Article Review" below.

DISCUSSION BOARD

You will be assessed on your participation in the class discussion. Each week you will be asked to respond to a discussion question provided by the instructor, related to that week's study material. You will ALSO respond or reply to another classmate's post. Each post is worth 3 points, for a total of 6 points. Each post should be at least 4 or 5 substantial sentences for each question or topic and

demonstrate your engagement with the class. Questions and suggestions for discussion will be available on Blackboard each week.

The discussion board grade is not just an average of the number of points in each week's discussion board. The discussion board posts are all together worth 20% of the final semester grade. This is calculated by the Blackboard Grade Center computer.

- **SLIDE QUIZZES**

Twice during the semester, you will be given a set of slides related to the slides we discussed in class. You will choose one slide, explain the image on it and how it relates to our class material. Slide quizzes are worth 25% each. This is an "open-book" quiz, but you must do your own work and write in your own words. You will NOT do additional research outside the class material.

- **RESPONSE PAPER**

You will be asked to type a 1-2 page, single-space review or analysis of an assigned article or book chapter. You will also be asked to relate the article to what we have studied in class. More information and hints will be posted on Blackboard. This is NOT a group project, and you must do your own work. You will NOT do additional research outside the class material. This response paper counts 30% of the semester grade. There is no formal final exam. More information will be available on Blackboard.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must be responsible for their own work. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Any student found cheating, including plagiarism, will receive a grade of "0" for the assignment or exam and may also be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional disciplinary action. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, you should read through this website: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

MasonLive/EMAIL (GMU Email)

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students must follow the university policies. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>].

RESPONSIBLE USE OF COMPUTING

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

If you choose to withdraw from this class, it is your responsibility to check the appropriate deadlines and proceed with the withdrawal process.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

NOTE: This schedule is an outline only and subject to change according to the needs of the class. See Blackboard for weekly assignments.

*Each week begins on Monday, on this date

WEEK 1

*June 26

Introduction to class / Getting to know each other
Read: Assignment on Blackboard
Study topics: Early Human migration / Agricultural Revolution / the first Civilizations and Empires: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Ancient Greece, Alexander the Great/ Hellenistic kingdoms
DISCUSSION POSTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM Sunday, July 2

WEEK 2

*July 3

TUESDAY JULY 4 NO CLASSES (Independence Day Observance)
Read: Assignment on Blackboard
Study topics: Roman Empire 27 BC-1453 CE / Christendom and Islam, 500-1300 / Buddhism and Hinduism 7th century / the Silk Roads 130 BCE-1453 CE / Mongols 1200-500
DISCUSSION POSTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM Sunday, July 9

****SLIDE QUIZ #1 IS DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 P.M. ON SUNDAY, JULY 9**

WEEK 3

*July 10

Read: Assignment on Blackboard
Study topics: Worlds of the Fifteenth century / Commerce and Consequences 1450-1750 / Atlantic Revolutions, 1750-1914
DISCUSSION POSTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM Sunday, July 16

****SLIDE QUIZ #2 IS DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 P.M. ON SUNDAY, JULY 16**

WEEK 4

*July 17

Read: Assignment on Blackboard
Study topics: Industrial Revolution / European Colonization 1759-1914 / World War I and II
DISCUSSION POSTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM Sunday, July 23

****FINAL RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNED THIS WEEK. IT IS DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM, FRIDAY, JULY 28**

WEEK 5

*July 24

Read: Assignment on Blackboard
Study topics: The Cold War / Globalization / New Cold War today?
DISCUSSION POST ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM THURSDAY, JULY 27
Last day of classes: Thursday, July 27
Exam period: Friday-Saturday, July 28-29