

George Mason University
HIST 125-013 Course Syllabus:
Introduction to World History: 1200-Present
Meeting Time: M 4:30-7:10 PM
Meeting Room: Planetary Hall, Rm. 120
Instructor: Dr. David Gerleman ["Dr. G"]



COURSE DESCRIPTION: Studying history allows us to better understand ourselves and our place in a changing and interconnected world. Today consists of 99% of the past so being aware how *yesterday's* human actions, beliefs, desires, and miscalculations shaped our *present* allows us a glimpse into our possible *future*. This course introduces students to *some* of the most significant people, events, and movements that altered the politics, cultures, and economies of Africa, Asia, America, Europe, and the Middle East from circa 1200 CE until today. Major themes include how the forces of technology, commerce, industrialization, colonialism, and globalism BOTH fostered worldwide connections AND contributed to the increase of war, inequality, forced migration, disease, and climate change. Students are advised to browse global headlines weekly by downloading international news apps, such as <https://reuters.com/> or bbc.com/news, and note leading stories as current events will be directly tied to this course.

COURSE GOALS AND THEMES: This course fulfills GMU's CORE goals by encouraging students to become critical thinkers, reflective scholars, and informed and ethical citizens able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the chronology of world history from the 11th through the 21st centuries.
- Comprehend and explain long-term historical trends leading to increased global trade and connectivity.
- Cultivate historical literacy by analyzing primary, secondary, and image sources to interpret past events.
- Develop communication skills and ability to identify, evaluate, and cite digital and print resources.
- Acquire new perspectives of global peoples, places, and how current events connect to history.

'Big Picture' Course Themes:

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

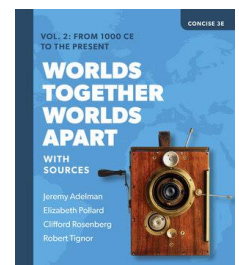
Theme 3 State-Building, Expansion, and War: Political Structures and Forms of Government • Empire Building and Colonialism • Nations and Nationalism • Revolts and Revolutions

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 STRUCTURE: Lecture meets on Mondays from 4:30-7:10 PM. All course materials and announcements will be posted on Blackboard and graded assessments take place online.

- I. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** Students must learn how to process and grapple with large amounts of information and identify important themes, events, and trends. Our assigned textbook is **Adelman, Pollard, Rosenberg, and Tignor's *Worlds Together/Worlds Apart, vol. 2, From 1000 CE to the Present, Concise 3rd edition*** available in a variety of formats for rent or purchase. Fenwick Library also has a copy on reserve for use in two-hour increments. Visit <https://publishing.gmu.edu/textbooks-on-reserve/>.



II. **GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Grades are based on the standard scale of 90-100%= A; 80-89%= B; 70-79%= C; 60-69%= D; 59%= F and the plus +/- adjustor may be applied to the final grade. Grades are NOT curved nor are assessments dropped. You must complete all exams and set requirements to pass this course, including the final paper. The instructor determines completion.

a) **Exams and Quizzes:** Your absorption of course content and ideas will be tested by three exams [100 pts each] and six quizzes [24 pts each] comprised of multiple choice/ true-false or matching/ identification questions. Exams 1 and 2 will ONLY be accessible from 4:15-5:35 PM on test days [Class lecture will begin at 5:45 PM on those two days]. Online quizzes will occur on selected days BUT OUTSIDE of class time with access time limits. Students are advised to complete assessments early as delaying until the end of the access period risks unexpected problems that may result in no points being awarded. **The final exam will be a non-cumulative 65 minute assessment on Monday 11 December 4:30-7:15 PM.**

COURSE POINT TOTALS:

Exam 1:	100 pts.	19%
Exam 2:	100 pts.	19%
Exam 3:	100 pts.	19%
Six Quizzes [24 pts. ea.]	144 pts.	28%
Keystone Final Paper:	50 pts.	10%
Map Component	20 pts.	4%
How to Cite Exercise	6 pts.	1%
Total:	520 pts.	

b) **Online Assessment Policy:** All exams and quizzes will take place online via Blackboard using GMU's Respondus LockDown browser installed on university machines but must be downloaded from the My-Mason tab on Blackboard page to personal computers. LockDown Browser operation can be viewed at <https://web.respondus.com/lockdownbrowser-student-video/>. Any installation difficulties should be referred to GMU's ITS at support@gmu.edu. We do not meet in person on exam days to allow you to find a quiet and distraction-free environment to maximize test performance. You assume all responsibility for technical problems or internet connection issues if you choose to take your exams off campus and away from GMU computer labs. Students seeking accommodations must provide documentation from the DS office and coordinate with them to complete their assessments on days and times required.

c) **Map Component:** [20 pts.] At the end of the semester, students will demonstrate their geographic knowledge in a comprehensive map exercise alongside the final exam. Geographic places will be marked on a 2023 world map to be matched with assigned numbered descriptions that define or describes them drawn from the semester's lectures including current news event discussions.

d) **Improvement Bonus Dividend:** Students demonstrating improvement by scoring higher on the final exam than on the second exam may have the positive point difference added to the total course points. [*If you scored 75 on the second exam and 85 on the final then 10 additional points would be awarded] *Dividend awards are capped at 15 points *and contingent upon final paper submission.*

III. **Required Keystone Final Paper:** [50 pts.] 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. **Sources other than the text, must come ONLY from Fenwick Library's holdings.** Full paper questions and guidelines are located in a separate course content folder on Blackboard. **The final paper is a course requirement needed to pass this course.** Award of bonus credit or improvement dividend points are contingent upon submission. Final papers are **due on Friday 8 December by 11:59 PM!**

COURSE POLICIES:

Plagiarism and Cheating: All students should 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>.

Late Policy: Students are responsible for adhering to all set deadlines. Make-up exams are at the instructor's discretion and are permitted only under extraordinary circumstances.

Electronics Policy: Students may use laptops for note-taking as long as you are respectful of your instructor and peers and refrain from unprofessional activities such as gaming, email, chat, etc. Please keep cell phones out of sight during class time; headphones/earbuds are also not permitted. Any recordings of class meetings, including audio, visual, or textual information, are not permitted without specific instructor permission. All Blackboard posted course materials, including presentations, videos, and class discussions are private; by federal law, any materials that identify student (names, voices, or images) must NOT be shared with anyone.

Disability Services and Accommodations: If you have a documented need for accommodations, 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; Phone: (703) 993-2474. No accommodations are granted without official authorization.

Campus Closure or Class Cancellation: Students are responsible for checking their GMU email accounts daily before class to keep current with posted and emailed class updates and announcements.

Office Hours and Email: In-person office hours in Horizon Hall 3220 are Mondays from 2:00-3:30 PM and other meeting times, including ZOOM appointments, can be arranged if requested. Contact the instructor at dgerlema@gmu.edu to schedule a meeting and remember to include your course/section number as well as sign your message; for advice on how to email professionally at the university level see <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html> or <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-to-build-relationships-with-college-professors>. You are strongly urged to utilize your GMU email account's automatic signature function to avoid forgetting to identify yourself.

Available Student Resources:

- GMU's Writing Center [writingcenter.gmu.edu] located in the Johnson Center offers students a variety of resources to improve their writing skills, including tutors, ESL specialists, and the opportunity to meet either face-to-face or via email through the Online Writing Lab. Book appointments early.
- *Learning Services* (learningservices.gmu.edu) provides students a wide range of services including support with learning differences, study skill counseling, and provision of tutoring resources. Services are confidential and at no cost.
- *Counseling & Psychological Services* (caps.gmu.edu) provides a wide range of free services to students, faculty, and staff by licensed clinical psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, learning specialists, and a psychiatrist dedicated to enhance students' personal wellness and academic performance.
- *Student Support & Advocacy Center* (ssac.gmu.edu) services include assisting students who are encountering barriers to academic success, interpersonal violence prevention, alcohol and drug education, health promotion/healthy relationships, student crisis intervention, and connecting students with appropriate campus and off-campus resources.

FINAL NOTE: You are responsible for managing your academic career—failing to attend class, complete assessments, or submit the final paper is financially costly and academically fatal.

This syllabus may be altered as needs require with notice provided.

ADENDA A: GUIDE TO BLACKBOARD LAYOUT AND STUDY AIDS:

Logging on to <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/> gives you access to all Blackboard course-related materials, announcements, and assessment scores, and exams. The course materials are organized as follows:

A. Syllabus Folder Tab: Course syllabus establishing set guidelines and reading and assessment schedule.

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

1. **Course Study Guides:** To aid your study focus, chapter guidance sheets are provided which contain key terms, overviews, questions for consideration, as well as additional reading and viewing suggestions about important people and topics. There is no right or wrong way to study--just find a way that works for you!
2. **Assigned Primary Source Readings:** Primary sources enhance understanding of the people and events we discuss. Assigned readings will be posted weekly with questions appearing on assessments.
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:** Folder contains:

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 grade!]

Additional online study aids provided by the textbook publisher can be found via the website <https://wnorton.com/home> and available with the access code found in your textbook.

5. **Final Paper Questions:** Final paper questions, grading rubric, and submission checklist.
6. **History Student's Tool Box:** A primer for students adjusting to university expectations and advice how to go about organizing and writing a history research paper and properly citing sources.
7. **History in the News:** Interesting stories drawn from global news media outlets highlighting connections between past people and events which continue to impact the world today.
8. **FAQ:** A general catch-all for questions that may not have been answered in the syllabus.
9. **GMU Support Services:** Offers general guidance on student services offered through the university.

C. Assessments Folder Tab: Exams and graded quizzes will be located here.

D. Assignments Folder Tab: Bonus credit and final papers will be submitted here.

Online Viewing Recommendations: YouTube's *Crash Course World History* offers condensed mini-lectures of all the themes covered in this course and comes in World History, European, and American History versions [with a good deal of crossover] which can augment class presentations. You can find the full range of selections below [Remember that our global journey begins circa 1200 CE].

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>

ADENDA B:
VOLUNTARY BONUS CREDIT OPTIONS:

Current Events Paper/ Public History Paper/PowerPoint Presentation: [15 pts.] *Only one selection may be submitted and adhere to the same formatting, citation, and sourcing rules as the final paper.* **ALL selections/topics must have instructor pre-approval** and be submitted in PDF format via Blackboard's Assignments Tab any time before our last class meeting 1 December.

- a. **Option #1:** Students may write a 4 page [1000 words] paper explaining how a current news event connects to [or is a continuation of] one of the historical trends or issues discussed in the course. For example, recent cases of Bubonic Plague in the U.S. could be discussed in context of the 14th century Black Death. **You MUST email the article source link for instructor approval BEFORE beginning;** all articles must be less than 12 months old from recognized news outlets. Opinions and editorials are not allowed! Submit a pdf copy of the article along with your paper.
- b. **Option #2:** Students may submit a 4 page [1000 words] paper themed *My Encounters with Public History at GMU* in which you chronicle how the university's namesake George Mason is portrayed through imagery on campus. Describe the form of public history represented, the conveyed meaning or intent behind its construction, and your reaction to it. What accouterments were selected to be depicted alongside him and how has representation of his public image changed over time?
- c. **Option #3:** Students can create a public lecture-style PowerPoint presentation [of 12 max. slides including bibliography] highlighting the impact of an individual, event, technology, or social/cultural trend not discussed in class that deserves additional exploration. Select something that interests you *and* has had global influence or impact. Examples might range from the Battle of Plassey, the Dreadnought, the Amritsar massacre, or hip-hop music, etc. [Online images may be used.]

HIST 125-013: Class Schedule—Fall 2023:

Week of August 21: Introduction:

Read: **Textbook:** **Becoming the World 1000-1300 CE, Chapter 10;** **Primary Document:** “The Birch Bark Letters of Novgorod”; **Articles:** “China’s Empire of Money: Building a New Silk Road” and “Ancient Mud Reveals an Explanation for Collapse of the Mayan Empire”

Watch: *Year 1999 AD* (1967) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAELQX7EvPo>

Review: Introduction to the Course PPT.

Week of August 28:

Read: **Textbook:** **Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia 1300-1500, Chap. 11;** **Primary Document:** “The Hongwu Emperor’s Proclamation”; “A Journal of the First Voyage of Vasco de Gama, 1498”; and “Three Views of the Plague.”

Watch: Crash Course World History: Mansa Musa and Islam in Africa:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvnU0v6hcUo&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=16> and

The Mongols! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szxPar0BcMo>; Disease!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PLBmUVYYeg> and Columbus, de Gama, and Zheng He! 15th Century Mariners <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjEGncridoQ&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=21>

Review: Becoming the World PPT Part 1 and 2.

Complete: **Online Test Run of Respondus LockDown Browser [September 1]**

Week of September 4 **Labor Day Holiday: No Class**

Week of September 11:

Read: **Textbook:** Finish **Crises and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia 1300-1500, Chap. 11;** begin **Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600, Chap 12;** **Primary Documents:** “Spanish and Aztec Views of Contact”; “Silver, the Devil and Coca Leaf in the Andes”; “Witchcraft Trial in France, 165”

Watch: Crash Course World History: The Columbian Exchange:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQPA5oNpfM4&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=23>

Complete: **Online Graded Quiz #1 /September 12; Introduction + Chap. 10]**

Week of September 18:

Read: **Textbook:** Finish **Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600, Chap 12;** begin **World’s Entangled 1600-1750, Chap. 13;** **Assigned Reading Article:** “America, Lost and Found: The Colombian Exchange in Virginia”

Watch: Voices from the Past: Cortés Meets Montezuma https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_X7eXo7GEs

Review: Contact, Commerce, and Colonization PPT Parts 1 + 2

Week of September 25:

Read: **Textbook:** **World’s Entangled 1600-1750, Chap. 13;** **Primary Document:** Voices of the Slave Trade “Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano”

Watch: Crash Course World History: The Atlantic Slave Trade:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnV_MTFEGiy&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=24 and The Mughal Empire and Historical Reputation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbuM0ajVgE>

Review: World’s Entangled PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **Online Graded Quiz #2 [September 29; Chaps. 11 + 12]**

Week of October 2:

Read: **Textbook:** Cultures of Splendor and Power, 1500-1780, Chap. 14; **Primary Document:** “Differing Views of the World” Maps as interpretive evidence

Watch: Crash Course European History: The Enlightenment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnoFj2cMRLY> [a fun exploration of enlightenment literature *Candide*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJc9iprkVzg>] and The Amazing Life and Strange Death of Captain

Cook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yXNrLTddME&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=27>

Review: Cultures of Splendor and Power PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **Required Online First Exam Chapters--10-13 [October 2; Into + Chaps. 10-13]** Class lecture begins at 5:45 PM!

Week of October 9/10: [Note: Monday classes meet on Tuesday October 10!]

Read: **Textbook:** Reordering the World, 1750-1850, Chap. 15; **Primary Document:** “Mary Wollstonecraft on the Rights of Women”

Watch: Crash Course World History: The French Revolution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITTvKwCyIFY>

and Haitian Revolutions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A_o-nU5s2U and The Industrial Revolution [two

versions] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhL5DCizj5c> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjK7PWmRRyg>

Review: Reordering the World, 1750-1850 PPT Parts 1 + 2

Week of October 16:

Read: **Textbook:** Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century, Chap. 16; **Primary Documents:** Communist Manifesto: “Bourgeoisie and Proletariat,” and “Testimony of a Factory Worker and a Factory Owner, 1831-32”

Watch: Crash Course World History--Capitalism and Socialism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3u4EFTwprM&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=34&t=0s> and

Usman dan Fodio: <https://www.dw.com/en/usman-dan-fodio-founder-of-the-sokoto-caliphate/a-51995841>

Review: Alternative Visions of the Nineteenth Century PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **Online Graded Quiz #3 [October 20; Chaps. 14 + 15]**

Week of October 23:

Read: **Textbook:** Nations and Empires, 1850-1914, Chap. 17; **Primary Document:** “The Origin of Species”

Watch: Crash Course World History--19th Century Imperialism;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJaltUmrGo> and Asian Responses to Imperialism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxmWfbXS4Pw> and First Japanese Visitors to USA Describes American

Life 1860 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvPxCulspWs>

Review: Nations and Empires, 1850-1914 PPT Parts 1 + 2

Week of October 30:

Read: **Textbook:** An Unsettled World, 1890-1914, Chap. 18; **Primary Document:** “Injustices to Chinese Women” and “Imagining the Future of Technology”

Watch: Crash Course US History: The Progressive Era: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0Q4zPR4G7M>

and Video Primary Source: “Futurist from 1901 Describes The World of 2001” [*Ladies Home Journal*]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gzBhTL4oAs> and

Review: An Unsettled World, 1890-1914 PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **Online Graded Quiz #4 [November 3; Chaps. 16-17]**

Week of November 6:

Read: **Textbook:** Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939, Chap. 19; **Primary Document:** “Indian Home Rule”

Watch: Crash Course World History: Archdukes, Cynicism, and World War I:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZQOLAIR4> and Understanding Global Unease After WWI-- Impossible Peace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH DU9u3kzts> and Economic Depression and Dictators: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ojo8-GhhQcA>

Review: Visions of the Modern PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **Required Online Second Exam--[November 6; Chapters 14-17]** Class lecture begins at 5:45 PM!

Week of November 13:

Read: **Textbook:** Three-World Order, 1940-1975, Chap. 20; **Primary Documents:** "Africa Must Unite" and "The Problem that has No Name"

Watch: Crash Course World History: World War II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q78COTwT7nE> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Objoad6rG6U> and Decolonization and Nationalism Triumphant: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_sGTspaF4Y and (first 9:20 minutes of) Retrofuturism: The Future That Never Came https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LGL_lx9XcA

Review: Three-World Order, 1940-1975 PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **Online Graded Quiz #5 [November 17; Chap. 18 + 19]**

Week of November 20:

Read: **Textbook:** Globalization, 1970-2000, Chap. 21; **Primary Documents:** "Tidal Pull of the West: East Germany Disappears" and Sherif Hetata's "Dollarization, 1998"

Watch: Crash Course World History: Iran's Revolutions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w4Ku6l7OEI> and Democracy, Authoritarian Capitalism, and China <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7dTDjRnBqU>

Review: Globalization, 1970-2000 PPT Parts 1 + 2

Complete: **[Non-Respondus] Online Graded Sources and Citations Quiz [See History Student's Toolbox folder] Available November 20-27.**

Week of November 27:

Read: **Textbook:** Global Challenges, 2001-Present, Chap. 22; **Articles:** "Barbie and Her Competitors in the Muslim World," and Liz Sly, "The Unfinished Business of the Arab Spring"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2021/arab-spring-10-year-anniversary-lost-decade/>

Watch: Globalization II - Good or Bad? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_iwrt7D5OA

Review: Global Challenges, 2001 to the Present PPT Part 1 + 2

Complete: **Online Graded Quiz #6 [December 1; Chaps. 20 + 21]** **Deadline to submit extra credit is November 27!**

Friday December 8: Required Final Keystone Papers Due via Blackboard Assignments tab by 11:59 PM EST!

Monday December 11: Required Online Final Exam: 4:30-7:15 PM: Chapters 18-22 + map component