

Introduction to World History
HIST125-004, Spring 2017
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-10:15 am
Robinson B, 201

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Robinson B 369

Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 pm and by appointment

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore the sweeping historical changes that created today's world. Beginning around 1450, we will trace key processes reshaping the politics, cultures, and economies of various regions. While Europe and the United States are part of our focus, we will primarily consider Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. We will survey major features of the principal civilizations of the world and the major types of global contacts and systems, and how these interactions shaped global power dynamics. By the end of the semester, students will have gained the ability to assess change over time on a global level, the capacity to compare different societies, and the understanding of the emergence and impact of global processes throughout the past three-quarters of a millennium.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of World history.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities in World history.
3. Students will identify, evaluate and appropriately cite online and print resources.
4. Students will develop multiple historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds (texts, images, music) and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events.
5. Students will communicate effectively – orally and in writing – their understanding of patterns, processes, and themes in the history of the (entire) world.

Required Texts*:

1. Peter Stearns, *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity, since 1450*, Volume 2, 8th edition (Pearson). ISBN-10: 0-205-89628-6
2. Trevor R. Getz and Liz Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press, 2015).

*All texts are available at the GMU bookstore, but can also be purchased elsewhere or online via other sites, such as Amazon or Half.com.

Grading and Course Policies:

Classroom Etiquette: Students who wish to use a **laptop or tablet** for note-taking are welcome to do so. However, *the use of laptops for purposes other than taking notes (i.e., email, instant messaging, internet browsing unrelated to the course) is not acceptable and will adversely affect your participation grade.* I encourage you to bring laptops or tablets to Discussions as many class and group activities will require research and Blackboard access. During class, all **cellphones** must be switched completely off or set to silent mode.

Communications: Students are responsible for checking their **GMU email accounts** and Blackboard regularly. The instructor will communicate with students via email and announcements on the course's Blackboard site. Readings, response paper prompts, important reminders, etc. will be posted and updated on Blackboard. Please be sure to use your GMU email account when corresponding with the instructor.

Reading: The readings for this class include a textbook, one supplemental reading, primary source readings available online (almost all on Blackboard) that include first-hand accounts of historical moments, and a few other outside articles indicated as such below. Students should complete readings *prior* to coming to class. It is also recommended that students bring notes on the readings to facilitate class discussion.

Short Papers: Students will write **two** papers throughout the semester. Both papers should be 3 pages in length. Due dates are listed in the course schedule below, and assignments/guidelines for each paper are available on Blackboard. The goal of these papers is to allow students to grapple with the material from the course and work on (and improve) their college-level writing.

Submission of Work: All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point, Times New Roman font. Your name should be on the paper. Group Work will be turned in during/at the end of class and should include ALL group members' names on it.

Late Work: All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for course assignments. Late work will be penalized five points per day. The only exceptions to these policies will be when you have explicit, advance permission from your instructor and can provide documentation (e.g. a doctor's note).

Participation and Attendance: Students must earn their participation grade through regular attendance and active engagement in class. Although this course is classified as a lecture, we will generally dedicate Monday class sessions to discussion and group work, so participation is required for students to demonstrate engagement with the material. Your participation grade will include regular involvement in class discussion and group work along with attendance. Students may miss **two class sessions** without penalty to their grade; students will begin incurring penalties after missing three or more class sessions. If you must miss class, you are responsible for material covered during that session. The instructor will not re-teach a missed class session via email or office hours.

Midterm and Final Exams: Exams will cover material from lectures, readings, and classroom discussions. The final exam will be cumulative. A study guide will be provided in advance of both exams, detailing the format of the exam, key terms, and essay prompts. The final exam for this course will take place on Monday, May 15 from 7:30am to 10:30am. The University schedules all exams; thus, the reasons for re-scheduling final exams are few. Students must provide documentation in such cases, and make arrangements with the Dean of Student Life in advance of the exam date. **You must take the final exam in order to pass the class.**

Grade Distributions:

Attendance and Participation: 25%
Abina Paper: 20%
Current Events Paper: 20%
 Topic Due Feb 10: 1%
 Source Assignments Due March 3 & April 7: 2%
 Thesis Statement due April 28: 2%
 Final Paper due May 5: 15%
Midterm Exam: 15%
Final Exam: 20%

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarizing the work of others will not be tolerated in this class. All work which you submit must be your own. You must cite all sources appropriately, whether the writing is paraphrased or quoted directly. Appropriating another author's work without proper acknowledgment of the source is plagiarism. For citations, we will use the Chicago Manual of Style (for sample citations, see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). If you have questions regarding what may or may not constitute plagiarism, please feel free to contact me.

Please read and familiarize yourself with The Mason Honor Code, available online at <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>

Student Disability Accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Diversity at Mason:

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not

limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

Miscellaneous:

No extra credit will be offered.

Important dates:

*Spring Break: March 13-17

Last Day to add/drop with no tuition penalty: Monday, January 30

Last Day to drop with 33% tuition penalty: Monday, February 13

Last Day to drop with 67% tuition penalty: Friday, February 24

Selective withdrawal period: Monday, February 27 through Friday, March 31

Course Schedule

The schedule indicates themes, lecture topics, readings, and deadlines. Abbreviations used for the readings from the Stearns book are labeled "Textbook." Unless otherwise noted, readings are available on Blackboard.

Week 1: Introduction to Class

Monday 1/23 (Lecture): Introduction to the Course; Short Lecture on 13th Century World System

Wednesday 1/25 (Lecture/Discussion): Expansion and Collapse of the 13th Century World System; Discussion of Life, Death, and Blame during the Black Death

- *Excerpts about the Black Death*

Week 2: Collapse and Recovery of the Afro-Eurasian World, 1300-1550

Monday 1/30 (Lecture): Recovery and Expansion in Eurasia, 1350-1550

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 19, p. 350-366

Wednesday 2/1 (Discussion): Rise of the Ottoman Empire

- *Letter from Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq*
- *Visit to wife of Suleiman the Magnificent*
- *Lady Montagu, smallpox vaccination in Turkey*
- *Venetian Observations on the Ottoman Empire*

Week 3: Recovery and Expansion in Eurasia and the Americas, 1350-1550

Monday 2/6: No Class

Wednesday 2/8 (Lecture): The Americas before and after 1492

- Textbook:
 - Part IV introduction, p. 273-277
 - Chapter 16, p. 278-284 and p. 291-299

****Current Events Topic Due on Blackboard by Friday February 10 at 5pm**

Week 4: An Atlantic World Emerges, 1500-1750

Monday 2/13 (Discussion): Group Activity on European Expansionism and the Columbian Exchange

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 17, p. 307-316
- *Excerpt from the Broken Spears, an Aztec account of the Conquest of Mexico*
- *Excerpt from Hernan Cortes's 2nd Letter to Charles V*

Adapted from a syllabus by Steven Harris-Scott

- *Excerpt from Bernal Diaz's The True History of the Conquest of New Spain*
- *Excerpt from In Defense of the Indians from Bartolome de las Casas*

Wednesday 2/15 (Lecture): Sugar Plantations, Forced Labor, and the Emergence of the Atlantic World

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 16, p. 284-291 and p. 299-304

Week 5: Revolution, Enlightenment and Their Limits, 1700-1820

Monday 2/20 (Discussion): Group Activity on Slavery, the European Enlightenment and Its Limits

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 17, p. 316-331
- *Excerpt from Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations*
- *Excerpt from Jean Jacques Rousseau's The Social Contract*
- *Excerpt from The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
- *Voltaire on the Relation of Church and State*

Wednesday 2/22 (Lecture): Age of Consolidations and Revolutions in Eurasia and the Atlantic World

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 18, p. 333-347
 - Chapter 20, p. 369-382

Week 6: Revolutions and the Emergence of a Modern, Global World, 1750-1850

Monday 2/27 (Discussion): Group Activity on the Atlantic Revolutions

- *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen [French]*
- *Declaration of Independence [U.S.]*
- *Toussaint L'Ouverture addresses the French Directory [Haiti]*
- *Jose Morelos, Sentiments of the Nation [Mexico]*
- *Simon de Bolivar, Message to the Congress of Angostura [Venezuela]*

Wednesday 3/1 (Lecture): The Industrial Revolution and Emergence of a Modern, Global World

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 21, p. 391-416

****Current Events Paper: Two News Sources and One Paragraph Summary of Each Due on Blackboard by Friday March 3 at 5pm**

Week 7: An Economic and Political Reordering of the World, 1750-1900

Monday 3/6 (Discussion): Group Activity on the Economic and Political Reordering of the World

Adapted from a syllabus by Steven Harris-Scott

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 26, p. 485-494
- *Andrew Ure, The Philosophy of Manufactures*
- *Friederich Engels, Industrial Manchester*
- *Karl Marx and Friederich Engels, The Communist Manifesto (excerpt)*
- *Parliamentary Report on English Female Miners*

Wednesday 3/8: MIDTERM EXAM

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS (week of 3/13-17)

Start reading Abina

Week 9: (New) Western Imperialism, 1850-1900

Monday 3/20 (Discussion): A New Wave of Western Imperialism

- *Letter to Queen Victoria by Lin Zexu*
- *Xu Naiji and Yuan Yulin, Memorials on the Legalization and Elimination of Opium*
- *Fukuzawa Yukichi, Goodbye Asia*

Wednesday 3/22 (Lecture): Western Imperialism in Africa and the Middle East

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 22, p. 430-436
 - Chapter 25, p. 470-476
- *Abina and the Important Men* (the background section)

Week 10: New Imperialism Throughout the World and Reactions, 1850-1900

Monday 3/27 (Discussion): Western Imperialism in Africa

- *Abina and the Important Men* (all)
- *David Livingstone, Cambridge Speech of December 1857*
- *Josiah Gumede, African National Congress Against Imperialism*
- *Karl Pearson, Social Darwinism and Imperialism*

Wednesday 3/29 (Lecture): Euro-American Imperialism in East and South Asia and the Pacific

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 23, p. 439-446

****Abina Paper due Friday, March 31 by 5 pm in my Mailbox (Robinson B359)**

Week 11: New Imperialism and the Beginning of the War of the World, 1850-1940

Monday 4/3 (Discussion): British, American, and Japanese Imperialism

- *Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's Story*
- *Excerpt from Senator Beveridge speaking on the Philippine Question*

- *Edwin Wildman, A Visit to Aguinaldo, Leader of the Philippine Rebels*
- *Josiah Strong on Anglo-Saxon Predominance (1891)*

Wednesday 4/5 (Lecture): Economic Depressions and the 100 Year War of the World Begins

- Textbook:
 - Part VI intro, p. 507-515
 - Chapter 27, p. 516-523
 - Chapter 29, p. 565-570

****Current Events Paper: Two Additional News Sources and One Paragraph Summary of Each Due on Blackboard by April 7 at 5pm**

Week 12: The War of the World Continues, 1920-1950s

Monday 4/10 (Discussion): Global Experiences of WWI

- *John Maynard Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
- *Private Donald Fraser, Excerpts from Diaries*
- *Wilfred Owen, Dulce Et Decorum Est*
- *Oral Histories of Senegalese Soldiers*

Wednesday 4/12 (Lecture): World War II, The Cold War and the Rise of the Soviet Union, 1945-1950s

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 27, p. 523-539
 - Chapter 28, p. 545-556

Week 13: The (Not Very) Cold War

Monday 4/17 (Discussion): Debating the Bomb

- *Hiroshima: A Controversy that Refuses to Die (NYT)*
- *Walker, "History, Collective Memory, and the Decision to Use the Bomb"*
- *Walker, "Recent Literature on Truman's Atomic Bomb Decision"*

Wednesday 4/19 (Lecture): The (Not Very) Cold War in Asia and Latin America, 1950s-1970s

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 29, p. 570-580
 - Chapter 30, p. 587-605
 - Chapter 32, p. 632-650

Week 14: Decolonization and the Cold War

Monday 4/24 (Discussion): Group Activity on the Global Cold War & Decolonization

- *Khrushchev's Speech to the 22nd Congress*
- *Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech*

Adapted from a syllabus by Steven Harris-Scott

- *Kennan, Long Telegram*
- *Castro Defends the Revolution*
- *Gromyko, On American Intervention in Korea*

Wednesday 4/26 (Lecture): Decolonization and the Cold War in the Middle East and Africa

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 33, p. 652-672
 - Chapter 31, p. 608-629

****Current Events Paper: Thesis Statement Draft Due on Blackboard by Friday April 28 at 5pm**

Week 15: The End of the Cold War and Globalization

Monday 5/1 (Discussion): Group Activity on the Modern Middle East

- *The Map ISIS Hates*
- *Perspectives on “The Clash of Civilizations”*
- Textbook:
 - Chapter 28, p. 556-562
 - Chapter 29, p. 580-585

Wednesday 5/3 (Lecture): End of the Cold War and Globalization; Final Exam prep

- Textbook:
 - Chapter 34, p. 674-697

****Current Events Paper due Friday, May 5 by 5 pm in my Mailbox (Robinson B359)**

FINAL EXAM: May 15, 7:30 am-10:30 am