

HIS 206-05 Pre Modern World History
MWF 10:00-10:50
MHRA 1214

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Office and Hours: MHRA 2114 MW 11-12 and by appointment

Class meets August 20 through December 3; final exam M, December 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This introductory World History course examines critical developments and ideas in the period from roughly 1000 AD to 1700 AD and in the geographic regions of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Globalization, identity, and power are central themes as we focus on cultural exchange and interaction. We will look at topics including trade along the Silk Road, the spread and influence of major religions, the impact of the Black Death, the Age of Exploration, and the vast trade network that developed in the Atlantic World. Primary and secondary source materials will guide us through the social, cultural, and political history of the pre modern world and allow us to investigate not only major developments in politics, trade, and religion but also relationships among members of families and communities.

Through active participation in this course, students will

- Discuss major events in the pre modern world and identify their causes, outcomes, and participants
- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in the pre modern period
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view
- Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting original arguments for classroom discussions and written assignments
- Conduct independent research on topics of special interest by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources

TEXTBOOK AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

Tignor et. al., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World: 600 to 1850*, third edition
The required textbook is available new, used, and for rent in the university bookstore and online at a discount through several retailers (Paperback, December 2010, ISBN 978-0-393-93496-0, Volume B)

There is an ebook option available for this course. As the publisher notes: *An affordable and convenient alternative to print textbooks, Norton [ebooks](#) retain the content and design of the print book and allow you to highlight and take notes with ease, print chapters as needed, and search the text. Norton ebooks are available for purchase and use online as well as downloadable PDFs.*

You will access all other required course materials through Blackboard and the textbook website. Use the link below to access the website.

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/worlds-together-worlds-apart3/welcome.aspx>

Familiarize yourself with Blackboard and the textbook website right away and be prepared to use them routinely to find documents and other materials, check your grades, and read announcements pertaining to the course. Select the current chapter for study materials and the chapter quiz each week one is assigned.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students can expect to spend, on average, 10 to 14 hours per week in and out of class per course. Your textbook reading and documents combined will average about 50 pages most weeks. You should plan to read the reading assignment all the way through once, taking notes as you read, and then look over the chapter and your notes at least once more. You will benefit from reading most of the primary documents assigned for this course at least twice, especially since the language used in many of the documents was often quite different from our own. You will also need to schedule time to take your chapter quizzes and review your notes.

We will divide our class time each week between lecture and discussion. I will use PowerPoint to guide you through the lectures and provide focus. The PowerPoint slides are designed to highlight key terms, events, and ideas rather than a complete set of notes, so you should expect to take notes beyond the information provided on the slides. If you miss a class, make arrangements to get notes from a fellow student.

A Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of someone else as your own. It is an extremely serious offense that can result in expulsion from school. You may effectively avoid this offense by paraphrasing rather than copying from sources and using proper citations in your written work. Review and understand the UNCG [Academic Integrity Policy](#) in the student handbook as all written work is covered by its provisions.

ASSIGNMENTS

The textbook **reading** assignment includes the primary documents found in each chapter (for example, those on pp. 418, 427, 429, and 439 in chapter 11) unless stated otherwise. You should pay careful attention to the images, maps, key terms, study questions, and time lines provided in each chapter as well. Additional documents will be posted on Blackboard most weeks, and to prepare for class you will need to read these and also print out and bring them with you for our discussions. The exams will pull from all of your assigned reading.

We will frequently engage in discussions in class, and your **participation** grade is based on your contributions to those discussions, occasional short writing assignments, pop quizzes, and your attendance. Students will not be able to make up class writing assignments or pop quizzes they have missed due to absences.

Chapter quizzes are administered through the textbook website and consist of 15 multiple-choice questions. You take these at your convenience during the weeks they are assigned, and submit your results electronically by midnight that Friday.

The **exam** format is a mix of identification, multiple choice, and short answer. The course is divided into three units, and there is an exam for each unit. Make-up exams will not be scheduled except in cases of documented emergency.

You will conduct a **research project** that allows you to explore a topic of special interest to you. A component of your project will be due at the end of each unit of study – topic proposal with research question(s) during unit one, a bibliography and outline during unit two, and a final product with bibliography and presentation during unit three. I will provide a list of suggested topics that build off the textbook and lectures, but students are welcome to explore original ideas.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation and Attendance 20%

Quizzes 20%

Exams 30%

Research Project 30%

If you need to turn an assignment in late, it will be penalized 20% and is due no later than the class meeting following the original due date, after which it will not be accepted. In cases of emergency, your work will not be penalized, although you will need to provide verification that you had an actual emergency, and the assignment is due when you return to class.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is an important part of your success in a college course. You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty. You are not required to contact me or explain your absences if you miss three or fewer classes, but you should use these absences judiciously. If you have additional absences due to a medical emergency or some unforeseen event, send an email notification in advance, or within 24 hours of the missed class meeting in cases of emergency, AND provide a doctor's note or other official notification

(jury duty, e.g.) on the date you return to class. If you miss additional classes without a verifiable excuse, you will incur a penalty of one letter grade (10 points) off your participation grade for each additional unexcused absence.

Please avoid arriving late or leaving early, as you miss important material and it causes a distraction for everyone else. If you have an occasion when it cannot be avoided, please let me know the reason. Students will incur penalties as for absences in cases of excessive tardiness or instances of leaving class early.

Be sure to sign or initial the roster every class meeting.

COMMUNICATION

Feel free to talk to me before or after class, schedule a meeting during my office hours, or send me an email if you have any course-related questions or concerns.

Email is the best way to contact me outside of class. Please enter HIS206 in the subject line. I will usually confirm receipt of your email within 24 hours Monday through Friday. If you have not received a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your email and resend. This is especially important if you are emailing me regarding a missed class or assignment.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In order for you to be fully engaged and get the most out of the classroom experience, please turn off – not merely silence – all electronic devices before class begins. You may be asked to leave class, resulting in an unexcused absence, if you violate this policy.

Note: You may bring drinks to class, but please refrain from eating in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

A detailed course schedule, outlining all readings and assignments each week, is on Blackboard under the tab Course Documents. Note that reading assignments include the primary documents in the textbook (for example, those on pp. 418, 427, 429, and 439 in chapter 11) unless stated otherwise and additional primary and secondary sources as assigned on Blackboard each week. You should also pay close attention to the images, maps, key terms, study questions, and time lines in the chapters as you read. Any changes to the schedule will be posted under Course Documents and as Announcements on Blackboard.

UNIT ONE – Becoming “The World”

Week One (Aug 20/22/24) Introduction; reading assignments posted on Blackboard

Week Two (Aug 27/29/31) *Chapter 9: New Empires and Common Cultures, 600–1000*

Week Three (LABOR DAY HOLIDAY/Sep 5/7) continue chapter 9; chapter quiz due by midnight Sep 7

Week Four (Sep 10/12/14) *Chapter 10: Becoming “The World,” 1000-1300*; chapter quiz due by midnight Sep 14

Week Five (Sep 17/19/21) continue chapter 10/UNIT ONE EXAM/RESEARCH TOPIC AND QUESTION DUE

UNIT TWO – A World in Crisis

Week Six (Sep 24/26/28) *Chapter 11: Crisis and Recovery in Afro-Eurasia, 1300-1500*

Week Seven (Oct 1/3/5) continue chapter 11; chapter quiz due by midnight Oct 5

Week Eight (Oct 8/10/12) *Chapter 12: Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450-1600*

Week Nine (FALL BREAK/Oct 17/19) continue chapter 12; chapter quiz due by midnight Oct 19

Week Ten (Oct 22/24/26) UNIT TWO EXAM/RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE DUE

UNIT THREE – The Atlantic World

Week Eleven (Oct 29/31/Nov 2) *Chapter 13: Worlds Entangled, 1600-1750*

Week Twelve (Nov 5/7/9) continue chapter 13; chapter quiz due by midnight Nov 9

Week Thirteen (Nov 12/14/16) *Chapter 14: Cultures of Splendor and Power, 1500-1780*

Week Fourteen (Nov 19/THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY) continue chapter 14

Week Fifteen (Nov 26/28/30) RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS; chapter quiz due by midnight Nov 30

Week Sixteen (Dec 3) FINAL EXAM
RESEARCH PROJECT DUE NO LATER THAN 5 PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5