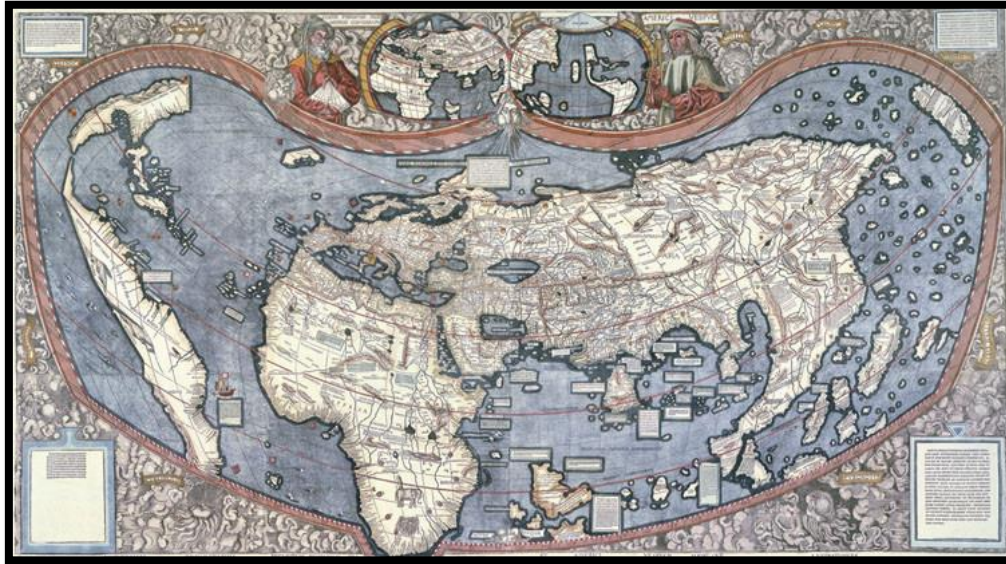


TOPICS IN PRE-MODERN WORLD HISTORY: CULTURES IN CONTACT
HIS 207-01, ONLINE, SPRING 2020
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO



Instructor: Dr. Sarah E. McCartney

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Office: I am not based in Greensboro and do not have an office at UNCG. I am happy to answer questions via email.

**This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes in the syllabus or course schedule will prioritize effectiveness for student learning. Any changes will be announced in-class and on Canvas.*

Course Description: This course provides a broad overview of world history in the premodern and early modern eras from roughly 500 C.E. to 1750 C.E.. It emphasizes connection, comparison, and change across Africa, Asia and the Americas, and highlights "big picture" moments that impacted the world population. Particular attention is given to commercial networks and the spread of religions and ideologies across the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean, which brought cultures into contact.

Required Course Materials: All readings and course materials are available on Canvas or through links to other internet sites.

Computer Requirements: To complete this course, you will need a computer and reliable internet access. You will need to access Canvas, the Canvas Message Center, and your UNCG email regularly. All course components use Canvas, and it is your responsibility to understand how to navigate Canvas to ensure your success in this course.

¹ *The Waldseemüller Map of 1507* was created by German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller just fifteen years after Columbus landed in the Western Hemisphere. This map was the first to identify "America," and it reflected a growing European awareness of the planet's global dimensions and the locations of the major landmasses. (Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz/ Art Resource, NY).
<http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0309/maps.html>

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This course satisfies General Education requirements established by the UNCG faculty for Historical Perspectives (GHP) and Global Non-Western Perspectives Marker (GN) markers:

Historical Perspectives (GHP)

Students use an historical approach to a specific region and period to explore the context of events (social structure, economics, political systems, culture, or beliefs), evaluate evidence and divergent interpretations, and communicate historical ideas in writing.

Global Non-Western Perspectives (GN)

Students focus on the interconnections among cultures, politics, and/or intellectual traditions of the world other than the dominant Euro-American ones. Students will interpret and evaluate information on diverse ecologies, human societies, artistic achievements, and/or political systems, and gain sensitivity to cultural differences.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Global Non-Western (GN) Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among cultures, politics, and/or intellectual traditions of the world other than the dominant Euro-American ones.
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues

Upon completing HIS 207, you will be able to:

- Analyze continuity and change and explain large-scale and long-term historical developments of regional, interregional, and global scope from roughly 500 to 1750 C.E.. [Historical Comprehension]
- Analyze ways in which human groups have come into contact and interacted with one another, including systems of communication, migration, commercial exchange, conquest, and cultural diffusion across time periods and regions in order to define enduring issues as well as large-scale or long-term developments that go beyond regional and temporal boundaries.
- Assess the significance of key turning points in world history.
- Use Historical Thinking to contextualize and analyze *primary* and *secondary sources* representing different points of view. [Historical Thinking/Analysis]
 - Analyze historical sources by evaluating their authenticity and credibility, and their social, political, and economic context.
 - Reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage using Historical Thinking skills.
 - Read historical narratives imaginatively, taking into account what the narrative reveals of the humanity of the individuals and groups involved—

their probable values, outlook, motives, hopes, fears, strengths, and weaknesses.

- Appreciate historical perspectives: (a) describing the past on its own terms through the eyes and experiences of those who were there; (b) considering the historical context in which events unfolded—the values, outlook, options, and contingencies of that time and place; and (c) avoiding “present-mindedness”—judging the past in terms of present-day norms and values.
- Develop research skills by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]
- Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently in formal and informal writing. [Historical Interpretation]

COURSE POLICIES

Canvas: This course utilizes the Canvas learning system provided and supported by UNCG. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to log-in to Canvas. There are numerous reasons why students may not be able to log-in to Canvas, such as using an unsupported internet browser, an unpaid tuition bill, or a failure to obtain state-required immunizations. I cannot assist you in resolving these issues. If you are having difficulty logging into Canvas, first contact 6-Tech Online at: <http://its.uncg.edu/services> . If you continue to have issues, contact the Registrar’s Office.

Modules: Activities and Assignments are listed within their associated Unit within the “Modules” tab on Canvas. The Units are designed with the readings and assignments in order, so you should complete a given assignment before moving on to the next one.

- *There is a “next” button at the bottom of each component within the Modules, so you can click through a Module to complete the associated Unit.*

Attendance Policy: This is an online class, so there is not a traditional attendance policy. You will be assessed based on your engagement with the materials and completion of each aspect of the course.

Assignment Policy: All assignments will be completed in Canvas or uploaded to Canvas. *Extra Credit is unlikely – do the assigned credit.*

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will be accepted up to one-week late for a 10% deduction (no communication necessary).

- Late Assignments will only be accepted without penalty in extenuating/crisis circumstances at my discretion. I will review those on a case-by-case basis.
- It is your responsibility to contact me should any issues arise that would prevent you from completing course components.
- Late Assignments are not accepted beyond the end of the course on 4/29.

Discussion Board: The Class Café Canvas Discussion Board is available for you for informal class discussion. The thread is solely dedicated to student interaction, so that you may chat with your classmates, ask each other questions, etc. I will have access to this Discussion Board; however, it is your space to communicate with each other.

Electronic Communication: I will utilize the Canvas message center and *UNCG iSpartan* email address, for ALL class emails, so be sure to check both regularly.

- All emails should include “HIS 207” in the subject line.
- Emails should be professional and courteous. You should begin with a salutation and conclude with your name.
- I will reply to all emails, and I try to respond promptly, so if you do not hear from me within 24 hours, email me again.
- Please be aware that an email response will not be instantaneous and plan accordingly, but do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Accessibility: UNCG seeks to promote access to educational opportunities for all students and comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) on the 2nd floor of the Elliott University Center. You can contact OARS at (336) 334-5440 or through their website <https://oars.uncg.edu/>.

Academic Integrity: You should adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. It is your responsibility to avoid even the appearance of dishonesty regarding your work.

- All assignments must be your own work and all sources must be properly cited or it will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a 0 for the assignment and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action.
- UNCG defines plagiarism as “intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one’s own in any academic exercise” and the university’s Academic Integrity policy is available online: <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>.

COURSE COMPONENTS, ASSESSMENTS, AND OBJECTIVES

Syllabus Quiz: There is a quiz on the contents of the syllabus that *you must complete on Canvas by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 19.* The quiz is “open syllabus” and asks questions about the syllabus content to ensure that you understand the course components and class policies.

Discussion Board – Introductions: There is a discussion board specifically for you to introduce yourself. Your introduction must be posted by *11:59pm on Sunday, January 19.*

Unit Quizzes: There are quizzes related to each Unit’s assigned readings and videos. These quizzes are timed, multiple choice, “open book,” and “open note.” [SLO: GHP 2, GN 1, Historical Comprehension]

History Labs: These labs provide the opportunity to practice the “tool kit” of skills historians use to analyze, evaluate, and interpret history. History Labs consist of both Historical Thinking and Information Literacy tasks and activities. [SLO: GHP 1, GHP 2, GN 1, GN 2, GN 3, Historical Comprehension, Historical Thinking, Historical Research, Historical Interpretation]

- ❖ Historical Thinking addresses questions related to sourcing, contextualizing, close reading, and corroborating sources. You will specifically use these skills to analyze primary sources (documents, images, objects, and places contemporary to a specific time we are studying) and secondary sources (historical research and writing completed by historians).
- ❖ Information Literacy addresses skills associated with locating, evaluating, and synthesizing information and historical content. It is particularly related to analyzing websites, media, and other source materials.

Films/Film Quizzes: There are documentary films and an associated quiz related to a topic in each Unit. [SLO: [Historical Comprehension](#)]

Final Assignment: The Final Assignment asks you to look at the big picture of World History. The Assignment should be written using Microsoft Word or another note-taking software and uploaded to Canvas in the appropriate location and format (pdf or docx). [SLO: [GHP 1](#), [GHP 2](#), [GN 1](#), [GN 2](#), [Historical Thinking](#), [Historical Interpretation](#)]

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Syllabus Quiz/Introductions	5%
Unit Quizzes (4)	40%
Film Quizzes (4)	20%
History Labs (5)	25%
Final Assignment	10%

Final Grade Scale

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 & lower

GRADING BREAKDOWN BY UNIT

INTRODUCTION TO HIS 207 – CULTURES IN CONTACT

Syllabus Quiz	2.5%
Discussion Board ~ Introductions	2.5%

UNIT 1 – A WORLD OF ACCELERATING CONNECTIONS

Unit 1 Quiz	10%
History Lab #1 ~ Travelers' Tales	5%
“Footsteps of Marco Polo” Film and Quiz	5%

UNIT 2 – A WORLD OF CONNECTION AND DIVISION

Unit 2 Quiz	10%
History Lab #2 ~ Religion and Ideology	5%
“Paradise Found: Islamic Art” Film and Quiz	5%

UNIT 3 – A WORLD OF INTERACTION

Unit 3 Quiz	10%
History Lab #3 ~ Interactions	5%
“Ghost Fleet: The Epic Voyage of Zheng He” Film and Quiz	5%

UNIT 4 – A WORLD OF EXPANSION & EXCHANGE

Unit 4 Quiz	10%
History Lab #4 ~ Exchange	5%
History Lab #5 ~ Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade	5%
“Africa’s Great Civilizations – Part 5: The Atlantic Age” Film and Quiz	5%
Final Assignment	10%

COURSE SCHEDULE

**Each Unit will be available at 12am on the Friday prior to the Unit’s beginning date. There are assignment deadlines within each Unit. This schedule is designed to give you the greatest flexibility in completing the assignments. I may adjust this schedule if needed.*

INTRODUCTION (JANUARY 13 – 19)**Readings:**

HIS 207-01, Spring 2020 – Syllabus

Deadlines for Introduction:

- ❖ Syllabus Quiz: Complete the Syllabus Quiz by *Sunday, January 19th at 11:59pm.*
- ❖ Discussion Board: Introduce yourself by *Sunday, January 19th at 11:59pm.*

UNIT 1: A WORLD OF ACCELERATING CONNECTIONS (JANUARY 13–FEBRUARY 2)**Readings and Videos:**

“Prologue – The Three Cs of World History”

Ch.8 – “Commerce and Culture, 500-1500”

Crash Course – “The Silk Road and Ancient Trade”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfe-eNq-Qyg&t=562s>

Crash Course – “International Commerce, Snorkeling Camels, & the Indian Ocean Trade” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6XtBLDmPA0>

Crash Course – “Wait for it...The Mongols!” –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szxPar0BcMo>

History Lab #1 – Travelers’ Tales:

“Working with Primary Sources: Written Documents”

“Considering the Evidence: Travelers’ Tales”

Film:

“In the Footsteps of Marco Polo” (1:27:18 min.) (<http://thestepsofpolo.org/>)

Deadlines for Unit 1:

- ❖ Unit 1 Quiz: Complete the Unit 1 readings and watch the videos, then take the Unit 1 Quiz by *Sunday, January 26th at 11:59pm.*
- ❖ History Lab #1: Use the “Working with Primary Sources” and “Considering the Evidence: Travelers’ Tales” readings to complete History Lab #1 on Canvas by *Sunday, February 2nd at 11:59pm.*

- ❖ Film and Quiz: Watch the “In the Footsteps of Marco Polo” documentary and complete the quiz by *Sunday, February 2nd at 11:59pm* (the quiz is open note, so I recommend opening it in a separate window, so you can complete it as you watch the film).

UNIT 2: A WORLD OF CONNECTION & DIVISION (FEBRUARY 3 - 23)

Readings and Videos:

- Ch. 10 – “Western Christendom: Contraction, Expansion, and Division”
- Ch. 11 – “The Worlds of Islam: Afro-Eurasian Connections”
- Crash Course – “Islam, the Quran, and the Five Pillars all without a Flamewar” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpcbfxtdoI8>
- Crash Course – “Mansa Musa and Islam in Africa” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvnU0v6hcUo>
- Crash Course – “Christianity from Judaism to Constantine” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG55ErfdaeY>

History Lab #2 – Islamic Civilization in Art:

- “Working with Primary Sources: Visual Sources”
- “Islamic Civilization in Persian Miniature Paintings”

Film:

- “Paradise Found: Islamic Art – Africa and Central Asia (45 min.) - *Link on Canvas*

Deadlines for Unit 2:

- ❖ Unit 2 Quiz: Complete the Unit 2 readings and watch the videos, then take the Unit 2 Quiz by *Sunday, February 16th at 11:59pm*.
- ❖ History Lab #2: Use the “Working with Primary Sources” and “Considering the Evidence: Islamic Civilization in Persian Miniature Paintings” readings to complete History Lab #2 on Canvas by *Sunday, February 23rd at 11:59pm*.
- ❖ Film and Quiz: Watch the “Discovering Islamic Art” film and complete the quiz by *Sunday, February 23rd at 11:59pm* (the quiz is open note, so I recommend opening it in a separate window, so you can complete it as you watch the film).

UNIT 3: A WORLD OF INTERACTION (FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 22)

Readings and Videos:

- Ch. 12 – “The Worlds of the Fifteenth Century”
- Crash Course – “Columbus, de Gama, and Zheng He! 15th Century Mariners” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjEGncridoQ&t=371s>

History Lab #3 – Zheng He and the Chinese Treasure Fleets:

- “Working with Primary Sources: Written Documents”
- Cook, Theodore, “Zheng He,” overview
- Ma Huan, “Ying-Yai Sheng-Lan: The Overall Survey of the Ocean’s Shores”

Film:

“Ghost Fleet: The Epic Voyage of Zheng He” (1:33:00) – *Link on Canvas*

Deadlines for Unit 3:

- ❖ Unit 3 Quiz: Complete the Unit 3 readings and watch the videos, then take the Unit 3 Quiz by *Sunday, March 15th at 11:59pm.*
- ❖ History Lab #3: Use the “Working with Primary Sources,” “Zheng He, overview,” and “Ying-Yai Sheng-Lan” readings to complete and submit History Lab #3 on Canvas by *Sunday, March 22nd at 11:59pm.*
- ❖ Film and Quiz: Watch the “Ghost Fleet” film and complete the quiz by *Sunday, March 22nd at 11:59pm.*

UNIT 4: A WORLD OF EXPANSION & EXCHANGE (MARCH 23 – APRIL 19)**Readings and Videos:**

- “Political Transformation: Empires and Encounters”
- “Political Transformation: Comparing Colonial Societies”
- “Economic Transformation: Commerce and Consequences”
- “Economic Transformation: Commerce in People – “The Atlantic Slave Trade”
- Crash Course – “The Columbian Exchange” –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOPA5oNpfM4&t=324s>
- Crash Course – “The Atlantic Slave Trade” –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnV_MTFEGIY
- Crash Course – “The Spanish Empire, Silver, & Runaway Inflation” –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjhIzemLdos>

History Lab #4 – Objects of Exchange:

- Victoria & Albert Museum: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections?toggleType=places>
- Metropolitan Museum of Art: <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection#>
- British Museum: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/about/british-museum-objects/>

History Lab #5 – The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade:

- “Inside Africa: Ghana’s Castles” (approx. 23 min.) – *Link on Canvas*
- Slavery & Remembrance: <http://slaveryandremembrance.org/>
- The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: A Visual Record
<http://slaveryimages.org/>

Film:

“Africa’s Great Civilizations – Part 5: The Atlantic Age” (53 min.) – *Link on Canvas*

Deadlines for Unit 4:

- ❖ Unit 4 Quiz: Complete the Unit 4 readings and watch the videos, then take the Unit 4 Quiz by *Sunday, April 5th at 11:59pm.*
- ❖ History Lab #4: Use the History Lab #4 materials to complete and submit History Lab #4 on Canvas by *Sunday, April 19th at 11:59pm.*

- ❖ History Lab #5: Use the History Lab #5 materials to complete and submit History Lab #5 on Canvas by *Sunday, April 19th at 11:59pm.*
- ❖ Film and Quiz: Watch “Africa’s Great Civilizations – Part 5” and complete the quiz by *Sunday, April 19th at 11:59pm.*

CONCLUSION (APRIL 20-29)

- ❖ Final Assignment: The Final Assignment must be submitted on Canvas by *Wednesday, April 29th at 11:59pm.*

