

Introduction to World History to 1500

Spring 2009

History 1111-010 / 1111-015

CRN 12405 / 12406

Tues/Thurs 8:00 - 9:15 / 9:30 - 10:45

Meeting Location: GCB 303 / 623

Instructor: Matthew Myers

Office: 34 Peachtree, 2110

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:00am - 12:00pm, and by appointment

E-mail: hismkmx@langate.gsu.edu

Description of the Course

This course is an introduction to World History prior to 1500. By looking at history through the lenses of social, economic, political, and cultural developments, we will explore the past while finding its relevance to the present. The emphasis will always be on a global perspective, looking at the ways in which people and societies have been connected through time. Obviously we cannot cover every historical issue over the past 10,000 years in a single semester. We will instead focus our study around three themes: how and why cities and states began, the origins and spread of universal religions, and Eurasian history via the silk roads. As we examine these themes, we will also discuss some aspects and regions of history that are often overlooked, namely Africa and the Americas. In the light of global developments, we will also take a closer look at other periods and geographic regions that are more well known, such as the Roman Empire and Medieval Europe.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. This course, however, will provide foundational information for History 1112 – *World History 1500 to the Present*. This course is also a requirement for those with a major or minor in History.

Goals of the Course

During this course you will be challenged to examine primary and secondary historical sources and to think and write critically about them. You will also become familiar with the major concepts and scholarship dealing with World History. World history is the study of human patterns of interaction with a particular focus on change over time, global exchange, and those phenomena that connect people, places and ideas across regional boundaries. By focusing on human interaction on all levels you will be able to see the big picture as well as the details of individual lives. This course will also give you a perspective of the past that goes beyond a national or regional viewpoint. In other words, you will develop a perspective that embraces large comparisons both spatially and temporally.

As a student in this course, you will learn to

- Demonstrate an understanding of issues in world history by analyzing multicultural, global, and transnational questions
- Compare historical developments and problems across cultural and geographic boundaries, appreciating how temporal, cultural, and spatial dimensions affect historical responses
- Interpret the major events in world history and demonstrate an understanding of historiography by analyzing and critiquing written sources and different interpretations of historical events
- Appreciate, evaluate, and utilize material from other disciplines (geography, economics, art, literature, psychology, philosophy, etc.) in examining historical events and issues
- Support and argue for a particular interpretative position within course discussions and written assignments
- Design and compose a written project based on knowledge gained and a personal interpretation of a significant issue in world history

Texts

There are two required texts for the course. These books may be purchased through the bookstore or online. If you choose to order these books online, please ensure that you receive them in sufficient time to have completed the assigned readings.

The required texts are:

- Strayer, Robert W. *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History, Volume 1*, Bedford St. Martin's, 2008. ISBN-10: 0312387482
- Reilly, Kevin, *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader, Volume 1*, (3rd ed), Bedford St. Martin's, 2007. ISBN-10: 031244687X

In addition to these texts, additional readings may be posted on ULearn. You are responsible for reading these selections before each class. To access ULearn use the link located near the top right of the GSU homepage (www.gsu.edu).

Expectations

Students who do well in the course do the following:

1. Attend class regularly and participate in class discussions
2. Take useful and appropriate notes during lectures and on assigned readings (visit the GSU Counseling Center or <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html> for help)
3. Complete the readings prior to each class meeting
4. Complete all assignments on time
5. Ask questions of the professor inside and outside of the class meeting times

To help you do well in this class I will do the following:

1. Be prepared and on-time for class meetings
2. Encourage interest in the subject by relating it to current events and other academic disciplines

3. Be available outside of class times for questions and consultation
4. Return all submitted work within 10 days of submission

Attendance

Regular attendance in this class is expected and contributes to your participation grade in the course. Roll will be taken each class meeting. I understand, however, that perfect attendance is sometimes not possible. Therefore, each student may miss up to four class sessions before his or her participation grade is dramatically affected. Any student missing 5 or more classes could automatically fail the course.

Grading & Assignments

Your final grade for this course will be composed of the following:

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| ○ Participation (Attendance, short responses, class involvement, etc.) | 20% |
| ○ Quizzes | 20% |
| ○ Midterm Exam | 20% |
| ○ Final Exam (cumulative) | 20% |
| ○ Short Paper/Group Project | 20% |

Final grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

A+ (100-98)	A (94-97)	A- (90-93)
B+ (87-89)	B (84-86)	B- (80-83)
C+ (77-79)	C (74-76)	C- (70-73)
D (66-69)		
F (0-65)		

Quizzes/short responses will be given to those in attendance at the beginning of class on the day of the quiz/short response. These exercises will be unannounced and will cover the assigned reading and/or the content of the previous class session.

The exams will be a combination short essay responses (+/- 8 sentences each) as well as both objective and subjective questions. The short essay questions will compose the majority of the exam's value. As a general rule, grammatical and spelling errors will not count against your grade on the in-class portions of the exams. However, your writing should exhibit clarity of thought, and it should directly answer the question(s) being asked.

Any work assigned to be completed outside of class **must** be typewritten. Handwritten work will not be accepted. You should be careful to proofread your work to correct grammar and spelling errors. I am also available to help you with your writing. If you would like me to review a draft of your work, please submit it to me no later than 5 days before the deadline. If you need further help with your writing skills, please see the College of Arts and Sciences Writing Studio (976 General Classroom Building, www.writingstudio.gsu.edu).

A word on plagiarism...When you quote, borrow, or otherwise use the words or ideas of someone else in your essays, you **must** cite the source you are using. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will

not be tolerated. (See the section on Academic Honesty below.) If you are in doubt as to whether you should cite something, err on the side of caution and give a citation. When citing sources in your essays, you must follow *Chicago Manual of Style* citation guide posted on uLearn under “Writing Assignments and Tips.”

Assignments must be submitted at the **beginning** of the class period in which they are due. Of course, assignments may be turned in earlier than the stated deadline. Work received after the first 10 minutes of class will receive a penalty. Penalties for grades will be assessed in the following manner. Assignments are considered to be 1-day late 10 minutes after the class begins, and 10 points will be deducted from each late submission. An additional 10 points will be deducted beginning on the second and third days (24-hour periods, not class meetings) that the assignment is late. No late work will be accepted more than three days (72 hours) after the date of the original deadline. Late assignments may be e-mailed to me at hismkmx@langate.gsu.edu.

These take-home writing assignments will be graded according to the following criteria.

	Beginning (D or F)	Comprehension (C)	Progressing (B)	Mastery (A)
Thesis/Conclusion 25%	Neither the thesis nor the conclusion is clear and identifiable.	Either the thesis or the conclusion is absent or unclear.	The thesis is identifiable and adequately stated. The conclusion summarizes the argument and supporting points.	The thesis is well-defined and identifiable. The conclusion clearly summarizes the argument and supporting points.
Content 60%	The essay is lacking in logical order. Appropriate argumentation and evidence are severely lacking.	The essay’s argumentation is unpersuasive and not clearly substantiated by evidence. The order and logic of the essay is lacking.	The essay exhibits thoughtful argumentation in support of the thesis, but the structure of the paper's logic needs improvement.	The essay is logically well-structured, flows well, and contains strong argumentation in support of the thesis.
Style 10%	The writing style is poor, and the paper is difficult to understand. Major grammatical errors are present throughout the paper.	The writing style is wooden, and transition sentences are absent. Some major grammatical errors are evidenced.	The writing style is adequate and understandable, but structural and transition elements need improvement. Some minor grammatical errors are present.	The writing style is refined, and transitions are easy to follow. No grammatical errors are noted.
Length 5%	The essay does not meet the required length.	The essay meets the bare minimum requirement.	The essay goes beyond the minimum requirement, but is not long enough to clearly communicate the argument.	The essay meets or exceeds the requirement.

Makeup Policy

Students may **not** makeup a quiz/short response for any reason – tardiness, illness, etc. If you enter the classroom while a quiz/short response is in progress, you may attempt to complete as much of the quiz/short response as possible until time is called for the papers to be submitted. Late quizzes will not be accepted.

Students will only be allowed to take a makeup exam with the approval of the instructor. Students who anticipate missing an exam should contact me **prior** to the time of the exam if at all possible. A confirmed reason for having missed the exam is required to take a makeup exam. Examples of acceptable confirmation include, but are not limited to, a verifiable doctor or hospital excuse, a funeral program or obituary for a close relative, a court summons, etc.

Disability

Academic accommodation will be made for those students having a documented special need. You should immediately contact the Office of Disability Services at 404/651-1487 (TDD 404/463-9048) to secure appropriate accommodation information. Please see me by the end of the first week of class so that arrangements can be made for this course.

Withdrawl Policy

The last day on which you may withdraw from this class and receive a “W” is **March 2, 2009**. I encourage you to see me prior to that date if you have concerns about your progress in this course. The complete University withdrawl policy may be found at www.gsu.edu/es/withdrawl_from_classes.html.

Incomplete Policy

The University policy states that students may only receive an incomplete for non-academic reasons. See section 1350.10 in the current undergraduate catalog, available at http://www.gsu.edu/images/Downloadables/Catalog_Undergraduate_08-09.pdf

Academic Honesty

The University has a strong policy against academic dishonesty (See section 1380 in the current undergraduate catalog, available at http://www.gsu.edu/images/Downloadables/Catalog_Undergraduate_08-09.pdf) Academic dishonesty (cheating on exams/assignments, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this course. Any student who is caught violating this policy will be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences, will receive an “F” for the course, and is subject to further disciplinary action.

Course & Assignment Schedule

The course & assignment schedule will be maintained separately on uLearn. Please check the course page on uLearn regularly for updates.

Important note: The course syllabus and course schedule provide a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. When modifications to the syllabus or schedule are made, you can find updated copies of the documents on uLearn.