

HIST 1112: THE WORLD SINCE 1500
I.C. FLETCHER
FALL 2007

This course traces the long history of globalization, from the interconnected world of the late thirteenth century to the interdependent world of the early twenty-first century. Meshing two great themes – our textbook’s theme of “worlds together, worlds apart” and our own theme of “worlds above, worlds below” – it seeks to explain the forces that have simultaneously integrated and divided the modern world. It explores the emergence of a modern world-system; the struggles among states as well as between rulers and subjects; the impact of cross-cultural encounters; the interplay of class, gender, race, and nationality in the making of colonialism and capitalism; the contest of dominant and alternative forms of modernity; the challenge of socialism, anticolonialism, and other antisystemic movements to the shifting global order; and the ongoing and chaotic transition to a new world-system. In tracking historical transformations, we will attend to subaltern, especially women’s, voices and visions.

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. The format of the course is lectures, film screenings, group work, and class discussion. In addition to the foundational textbook, our reading includes four supplemental books: a novel, a memoir, a collection of short stories, and a work of social investigation and study. All are required. I expect you to be a critical reader, open-minded discussant, and clear and thoughtful writer. You should regularly attend class meetings because your presence and contribution matter. *Please turn off and stow all electronic devices, including cellphones and computers, during class meetings.* You should complete all assignments on time. To stimulate class discussion, we will sometimes begin with *freewrites* in response to reading assignments. I am willing to allow a very limited number of excused absences arising from family, health, and work emergencies, but I cannot grant them automatically. Four or more unexcused absences will affect your final course grade.

Grading in this course uses plus and minus grades. Here is the scheme:

A- = 90-93	A = 94-100	
B- = 80-83	B = 84-86	B+ = 87-89
C- = 70-73	C = 74-76	C+ = 77-79
D- = 60-63	D = 64-66	D+ = 67-69
F – let’s not even go there!		

Please note that, beginning in Fall 2006, you are allowed to withdraw from courses by the semester midpoint and receive a “W” grade no more than six times during your studies at

Georgia State University. You will receive a “WF” grade for any additional course withdrawals. The midpoint for this semester is 15 October 2007.

The final course grade is derived from eight quizzes (20%), three reading questionnaires (15%), a midterm examination (20%), a final examination (30%), and participation (15%). The *quizzes* are a combination of multiple choice and true/false statements; the eighth quiz may include short-answer questions about the last additional book. There are no make-up quizzes. The *reading questionnaires* consist of four questions, each of which calls for a paragraph-length response. Late reading questionnaires without a legitimate excuse will be marked down. The *midterm examination* consists of two parts, a broad synthetic essay (based on the textbook) and a close analytic essay (based on the first additional book). The *final examination* consists of two parts, a broad synthetic essay (based on the textbook) and a close analytic essay (based on the last two additional books). I will provide study guides for each exam. You must have a legitimate excuse to take a make-up exam. Your contribution to class discussion will factor into *participation*. I will consider an *extra credit project* at the end of the semester only in exceptional circumstances. Needless to say, it is understood that you will be honest in submitting written work for credit and I will be fair in grading it.

The course meets 11:00-11:50 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in 403 GCB. Comments and questions are welcome inside and outside the classroom. Please send messages to icfletcher@gsu.edu; type “Hist 1112” in the subject line. My office hours are 12:00 NOON-1:00 PM Wednesday and Friday and by appointment (404/413-6355) in 834 GCB.

BOOKS

Robert Tignor, Jeremy Adelman, Stephen Aron, Stephen Kotkin, Suzanne Marchand, Gyan Prakash, and Michael Tsing, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the Modern World from the Mongol Empire to the Present* (2002)
Kate McCafferty, *Testimony of an Irish Slave Girl* (2002)
Nancy Price, *A Black Woman's Odyssey through Russia and Jamaica* (1990) [Reprint of *Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince* (1850)]
Ding Ling and Lu Hsun, *The Power of Weakness: Stories of the Chinese Revolution* (2007)
Miriam Ching Yoon Louie, *Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take On the Global Factory* (2001)

MEETINGS, READINGS, ETC.

20 AUG. *WHAT IS MODERN WORLD HISTORY?*

- 22 AUG. *WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 2-13
- 24 AUG. *THE PREMODERN WORLD-SYSTEM***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 13-34
- 27 AUG. *EURASIAN WORLD EMPIRE***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 34-41
- FIRST QUIZ***
- 29 AUG. *PLAGUES, PEOPLES, AND POLITIES***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 42-48
- 31 AUG. *MIDDLE KINGDOMS***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 48-58
- 3 SEPT. *LABOR DAY***
- 5 SEPT. *FAR EAST, ...***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 59-66
- FOUR 8 ½ X 11 EXAMINATION "BLUE BOOKS" DUE IN CLASS***
- 7 SEPT. *..., FAR WEST?***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 66-77
- SECOND QUIZ***
- 10 SEPT. *TOWARDS THE MODERN WORLD-SYSTEM***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 78-93
- 12 SEPT. *PACHAKUTI***
Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 93-106
- 14 SEPT. *REVERBERATIONS***

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 106-117

17 SEPT. ATLANTIC WORLD ECONOMY

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 118-136

19 SEPT. ENCOUNTERS

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 136-148

21 SEPT. TRANSITIONS

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 148-161

THIRD QUIZ

24 SEPT. FORMATIONS OF RACE

McCafferty, *Testimony of an Irish Slave Girl*

FIRST READING QUESTIONNAIRE DUE IN CLASS

26 SEPT. ON THE EVE OF THE GREAT DIVERGENCE

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 162-179

28 SEPT. WHAT IS ENLIGHTENMENT?

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 179-186

1 OCT. MODERNITY/COLONIALITY

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 186-195

3 OCT. MIDTERM EXAM PART ONE

5 OCT. MIDTERM EXAM PART TWO

8 OCT. REVOLUTIONS

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 196-216

10 OCT. RESTRUCTURING THROUGH EMANCIPATION?

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 213-225

12 OCT. ON THE MORROW OF THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 225-237

15 OCT. OTHER WORLDS

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 238-251

17 OCT. MORAL ECONOMIES

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 251-257

19 OCT. RESISTANCES

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 257-269

FOURTH QUIZ

22 OCT. MEANINGS OF FREEDOM

Prince, *A Black Woman's Odyssey through Russia and Jamaica*

SECOND READING QUESTIONNAIRE DUE IN CLASS

24 OCT. IMAGINED COMMUNITIES

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 270-285

26 OCT. EMPIRES OLD AND NEW

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 286-307

29 OCT. WORLD IN FLUX

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 308-329

31 OCT. THE HIGHEST STAGE OF MODERNITY?

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 329-332

2 NOV. REAL AND IMAGINED HIERARCHIES

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 333-345

FIFTH QUIZ

5 NOV. WORLD WAR AND REVOLUTION

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 346-356

7 NOV. CULTURE INDUSTRIES

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 357-361

9 NOV. CONTRADICTIONS

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 361-383

SIXTH QUIZ

12 NOV. EXPERIENCES OF LIBERATION

Ling and Hsun, *The Power of Weakness*

THIRD READING QUESTIONNAIRE DUE IN CLASS

14 NOV. WORLD WAR AND DECOLONIZATION

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 384-397

16 NOV. NEOCOLONIALISM THROUGH DEVELOPMENTALISM?

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 397-409

19 NOV. REVOLUTIONS OLD AND NEW

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 409-423

SEVENTH QUIZ

22 NOV. THANKSGIVING DAY

26 NOV. FROM THREE WORLDS TO GLOBAL SOUTH AND NORTH

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 424-444

28 NOV. READING DAY

30 NOV. GLOBALIZATION FROM BELOW

Louie, *Sweatshop Warriors*, vii-x, 1-178

3 DEC. ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Louie, *Sweatshop Warriors*, 179-256

5 DEC. TRANSITION TO THE NEXT WORLD-SYSTEM?

Tignor, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 444-462

EIGHTH QUIZ

7 DEC. REVIEW

12 DEC. FINAL EXAM PARTS ONE AND TWO (10:15 AM)

19 DEC. GRADES DUE TO REGISTRAR

NAME

READING QUESTIONNAIRE #

AUTHOR/TITLE

- 1) In a few words, how would you describe the story or subject of the book?
- 2) What do you think is the book's most intriguing scene or striking statement? Why?
- 3) How specifically does the book help you understand the past (and perhaps the present as well)?
- 4) How would you connect the book to our meshed themes of "worlds together, worlds apart" and "worlds above, worlds apart"?

***PLEASE REPRODUCE THE ABOVE FORMAT AND QUESTIONS
IN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE***

***YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE
SHOULD BE TYPEWRITTEN OR COMPUTER-GENERATED***