

**HIST 1370 W A01**  
**An Introduction to Modern World History 1500 - 1800**

T/Th 8:30  
Room: 235 Isbister Building  
Instructor: George Buri

**Textbook:** *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History*. Volume II: Since 1500. Fourth Edition. Bulliet, Crossley, Headrick, Hirsch and Johnson.

I highly recommend that you purchase the textbook as it will supply supplementary information that we do not have time to cover in lectures and provide context for your primary source paper.

**Office Hours:**

I will be in my office University College 343 from 9:45-11:00 Tuesday and Thursday. Please feel free to drop by to discuss assignments or any other issues related to the course.

If this is not convenient we can set up another time to meet or you can e-mail me any time at [George.buri@umanitoba.ca](mailto:George.buri@umanitoba.ca).

**Objectives:**

1. Content: World history is the study of the interactions between various peoples in the global past. In this course we will study the major political, economic, social and cultural developments in global history from the beginning of European exploration and conquest to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Specific themes to be explored include: The birth of capitalism and liberalism and their replacement of conservatism and feudalism, the rise of Europe and the comparative decline of Asian and Islamic civilizations, as well as the impact of colonialism.

2. Skills: In studying world history from 1500-1800 we will develop certain skills that have relevance beyond historical study. These include critical evaluation of secondary sources, understanding primary sources by placing them into their proper context, researching and writing argumentative essays, and contributing to constructive group discussions.

**Assignments:**

Primary Source Analysis Essay = 25% (Due Feb 3)

Research Essay = 35% (March 19)

Mid Term Exam = 10% (March 5)

Final Exam = 30%

*Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.*

*The Primary Source Analysis Essay:* You will be required to write a 6 - 8 page (1500-2000 words) essay on one of three possible topics. For each topic a collection of primary sources will be provided through D2L. You will use these sources as well as secondary materials to answer a specific question related to your particular collection of materials.

**Essay Option #1: Contact Between Europeans and Indigenous Peoples**

- How do Europeans view the Indigenous peoples whom they encounter? What do you think accounts for these attitudes? How do the Indigenous peoples regard Europeans?

**Readings:** Bardot, John. *Description of the Coasts of North and South Guinea*". 1732

- Bernal Diaz del Castillo. *The Conquest of New Spain*. 1520

- Equiano, Olaudah, "Life of Gustavus Vassa". 1789

### **Essay Option #2: The French Revolution**

- How do each of the authors regard the French Revolution? Who is more convincing and why?

**Readings:** Abbé de Sieyès, *What Is the Third Estate?* (1789)

- Burke, Edmund, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790)

- Olympe de Gouges. *The Declaration of the Rights of Woman* (1791)

### **Essay Option #3: The State**

- Compare and contrast the authors' theories regarding who should have sovereignty and why.

Who is most convincing?

**Readings:** Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. 1651. (Selection)

James I. *True Law of a Free Monarchy*. 1598.

Rousseau, Jean Jacques. *The Social Contract*. 1762.

*The Research Essay:* will be 8-10 pages on a topic of the student's choice. You may invent your own topic or choose one from the list provided. Prior to submitting the actual essay you must see me about your proposed thesis as well as the sources you are planning to use so I can make sure you are on the right track. A handout on essay writing will be provided.

*The Mid-Term and Final Exams:* will consist entirely of essays in which you will be required to answer interpretative questions and back up your answers using specific reference to world history from 1500 to 1800 as covered in the text book and in my lectures. A list of potential questions will be given out prior to the exam.

**Late policy:** For Essays you will lose one grade for every class that your essay is late. If you cannot hand your essay to me in person it may be handed into the history office where it will be date stamped. Deadlines may be flexible if you ask for an extension IN ADVANCE (the farther in advance the better). If you are experiencing problems with the workload in this or a combination of courses please come to see me and we can work something out. Please come see me beforehand rather than not handing anything in and then coming to see me afterward.

**Regarding Plagiarism:** *The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.*

*The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.*

*The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.*

**Appeals:** Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

**Uncollected term work** will become property of the faculty of arts and will be subject to destruction.

**The Voluntary Withdrawal Date:** is March 19 and evaluation of term work will be provided prior to then.

**Marking:** Letter grades correspond to number grades as follows:

A+ = 90-100

A = 80-89

B+ = 75-79

B = 70-74

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59

F = below 50

Keep in mind that the goal of this course should be to improve your skills, NOT to achieve any specific grade. Thus my comments on your assignments are far more important than the specific grade given. Please read comments carefully as I have put significant thought into them.

### **Class Schedule: Due Date in Bold**

#### **Part I: The Age of European Expansion**

Jan 6: Introduction / What is History?

Jan 8,13: The World in 1500

Jan 15,20: Why didn't China Take over the World?

Jan 22: Islamic Empires and World Trade

Jan 27: Europe: The Ancien Regime and Feudalism

Jan 29: European Commercial Expansion and the development of Capitalism

Feb 3: The Renaissance and Reformation **PRIMARY SOURCE PAPER DUE TODAY**

Feb 5,10: Spain, Portugal and the New World

Feb 12: Africa and the Slave Trade

#### **Feb 16-20: No Class Mid-Term Break**

Feb 24, 26, March 3: The European Struggle for World Hegemony: From 30 years war to 7 years war

#### **March 5: Mid-Term Exam**

#### **Part II: The Age of Revolution**

Mar 10: The Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution

Mar 12,17: The American Revolution

Mar 19: Latin American Revolutions **RESEARCH ESSAY DUE TODAY**

Mar 24, 26: The French Revolution

Mar 31: The Agricultural Revolution

Apr 2, 7: The Industrial Revolution

Apr 9: Review and Exam Prep