History 1370 W
Introduction to Modern World History, 1500-1800

Professor Julie A. Gibbings [Available as of September 28, 2015 only]
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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm
Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30am

Course Description:
Over the period lasting from 1500 to 1800 profound transformations took place that connected disparate regions across the globe in new ways, leading to what some historians see as the first wave of “globalization.” It was also a period that led to the development of what we now think of as the modern world – a world defined by secular reason and science, capitalism and ideas of citizenship and the nation-state. This semester, we will explore how people from different parts of the world engaged, resisted, and negotiated new global connections brought by trade, migration, and empire. We also examine how out of these ordinary interactions broader historical processes emerged. Among these processes, we will examine how coerced labor, racial hierarchy, patriarchy, intolerance, and empire were at the very foundations of modern society based on the seemingly opposite principals of capitalism, freedom, equality, and democracy. This course will, thus, ask how these contradictory foundations continue to shape our contemporary society.

Course Objectives:
This course has two primary and inter-related objectives. First, it will introduce you to the principal practices of the historian: interpretation of primary documents, research, and analysis of historical debates. Second, it will introduce you to a series of debates in world history that are currently redefining what we know and how we think about world history. You will write three essays over the course of the semester, each progressively building your historical skills.

Course Assignments and Evaluation:
Two papers of 6 to 7 pages (1500-1750 words): 20% each (Due: Nov. 5, Dec. 3 – drafts are due 1 week before each final due date.)
In-class Assignment/Quiz: 5% (Sept. 17th)
Participation in Class Discussions: 20%
Comprehensive Final Exam: 35%

Papers: I will provide you with a more detailed rubric for your papers when the assignments are distributed and we will have at least one paper-writing workshop in class. We will also engage in in-class peer-review of essay drafts. After the peer-review, you will have a week to polish and revise your essay. This is a crucial exercise in the development of writing skills. Failure to complete a draft for the peer-review will result in a 10% deduction on your paper grade. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. For the late policy on papers, see course policies.
Discussions: A crucial component of the course is weekly discussions that will happen in UMLearn during the week (Monday-Friday). You can post anytime, but you are required to post a response online at least twice during the week. You will also be a “discussion leader” once during the semester in which you, along with other discussion leaders, are required to initiate and guide the online discussion. We will also discuss the readings in class. Full information about online discussions will be provided at the beginning of UNIT TWO and the online discussions will begin at that time.

*Please note this course fulfills the “Written English Requirement” in the University of Manitoba and essays must be expository and analytical in nature. You will receive feedback on both content and style. Also note the following:

“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.”

*You will be provided with an evaluation of your course work to date on the Final Voluntary Withdrawal deadline of November 18th.

*Please approach me with any grade appeals or concerns as soon as possible. It is university policy that “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.”

Grading Scale:
A+ 88-100%  C+ 65-69%
A  80-87%  C  60-64%
B+ 75-79%  D  50-59%
B  70-74%  F  0-49%

Course Policies
* I have a zero tolerance policy towards plagiarism and other forms of cheating. The section on “Academic Integrity” of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities.html) reads:

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.

*If you would like your course work from the end of the semester please collect it early in the following semester. “Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.”

*Email: Please reserve email for quick, one-word-answer type questions only. A face-to-face conversation is more productive for substantive questions about course content, deadlines, concerns, etc. In these cases, we can talk before or after class, during my regular office hours or by appointment.

*Technology offers us many exciting resources for learning. However, unless we use laptops in specific exercises, research suggests that we benefit more from using them outside than inside the classroom. A recent study from psychologists at York University concludes that students who use laptops in classrooms do “11% worse on comprehension tests” than those who did not, while those who could see a neighbor’s laptop screen fared 17% worse on tests than students who could not.* This disadvantage equals one to two whole letter grades. Yikes! The researchers concluded that we often overestimate our capacity to effectively multitask and laptops unintentionally distract those around us. Therefore, to promote a productive learning environment, laptops will not be allowed in lecture or discussion. Finally, all cell phones, ipods, and other devices must be turned off or silenced and stored away for the duration of class.


*Late Papers: It is in your best interest to submit your paper on time. If you hand in your paper late, the grader will not necessarily have scheduled time to grade it and it may take me longer to get your paper back to you. With only a few weeks between assignments, this may hinder your ability to improve your next paper. Nonetheless, if you know you will not be able to get your paper in on time, please contact me at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline in order to receive an extension. I will not grant extensions after that time (except under the most exceptional circumstances). Late papers will receive a penalty of 2.5% each day they are overdue. For example, if the paper is due on Tuesday and you submit it on Friday, even if you wrote a paper that received 80% (an “A” paper), you would receive a grade of 72.5% (a “B” paper).

*Copying course materials: Lectures in this course are copyright of the professor. Please do not record or distribute lecture materials to individuals not registered in this class without my consent. Sharing notes with another student in this class is not only allowed, but also encouraged.

*All course materials must be submitted by the last day of classes.
Student resources
You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/ The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/). The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on two days of the week. More information about scheduling etc TBA.

All of the above services can also be accessed through this link under the heading Student Resources: http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=219304

Required Readings

All readings for Units 2 to 4 are available on UM Learn. Readings for Unit 1 will be provided in class.

*Readings and Weekly topics are subject to change.

Optional readings: For those students who would like to supplement course lectures with a textbook, I recommend, Peter von Sivers, Charles a. Desnoyers, and George B. Stow, Patterns of World History: Volume 2, Since 1400. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014). A copy will be placed on course reserve at the library.

Unit I: Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1400-1600

Week 1: September 10th: Introduction to Modern World History
Instructor: Dr. Todd Scarth (todd.scarth@umanitoba.ca, office: 356 University College)

Week 2: September 15th and 17th: Rethinking Geography: From Europe to Eurasia in the Early Modern World
Instructor: Dr. Tina Chen (tina.chen@umanitoba.ca, office: 400 Fletcher Argue)
   In-class assignment/quiz: September 17, 2015

Week 3: September 22nd and 24th: Contact and Colonization in the Atlantic World
Instructor: Dr. Todd Scarth (todd.scarth@umanitoba.ca, office: 356 University College)
Readings: TBA

Week 4: September 29th and October 1st Religious Conflict in Europe and Prosperity in Asia
Instructor: Dr. Henry Heller (henry.heller@umanitoba.ca, office: 344 University College)
Reading: Timothy Brook, “Profit and Righteousness in Chinese Economic Culture,” *Culture and Economy in the Shaping of Capitalism in East Asia.* 27-44.

**Unit II: Worlds of Trade and the Consolidation of Imperial Power, 1600-1750**

**Week 5:** October 6th and 8th: Mercantilism and New Colonies in the Americas
Documentary: *We Shall Remain*

**Week 6:** October 13th and 15th: The Worlds of the Slave Trade and Coerced Labor

**Week 7:** October 20th and 22nd: Colonialism and Inland Empire in Asia and Europe

**Unit III: Entangled Cultures of Splendor and Empire, 1500-1780**

**Week 8:** October 27th and 29th: Islamic Cultural Synthesis and the Challenge of Diversity in East Asia

*Draft Essay Due, October 29th (peer review in class)*

**Week 9:** November 3rd: The Worldliness of Enlightenment Europe and African Cultural Flourishing
Documentary: The Lost Kingdoms of Africa

*No class Thursday November 5th, professor away at professional conference.*

* Essay Due, November 5th, submit to History Department term paper submission mailbox, 4th floor Fletcher Argue

**Week 10:** Nov 10th and 12th. Topics and readings TBA.
Week 11: November 17th and 19th: America and Imperialism.
Film: Master and Commander

*Last day for voluntary withdrawal, November 18th

**Unit IV: Revolution and a New World Order, 1750-1850**

Week 12: November 24th and 26th: Atlantic Revolutions and the Promise of Freedom
Documentary: Clips form Rough Crossings

Week 13: December 1st and 3rd: The Industrial Revolution and Persistence and Change in Afro-Eurasia

* Essay Due December 3rd.

Week 14: December 8th:: Legacies and Conclusions: The West and the Rest?
Ted Talk: Niall Ferguson, “Civilization: The West and the Rest”

Final Exam. Good luck!