History 1370 W
Introduction to Modern World History, 1500-1800
Winter 2016

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Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:15 am
Office Hours: Mondays: 12:30-1:30pm

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:

Three papers 4-5 pages (1000-1250 words): 15% each
Weekly Write-Ups: 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.

Weekly Write-ups: A crucial component of the course is weekly reading responses. You are required to write weekly summaries and responses to the readings and to post them in UMLearn for the corresponding week. These weekly summaries are due by Wednesday at 10am.
**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 March 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%
- A 80-87%
- B+ 75-79%
- B 70-74%
- C+ 65-69%
- C 60-64%
- D 50-59%
- F 0-49%

**Course Policies**

* I have a zero tolerance policy towards plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Section 8 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: 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/](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/](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 under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: [http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html](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 are available on UMLearn

*Readings 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:** January 7th: Introduction to Modern World History  
No class, professor away at professional conference  

**Week 2:** January 12th and 14th: Rethinking Geography: From Europe to Eurasia in the Early Modern World  

**Week 3:** January 19th and 21st: Contact and Colonization in the Atlantic World  
Film: *Even the Rain*

**Week 4:** January 26th and 28th: Religious Conflict in Europe and Prosperity in Asia  
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:** February 2nd and 4th: Mercantilism and New Colonies in the Americas
Documentary: *We Shall Remain*

*Unit I Essay Draft Due, February 4th (peer review in class)*

**Week 6:** February 9th and 11th: The Worlds of the Slave Trade and Coerced Labor

*Unit I Essay Due, February 11th*

February 15th-19th: Mid Term Break

**Week 7:** February 23rd and 25th: Colonialism and Inland Empire in Asia and Europe

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

**Week 8:** March 1 and March 3rd: Islamic Cultural Synthesis and the Challenge of Diversity in East Asia

*Draft of Unit II Essay Due, March 3rd (peer review in class)*

**Week 9:** March 8th and 10th: The Worldliness of Enlightenment Europe and African Cultural Flourishing
“Newton on the Beach: The Information Order of *Principia Mathematica*” *History of Science* xlvii (2009), 243-276.
Documentary: The Lost Kingdoms of Africa

*Unit II Essay Due, March 10th*
Week 10: March 15th and 17th: America and Imperialism.
Film: Master and Commander

*Last Day for Voluntary withdrawal, March 18th

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

Week 11: March 22nd and March 24th: Atlantic Revolutions and the Promise of Freedom
Documentary: Clips form Rough Crossings

Week 12: March 29th and 31st: Independence in Latin America and the Abolition of the Slave Trade
Film: Amistad

*Unit III Essay Due March 31st

Week 13: April 5th and 7th: The Industrial Revolution and Persistence and Change in Afro-Eurasia
Ted Talk: Niall Ferguson, “Civilization: The West and the Rest”

Final Exam. Good luck!