

Framingham State University

Summer 2018

HIST155 | The Comparative History of World Civilizations

Session: Summer 2018(May 28th,2018-June 29th ,2018)

Credits: 4

Teaching Hours: 50 Hours

Time: 2 hours/day, Mon-Fri

Professor Name: Adrian Rubio

Home Institution: Framingham State University

Title: Lecturer

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of world civilizations from the time of their contact with Western societies to the present. The goal of this course is to explore and develop theoretical and comparative frameworks for understanding global history. Particular emphasis is placed upon the socio-economic, intellectual, political, diplomatic, and cross-cultural influences which have shaped these cultures. Such topics as the industrialization, cultural development, and governmental evolution of the world's major civilizations are covered. In exploring the world's modern history, we will focus on identifying and analyzing major trends that have tied together humans from disparate regions of the planet. Globalization is perhaps stronger than ever at the present moment. But we will also see that it has been significant for several centuries in the areas of travel and exploration; historically momentous exchanges of people, goods, ideas, and microbes; empires based on land or sea power; and conflict and war. Finally, we will consider what the study of history can tell us about the origins and consequences of global disparities in wealth and power.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In studying topics in world history, the primary goal is NOT for you to cram a dizzying amount of facts into your head that you would quickly forget after the course is over. Ultimately, the idea is for you to become a stronger thinker about the world's history, while hopefully also enjoying the process of learning and discovering things you did not know before. More specifically, it is hoped that by the end of the course you will be able to:

- Gain an introductory knowledge of major developments in the history of the world's diverse societies
- Think more critically, knowledgably, and independently about the past and about the origins of the current state of affairs in the world
- Deepen your capability to understand perspectives different from yours, thereby enriching your own perspective and your ability to articulate it
- Improve your capacity to efficiently comprehend, synthesize, and interpret large volumes of complex textual information
- Critically analyze primary and secondary sources

- Gain a clearer understanding of what it means to study history, and specifically how historians advance knowledge of the past through the critical examination of historical documents and by framing and debating broader questions of interpretation

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Lecture and Discussion

This is combined lecture/discussion course. The first hour will be dedicated to an examination of major trends and relevant historical processes, drawing on primary sources, such as documents, maps, and art. The second hour will be dedicated to a collaborative discussion in which the students are encouraged to engage critically with the primary and secondary sources they reviewed for homework. More specifically, they will draw upon the theories and frameworks that allow us to better understand global history. In preparation for class, there are two specific requirements:

Requirement 1: Your informed attendance and intellectual engagement are essential parts of this course. It is important that you complete all required readings and post your feedback on Blackboard twice a week. This feedback should be no more than 200 words and may include either questions or comments that you have about the assigned readings. You will be divided in two groups: one writing on Mondays and Wednesdays; and another writing on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Requirement 2: At the beginning of the course, you will be assigned a region of expertise to which you will be expected to pay special attention. During the lecture part of the class, the instructor will likely call on you for reference. A sign-up sheet is available at Blackboard so that students can indicate their preferred regions.

Essay papers

Along with attendance at lectures and active participation in discussions, you will need to write two short midterm essay prompts (a double-space format of 1,200 words; due on June 8 and June 22).

Exams

There will be one midterm exam on June 15 and a cumulative final exam on June 29.

FINAL GRADES

Final grades will be calculated in the following manner:

- Attendance/participation: 15%
- Biweekly feedback on readings: 15%
- Two essay prompts (15% each): 30%
- Exams (15% for the midterm and 25% for the final): 40%

General grade equivalences are as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent Grade	4.0 Scale
<i>A</i>	<i>94-100</i>	<i>4.0</i>
<i>A-</i>	<i>90-93.9</i>	<i>3.7</i>
<i>B+</i>	<i>87-89.9</i>	<i>3.3</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83-86.9</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>B-</i>	<i>80-82.9</i>	<i>2.7</i>
<i>C+</i>	<i>77-79.9</i>	<i>2.3</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73-76.9</i>	<i>2.0</i>
<i>C-</i>	<i>70-72.9</i>	<i>1.7</i>
<i>D+</i>	<i>67-69.9</i>	<i>1.3</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63-66.9</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>D-</i>	<i>60-62.9</i>	<i>0.7</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Below 60</i>	<i>0.0</i>

COURSE TEXT

Strayer, Robert W., and Eric W. Nelson. *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, Volume II*, 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. [ISBN: 978-1319018429]

Other required readings will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

Technology Policy

The use of laptops and smart phones will not be allowed in class. These devices inhibit communication with other people in the room, as well as distracting you, your classmates, and the professor. If this policy poses a serious hardship to you in some way (i.e., a documented learning disability), please come speak to the professor and arrangements will be made. E-readers will be permitted for use in class provided the e- book is NOT on a phone or laptop, but on a tablet. All internet/wireless functions must be disabled during class (i.e. airplane mode). Please take notes in a paper notebook.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are unacceptable, and all such offences will be reported to your academic dean and will result in failure of the assignment and possibly of the course. Please properly cite all quoted or paraphrased sources, and any ideas which are not originally yours. If you have any questions about how to cite your sources, or if you are unsure what counts as plagiarism or cheating, please get in touch with me. For more information about FSU's policy on academic integrity, see:

https://framingham.edu/Assets/uploads/academics/catalogs/_documents/undergraduate-catalogs/2017-2018-undergraduate-catalog/undergraduate-catalog-2017-2018.pdf.

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

PART I. THE EARLY MODERN WORLD, 1450–1750

Week 1 (5/28-6/1)

Introduction: What are world civilizations? What is comparative history?
The Worlds of the Fifteen Century
Political Transformations: Empires and Encounters, 1450–1750 (Chapter 13)
Economic Transformations: Commerce and Consequence, 1450–1750 (Chapter 14)
Cultural Transformations: Religion and Science, 1450–1750 (Chapter 15)
Additional readings on Blackboard
Workshop: How to write a history paper?

PART II. THE EUROPEAN MOMENT IN WORLD HISTORY, 1750–1914

Week 2 (6/4-6/8)

Atlantic Revolutions, Global Echoes, 1750–1914 (Chapter 16)
Revolutions of Industrialization, 1850–1914 (Chapters 17)
Additional readings on Blackboard
Paper 1 due

Week 3(6/11-6/15)

Colonial Encounters in Asia, Africa, and Oceania, 1750–1950 (Chapter 18)
Empires in Collision: Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia, 1800–1914 (Chapter 19)
Additional readings on Blackboard
Midterm Exam

PART III. THE MOST RECENT CENTURY, 1914–2018

Week 4(6/18-6/22)

Collapse at the Center: World War, Depression, and the Rebalancing of Global Power, 1914–1970s (Chapter 20)
Revolution, Socialism, and Global Conflict: The Rise and Fall of World Communism, 1917-present (Chapter 21)
Additional readings on Blackboard
Paper 2 due

Week 5(6/25-6/29)

The End of Empire: The Global South on the Global Stage, 1914–present (Chapter 22)
Capitalism and Culture: The Acceleration of Globalization, since 1945 (Chapter 23)
Additional readings on Blackboard
Final Exam