

History 130: An Introduction to World History
University of Wisconsin-Madison - Spring 2021
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 12:05pm – 12:55pm
Discussion Sections: Wednesday & Thursday (various times)
Modality: Online Only
4 Credits

Instructor:

H William Warner, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Friday 1:00pm-2:00pm, or by appt. (conducted via Zoom)

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Zhijun Ren

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Office Hours: (conducted online)

Course Description

While world history has recently emerged as a very active field of scholarly research, it is in fact one of the oldest forms of historical writing we have. This course will explore a few of the major questions in world history: what are the major varieties of human civilization, and how and why are they different? How did these differentiated societies interact with one another? How did the modern, interconnected world emerge? Finally, how did people at different times and places answer these same questions? In exploring these questions, this course will consider the entire sweep of human history—from the upper paleolithic to the present—with special attention paid to the themes of migration and mobility. We will primarily take a bird's eye view and occasionally dip down for perspectives 'from the ground.' Beginning with a broad overview of the inhabited continents and their distinguishing geographic and ecological features, we then explore the expansion of Mediterranean society through an examination of Ancient Greece and Rome. We will then look at the Islamic world and its contributions to enhancing the regional interconnectedness of Eurasia. The course will conclude by considering the modern world by analyzing the rise of the British Empire and the post-colonial period of the late twentieth century.

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each lecture counts as 1.5 hours and each discussion counts as an hour). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this course.

Requisites

None.

Required Texts

All readings are to be done before their associated lecture.

Cook, Michael. *A Brief History of the Human Race*. New York, 2003.

Ali, Omar. *Islam in the Indian Ocean*. Boston, 2016

Ferguson, Niall. *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*. New York, 2002. (E-book available through library.wisc.edu)

Silverstein, Adam J. *Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, 2010. (E-book available through library.wisc.edu, no purchase necessary)

Erauso, Catalina De. *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World* (E-book available through library.wisc.edu No purchase necessary)

Readings posted on Canvas

The texts for this course were chosen after considering temporal and geographic coverage, reading level, and affordability. All but two books are available online through the UW library website, which means that they do not require purchase. It is not expected or assumed that students in this course will agree with all arguments and perspectives advanced by the authors. We will engage with all texts critically and explore together alternative arguments along the way. The paper assignments in particular are designed for you to engage with the ideas and arguments in a rigorous fashion. In addition, we will be reading primary sources throughout the semester that serve as counterexamples or elisions to the history presented in some texts.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate a broad acquaintance with several geographic areas of the world
- Obtain a working knowledge of world historical periodization for both pre-modern and modern eras
- Compare and contrast different historical eras
- Demonstrate the relevance of a historical perspective to contemporary issues
- Able to summarize, analyze, and critique a monograph and primary sources
- Recognize, challenge, and avoid false analogies, overgeneralizations, anachronisms, and other logical fallacies.

Assignments and Grades

Participation and Attendance	20%
8 Quizzes	45%
Book Review	15%
Primary Source Essay	10%
Final Exam	10%

Grading scale: 93-100% A; 88-92.9% AB; 82-87.9% B; 78-81.9% BC; 70-77.9% C; 55-69.9% D; 0-54.9% F

Quizzes and Final Exam

In place of a midterm, you will take quizzes throughout the semester. These 8 quizzes, taken together, will make up the bulk of your grade. There will be a final exam that is cumulative.

Writing Assignments

Students will submit two papers: a book review of Niall Ferguson's *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and Lessons for Global Power* and an essay on *Lieutenant Nun*. The book review will be six (6) pages. More than simply summarizing its content, this book review will evaluate the arguments and provide an overall assessment. The essay on *Lieutenant Nun* will be an analysis of the

work in four (4) pages. Assignment sheets that outline expectations for each will be distributed well in advance of each deadline.

The History Lab is a resource center where experts (PhD students) will assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process — choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts — the History Lab staff can help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. Schedule a one-on-one consultation at <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab> or drop by Humanities 4255.

Class Policies

Section Participation and Attendance (20% of Final Grade): Attendance and participation in lectures and discussion is mandatory and expected. Attendance alone will not guarantee a perfect 20%. Participation includes—but is not limited to—asking questions, responding to other students' questions, answering questions, and attending office hours. The instructor fully supports any additional policies spelled out by the teaching assistants.

Lecture Delivery: This course will be presented in a modified synchronous manner. Each lecture will be available on the course's Canvas site at 12:00pm on Monday/Wednesday. The lectures will be available for 24 hours and it is expected that students will view each lecture by Tuesday 12:00pm for Monday's lecture and Thursdays 12:00pm for Wednesday's lecture. Each week will feature a question for the week related to the lectures and readings for Monday and Wednesday lectures. Each Friday, students will submit a brief (~200 word) response (graded as pass/fail) to that question. The lecture time on Friday will be devoted to reflecting informally on these responses and answering questions related to week. Friday lecture will be conducted via BBCollaborate or Zoom, depending on functionality. A link will be posted on Canvas.

Lecture Attendance: It is expected that students will attend (in this case, virtually) all lectures. Lecture attendance will be captured by weekly assignments due each Friday by the start of class time. The course instructor will not provide material from or review lecture to accommodate non-University-approved absences. Quizzes will include questions based on lecture.

Scheduling Conflicts: If you have an exam for another class scheduled for MWF between 12:05pm and 12:55pm, you will need to ask the instructor of that course for an accommodation (an alternative testing time and/or location). University policy requires instructors holding exams outside of their scheduled meeting times to offer such accommodations to students with scheduling conflicts.

Quarantine or Isolation Due to COVID-19

Students should continually monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and get tested for the virus if they have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Students should reach out to instructors as soon as possible if they become ill or need to isolate or quarantine, in order to make alternate plans for how to proceed with the course. Students are strongly encouraged to communicate with their instructor concerning their illness and the anticipated extent of their absence from the course (either in-person or remote). The instructor will work with the student to provide alternative ways to complete the course work.

Academic Integrity

By virtue of enrollment, each student agrees to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these previously listed acts are examples of misconduct which may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary action include, but is not limited to, failure on the assignment/course, written reprimand,

disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. For more information, refer to <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/>

Usage of Audio Recorded Lectures Statement

Lecture materials and recordings for History 130 are protected intellectual property at UW-Madison. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or have lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities.

Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

How to Succeed in this Course

There are a few basic ways to do well in this course (and all of your other courses):

- Do the reading
- Have perfect attendance
- Complete every assignment
- Read assignment instructions
- Submit every assignment on time
- Meet with the instructor at least once
- Meet with the teaching assistants at least once
- Ask about how to improve performance early in the semester
- Be open to changing your approach to reading, taking notes, and studying

We want everyone to do well in this course. Ask us for help.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

McBurney Disability Resource Center syllabus statement: "The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. ([See: McBurney Disability Resource Center](#))"

Diversity & Inclusion

Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status,

abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world. <https://diversity.wisc.edu/>

Important Dates

Quiz dates: Feb. 5; Feb. 12; Feb. 26; Mar. 5; Mar. 12; Mar. 26; Apr. 7; Apr. 16

Due Dates: April 9; April 23

Final Exam: May 2

Weekly Schedule

All readings are to be done before the lecture of their assigned date. So, for lecture on Wednesday, January 27, please read the article by Jerry Bentley, “The New World History,” which is available on the course’s Canvas website in the Files section. Where applicable, materials that will be discussed in depth in discussion will be marked with “(FS).”

Week 1 – Course Introduction, Pre-History and History

1 – M – January 25 - Course Introduction

2 – W – January 27: What is world history? When is world history?

On Canvas:

Jerry H. Bentley, “The New World History,” in: L. Kramer and S. Mazda (eds), *A Companion to Western Historical Thought* (Oxford, 2002), 393-416

3 – F – January 29 - The Neolithic Revolution and the Emergence of Civilization

Michael Cook, *Brief History [BH, hereafter]*, xix-xxiv, 1-52

Week 2 – The Deep History of the Global South

4 – M – February 1 – Australia and the Americas

BH, 55-98

5 – W – February 3 – Migration and Biodiversity in African History

BH, 99-121

On Canvas: Documents from Africa (FS)

6 – F – February 5 – Africa, Australia, and the Americas in Comparison – **Quiz 1 (Map)**

Week 3 - The Large Ancient Civilizations

7 – M – February 8 – Deep Historical Memory: The Ancient Near East

BH, 125-146

On Canvas: Cuneiform Texts in Translation

8 – W – February 10 – Hydraulic Instability and Political Upheaval: India
BH, 147-174

On Canvas: Excerpt from The Mahabharata: The Vana Parva

9 – F – February 12 - West and South Asian Primary Sources in Comparison - **Quiz 2**

Week 4

10 - M – February 15 – The Continuity of the State in Chinese History
BH, 175-204

On Canvas:
Travels of Fa-Hien, excerpts (FS)

11 – W – February 17 – The European Frontier of the Near East: Ancient Greece
BH, 205-233

On Canvas: Herodotus, *The Histories*, excerpts (FS)

12 – F – February 19 – Political History from Two Poles of Eurasia

Week 5

13 – M – February 22 – Ancient Rome and the Mediterranean World
E-Book available through UW-Madison Library:
Christopher Kelly, *The Roman Empire: A Very Short Introduction*, Chapters 1-3

14 – W – February 24 – The Borderlands That Were Western Europe
BH, 234-264

On Canvas:
Julius Caesar, *The Gallic Wars*, excerpts (FS)

15 – F – February 26 – **Quiz 3**

Week 6 - The Islamic World

16 – M - March 1 – Byzantium and the pre-Islamic Near East
Adam J. Silverstein, *Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction*, Introduction & 9-19
[Online: Chapter 1, Section titled “600-800CE”]

On Canvas:
Periplus Maris Erythraei (FS)

17 – W – March 3 – Islamic Empires Unifying the Old World
BH, 267-290
Adam J. Silverstein, *Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction*, 19-26; Chapter 2

[Online: Chapter 1, Sections title “800-1100CE”, Chapter 2]
Omar Ali, *Islam in the Indian Ocean (OA, hereafter)*, 1-11, 73-92

Optional: *Islamic History*, Chapter 4

On Canvas:
The Hanged Poems (FS)

18 – F – March 5 – The Eastern Frontier of the Mediterranean - **Quiz 4**

Week 7

19 – M – March 8 – The Mongols: A World on the Move

Silverstein, *Islamic History*, 26-35

[Online, Chapter 1, section titled, “1100 to 1500”
OA, 11-26

On Canvas:
William of Rubruck (excerpt), (FS)
Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqqadimma* (skim)

20 – W – March 10 – The Early Modern World and Islamic Globalization

Silverstein, *Islamic History*, 35-48

[Online, Chapter 1, section titled, “1500 to present”]
OA, 33-70 (specific documents to be chosen by TA for close examination in section)

On Canvas: Travel Account of Benedict Goes, excerpt (FS)

21 – F – March 12 – European Travelers in the Islamic World - **Quiz 5**

Week 8

22 – M – March 15 – Varieties of Religious Practice and Belief

Silverstein, *Islamic History*, 63-79

OA, 73-93, 111-137 (specific documents to be chosen by TA for close examination in section)

On Canvas: *The Travels of Ibn Battuta*, Vol. 2, excerpt (FS)

23 – W – March 17 – European Invaders in the Islamic Sea

BH, 295-320

Niall Ferguson, *Empire*, Introduction and Chapter 1
Lieutenant Nun (LN hereafter), Chapters 1-6 (FS)

Optional: OA, 50-70, 93-109

24 – F – March 19 – The Islamic Worlds: What are they?

Week 9– European Imperialism

25 – M – March 22 – Marginal States Conquer the World
Empire, Chapter 2
LN, Chapters 7-15 (FS)

On Canvas:
Visual Representations of Global Empire (FS)
TBD

26– W – March 24 – The First and Second British Empires
Empire, Chapter 3
LN, Chapters 16-21

On Canvas:
TBD

27 – F – March 26 – **Quiz 6**

Week 10 - European Imperialism

28 – M – March 29 – The British Raj and Global Empire -
Empire, Chapter 4
LN, Chapters 22-26

On Canvas:
Olivia Colman, *Who Do You Think You Are*, excerpt:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpuhhAsD88g> (FS)

29 – W – March 31 – The Heights of Imperial Hubris
Empire, Chapter 5

On Canvas:
TBD

30 – F – April 2 – NO CLASS

Week 11 - European Imperialism

31 – M – April 5 – Anti-Colonialism, Independence Movements, and World Wars
Empire, Chapter 6

On Canvas:
TBD

Optional:
Silverstein, *Islamic History*, 88-89, Chapter 7

32 – W – April 7 – The Post-Colonial World - **Quiz 7**
Empire, Conclusion and Introduction

33 – F – April 9 – **Primary Source Essay Due**

Week 12 – Imperial Collapse and the Post-Colonial World

34 – M – April 12 – Modernity and its Discontents
BH, 325-348

On Canvas:

Karl Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, excerpt (FS)

Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones*, excerpt (FS)

Rene Guenon, *The Dark Age*, excerpt (FS)

Mohandas K. Gandhi, “Civilization and Why India Was Lost” (FS)

Max Weber, “The Meaning of Discipline” (FS)

Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*, excerpt (FS)

35 – W – April 14 – The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Third World

On Canvas:

Columbia Guide to the Cold War, excerpts

36 – F – April 16 – **Quiz 8**

Week 13 – Special Topics in World History

37 – M – April 19 – World Environmental History

David Christian, “World Environmental History,” in: J. H. Bentley (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of World History* (Oxford, 2011), 125-142

38 – W April 21 - Cultures of Globalization

Read/listen to as much of the following as you like:

“Chammak Challo,” from the film *Ra One*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxB-ki-qE64>

“Singh is Kinng,” Akshay Kumar ft. Snoop Dogg,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar4CJKf1LwE>

“Snoop Dogg feels the bite of Parsi Legal Culture,” Mitra Sharafi, scroll.in,

<https://scroll.in/article/738203/snoop-dogg-feels-the-bite-of-parsi-legal-culture>

Wesley Morris, “Why is Everyone Always Stealing Black Music?”:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/music-black-culture-appropriation.html>

The 1619 Podcast, Episode 3, The Birth of American Music:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/06/podcasts/1619-black-american-music-appropriation.html>

Earworm, Vox, “Where Sicko Mode’s Weirdest Moments Come From,”
<https://youtu.be/5Ci5XTpPq94>

39 – F – April 23 - **Book Review Due**

Week 14

40 – M – April 26 – Class Chosen Topic
Readings TBD

41 – W – April 28 – Course Wrap-up

42 – F – April 30 – Student Meetings

Final Exam – Sunday, May 2, 2021 – 7:25 – 9:25pm Central