



Beijing Jiaotong University

2020 Summer Session

HIS 120 Introduction to World History

Course Outline

Term: June 29-July 24, 2020

Class Hours: 10:00-11:50 (Monday through Thursday Review Friday)

Course Code: HIS 120

Instructor: Dr. Gurnis

Home Institution: Washington University

Office Hours: TBA

Email: musa.gurnis@aol.com

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, 8 professor office hours, 8 TA discussion session hours, and 4 review session hours.

Course description: This class covers major developments in world history from the development of the first cities to modern globalization. We will consider cultural and social movements as well as political and economic history, and pay particular attention to the transformative effects of cultural contact.

Course Objectives:

Students in this course will acquire a broad overview of world history. They should be able to weigh multiple factors (political, social, and economic) that cause historical change. Students should learn to consider the perspectives of different cultural groups involved in historical conflicts. They should become skilled in examining conflicting evidence, and adept in evaluating primary documents for their significance in historical context. Instead of seeing history as a series of events, students should be able



to identify ongoing tensions and patterns in the world, and to reflect on the narratives we tell ourselves about our collective past.

Texts:

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart Volume 1: Beginnings through the Fifteenth Century (3rd edition)

Attendance Policy:

Students may miss up to two classes for personal reasons. Please send me an email if you are unable to attend class. Because of the short time frame of the class, late assignments must be turned in the following day.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Midterm (20%):

Final Exam (20%):

Assignment 1: (20%): Students will write 800-1000 words (roughly 3-4 pages) analyzing the complex causes and multiple effects of a major historical transformation.

Assignment 2 (20%): Students will write 800-1000 analyzing the complex causes and multiple effects of a major historical transformation.

Assignment 3 (20%): Students will write 800-1000 analyzing the complex causes and multiple effects of a major historical transformation.

Class Participation: Each student is expected to contribute vocally to class each week. Students should be able to demonstrate a strong grasp of the assigned reading, and to pose thoughtful questions. Though not given a numerical value, class participation can positively or negatively impact a student's final grade.

Schedule

Week 1

Monday: Early humans: p. 15-39

Tuesday: Neo-Assyrian and Persian Empires: p. 130-141, 144-147

Wednesday: Alexander the Great: 203-214

Thursday: Rome: 261-274

Friday: Assignment 1 Due.

Week 2

Monday: Christianity: 274-275, 286-296

Tuesday: Islam: 323-338

Wednesday: Review

Thursday: Midterm

Week 3

Monday: Assignment 2 Due; Islam and India: 369-382

Tuesday: Christian Empire: 389-396

Wednesday: Mongols and the Black Death: 401-407, 411-416

Thursday: The Ottoman Empire and the Weakening of European Feudalism: 418-423, 428-430,

Friday: Review

Week 4

Monday: The Renaissance (no reading) Assignment 3 Due.

Tuesday: African Slave Trade, Colonization in the Americas and Oceania :495-501, 550-557

Wednesday: Industrialization, Colonization in India and Africa: 580-585, 589-591, 651-656

Thursday: Review

Friday: FINAL EXAM