

History 102: World History since 1500

Spring 2024

Western Kentucky University

Instructor: Prof. Vanessa Sharfe (she/her)

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Zoom Office Hours: By appointment via email

Contacting Me:

The best way to reach me is by email. Please list the course name and number in the subject line of the email (History 102 for example). You can email me at any time, but I may not be immediately available during the weekends. Nevertheless, I will try my best to respond within 24 hours to your emails. I will also send out regular emails/Blackboard announcements every Tuesday night, so please ensure that you check your WKU email and Blackboard frequently.

Course Materials:

This section of HIST 102 has been revised to be zero-cost for material, through partnership with the WKU Libraries Alternative Textbook Program.

- *Modern World History* by Dan Allosso and Tom Williford (online OER textbook)
- The WKU History Department's HIST 102 digital Primary Source Reader (free online primary source reader. I will include primary source links under each module on Blackboard)
- All other readings and videos will be available via Blackboard under each lesson module

Course Description:

History 102 is a course that provides an introduction to the world's history since 1500. This course is designed to assist you in gaining a better understanding of the diversity, connections, and major world events that have occurred globally since 1500. We will implement the textbook and primary source documents in this course to improve and master your analytical and literacy skills that will also assist your critical thinking skills. In addition to the readings, this course will include weekly discussion posts about each of the readings assigned each week, along with reading guide questions that will be used to help you understand critical events of the time periods we cover. We will also have 2 essays that will be based on a select few primary source documents and readings and one research paper that will serve as your final. These assignments will help you improve your analytical skills, critical thinking skills, literacy skills, while also providing you with a good grasp on historical perspective and interpretation. An important aspect of this course is learning how our world has been shaped by major historical figures, events, and cultures that are interconnected, while also noting how people have responded to various situations and how these responses have shaped the world it is to this day.

Course Structure:

This course is asynchronous, which means there are no required class meetings and everything will be strictly online. I will send weekly email/Blackboard announcements on Tuesday nights with framing remarks of the readings for the week. You will have one discussion post of 500 words or more due each Wednesday night by midnight, along with two or more posts to your classmates' posts due each Friday night by midnight. I will actively monitor the discussion boards each week to ensure that everyone is participating and engaging in meaningful conversations about the readings for every week.

Monday and Tuesday: Monday and Tuesday should be utilized for reading. I will email/post an announcement on Blackboard with framing remarks with a brief summary of the readings, along with questions that will help guide your thoughts of the week's readings on Tuesday night.

Wednesday by midnight: Students should submit a discussion post of at least 500 words or more to the Blackboard discussion board that summarizes the reading and/or displays your analytical and critical thinking and interpretations of the readings.

Friday by midnight: Each student should respond to at least two classmates' posts in a meaningful, thoughtful, and polite manner. Each response should be at least 200 words please.

Major themes in this course include:

- Ideologies, Ethics and Lived experiences
- Production, Consumption, and their Human and Environmental Consequences
- Change, Continuity and Connections
- Cross-Cultural Interaction and Transfers
- Spectrum of Power Relations: Dominance, Interdependence, Agency/Resistance

Course Objectives:

This course helps fulfill requirements for Category A: Foundations - Intellectual and Practical Skills in the Western Kentucky University General Education program. After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the concept and practice of history as an interpretive framework
- Comprehend significant events, diverse peoples, and major turning points and ideas in world history
- Understand cause and effect relationships in history and historical methodology
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources
- Think critically to construct informed arguments based on evidence
- Communicate ideas effectively in written and oral formats
- Write analytical essays applying historical knowledge, theory, and research methods

Course Goals:

History 102 aims to prepare students to lifelong learners and professionally successful by emphasizing the following course goals:

- Critical thinking: prepare students to make informed decisions and ethical choices by examining historical examples
- Informed citizenship: develop knowledge of and concern for a multicultural world
- Historical perspectives: increase awareness of how personal bias and opinion shape historical analyses
- Social engagement: encourage students to become actively engaged in issues affecting their lives and those others around the world

Grade Breakdown:

700 points: Discussion Posts/Responses

100 points: Colonnade Assignment Essay

100 points: Primary Source Essay

100 points: Research Paper

Grading Breakdown: This course's assignments add up to a total of 1000 points. Note that a great deal of your points come from your discussion posts/responses, so be sure to do the readings and construct thoughtful and meaningful posts each week.

900-1000 points =A

800-899 points =B

700-799 points =C

600-699 points =D

0-599 points =F

Discussion Guidelines:

Students' discussion posts and responses should be meaningful, self analytical, and display an understanding of the material read for each week. For the responses, please don't post a comment stating simply, "I agree", the responses are to be thoughtful and meant to continue the conversation about whatever topic we are discussing. As stated previously, students' initial posts should be at least 500 words, while students' response to at least two classmates should be at least 200 words for each response. The initial post is due Wednesday by midnight, while the two or more responses are due Friday by midnight. I am merely looking for your comprehension of the reading and, more importantly, your own thoughts and perspectives of the readings.

It is important to note that everyone is to be respectful of varying opinions that have corroborated with evidence. Additionally, there should not be any inappropriate language, comments, and/or behavior within our discussion boards in this course. If there is any inappropriate language, comments, and/or behavior I will be subjected to intervene ASAP to tackle this issue.

Reading Guide Questions:

In each module for every week, you will be assigned a reading guide that will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the readings for each week. These reading guides will include various questions on the chapter and/or other readings that we read each week. The questions will help guide your discussion posts and responses, while also helping you absorb the correct information needed to successfully complete this course. You do **not** have to turn in these reading guides, but I will and should be able to tell if you paid attention to the questions/readings in your discussion posts and your short answer questions each week. You also do **not** have to answer each reading guide question in your discussion post. These are primarily to help you navigate the reading and assist your critical thinking as you read.

Essay Guidelines:

There will be three essays due throughout this course. One will be the "Colonnade Assignment" primary source paper, the second paper will be a primary source essay, and the other will be a research paper that will serve as our "final" at the end of this course. Both primary source papers should be at least 800 words long and the research paper should be at least 1000 words long. You should follow the Chicago format for your citations/footnotes. You will also find the guidelines for each paper under the "Essay Guideline Information/Submission" module on Blackboard.

Late Assignments and Grade Questions:

Please reach out if any issues or if life happens, I will be happy to work to help you arrange a later due date for these assignments/discussion posts. If you do not contact me, I will take off 5 points each day the assignment is overdue, so please ensure that you email me and let me know!

Attendance:

Attendance will be based on your discussion participation. Please ensure that you actively participate in the discussion board questions and responses to make sure that you will gain the full participation points. Failure to participate in discussion posts will result in a failing grade since discussion participation is worth a major portion of your final grade.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in myself reporting it to the Office of Student Conduct and a failing grade. Please refer to the WKU's Student Code of Conduct <http://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php> if you are unsure of what specifically is considered cheating. Please DO NOT utilize any form of chat gpt or AI in your work, as I will have to report you to the Office of Student Conduct.

Western Kentucky University's Statement on COVID-19:

Students are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. WKU policy states that all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. You can call the COVID Assistance Line if you have any questions regarding any COVID-19 related issue. This information and guidelines may change as the school year progresses. Here is a link to WKU's latest information on COVID-19. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill.

ADA Accommodation:

WKU's ADA policy states that students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. If you cannot physically go to this room, you can contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center by phone number at 270-745-5004 or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Students will be required to request accommodations directly from the professor/instructor with a faculty notification letter or an FNL from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment:

Western Kentucky University does not tolerate any instance of discrimination or harassment. If you experience any aspect of gender/sex discrimination and/or sexual or any form of harassment, please report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Additionally, please note that all WKU faculty members are "Responsible Employees" of WKU and are required to report any and all incidents you share. If you would rather speak with someone who can offer confidentiality, please contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159. Here is a link to all resources for Title IX, <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/>.

Regular and Substantive Interaction:

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the following link, <https://www.wku.edu/citl/rsi.php>.

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Weekly announcements
- Prompt responses to our weekly discussion boards (as either feedback or a comment)
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission

Technology Information/help:

If you experience any technical issues or difficulties please contact the ITS Help Desk at 270-745-7000.

Additional Important Links:

Student Code of Conduct link: <https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php/>

Student Handbook Link: <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/index.php>

Student Resource Portal Link: <https://www.wku.edu/online/srp/>

Safe Spaces Information: <https://www.wku.edu/sga/2018-2019-general/safespaces.php>

Student All Gender Bathroom Information: <https://www.wku.edu/isec/pride/bathroomdirectory.php>

Campus Safety: <https://www.wku.edu/emergency/>

Active Shooter Preparedness Video:  Surviving Campus Violence

WKU Police: <https://www.wku.edu/police/>

Counseling Center: <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>

Literacy Center: <https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/literacy.php>

Food Security: <https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/food-security.php>

History Tutoring Information:

WKU provides free history tutoring services at the History Success Center for all students taking history courses, including History 102. These appointments can be made online for an in person or via Zoom meeting where a tutor will assist you in going over any portion of the course that you may be experiencing difficulties with. You can also construct group appointments with tutors as well if this would be more comfortable for you. Here is the link to make an appointment: <https://calendly.com/wkuhistory/>. I will also be offering writing tutoring office hours every Tuesday from 5-7 pm via Zoom.

Writing Center Information:

In addition to the History Success Center, WKU provides an additional free tutoring service at the writing center in Cherry Hall 123 or Cravens Commons. The link to additional information is <https://www.wku.edu/writingcenter/>.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

For our three papers this semester, I will provide 5 extra credit points on each paper if you schedule an appointment with either the writing center or the History Success Center to assist you with your work and writing skills. Just have the history tutor/writing center tutor email me to let me know you met with them.

Additionally, please email me if you are wanting/needing any additional extra credit opportunities as I will be happy to accommodate you.

*This syllabus is subject to change by the professor