

History 102: World History since 1500

Fall 2024, 2nd Bi-Term Session

Instructor

Dr. Eric Reed

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Office Hours: CH 232, Wednesday and Friday 11:15-12:15 and on Zoom by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the global past since 1500. It helps students to understand the diversity of and the connections between the world's cultures and ideologies as well as become acquainted with its political, social, and economic history. It uses lectures, readings, and class discussions to introduce major phases, achievements, turning points and individuals impacting world history. This course also encourages students to think analytically about how people have created and adapted societies and institutions in response to the challenges and opportunities that have confronted them in the past. Major themes in this course include:

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

Required Textbook: Available from the WKU Store and other online outlets

Bonnie G. Smith et al, World in the Making: A Global History, Volume Two: Since 1300, Second Edition (paperback or e-book)

ISBN: 9780197608364

You are responsible for obtaining a copy of this textbook. The textbook is sold/rented by WKU as a paperback book and as an e-book. You may also buy/rent the textbook via other online vendors.

Other Required Readings: The instructor will provide you with other required readings.

Illness and Extended Absence

If you are unable to attend classes or complete work for an extended period of time, whether it be due to illness or other reasons, please let your instructor know as soon as possible. We will work together to figure out a way for you to complete your work and our class on an appropriate schedule.

Office Hours and Student Meetings

I will hold office hours each week in my office. I am glad to meet with students via Zoom outside of the scheduled office hours.

Technology Requirements

You must have access to a functional computer and the Internet. All the work in the course will be assigned and completed on Blackboard. You must know how to use Blackboard before the course begins. You must use your WKU email for all correspondence related to this course.

Schedule and Assignments (Subject to change)

Module: Ocean Systems in the Early Modern World 1350-1750

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Week 1 (Oct. 14) Ocean Systems and Slavery	Read Smith, Chapters 14 and 17 Attend Required Zoom Meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 15, 4:45) <u>Submit</u> the following on Blackboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension Essay• Primary Source Essay
Week 2 (Oct. 21) Ocean Systems and Trade	<u>Read</u> Smith, Chapter 18 <u>Submit</u> the following on Blackboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension Essay• Primary Source Essay

Module: Revolutions and the Birth of the Modern World, 1750-1950

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Week 3 (Oct. 28) Political and Industrial Revolutions	<u>Read</u> Smith, Chapters 22 and 23 <u>Submit</u> the following on Blackboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension Essay• Primary Source Essay
Week 4 (Nov. 4) Mass Society	<u>Read</u> Smith, Chapter 25 <u>Submit</u> the following on Blackboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension Essay• Primary Source Essay

Module: Globalization and Our Contemporary Lives, 1919-Present

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Week 5 (Nov. 11) Wars and Globalization	<u>Read</u> Smith, Chapters 26 and 27 <u>Submit</u> the following on Blackboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension Essay• Primary Source Essay

Contemporary Globalization and Cumulative Exam

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Week 6 (Nov. 18) Contemporary Globalization Cumulative Exam	<u>Read</u> : Chapter 28 <u>Attend Required Zoom Meeting (Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 5pm)</u> <u>Submit cumulative exam on Blackboard</u>

“Deep Dive” Research Paper

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Week 7 (Nov. 25) Research Paper: The Atomic Bomb in 1945	<u>Read</u> assignment materials and <u>review</u> appropriate textbook materials
Week 8 (Dec. 3) Research Paper: The Atomic Bomb in 1945	<u>Submit atomic bomb research paper to Blackboard</u>

BACK MATTER: Course Objectives, Requirements, Policies, and Other Important Information

Follow History Here:

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Instagram:

[@wkuhistory](#)

Twitter ("X"):

[@HistoryDeptWKU](#)

History's web site:

<http://www.wku.edu/history>

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, peoples, major turning points and ideas in world history
- understand cause and effect relationships in history and understand historical method
- analyze primary and secondary sources
- understand the diverse interpretations and methodologies
- think critically to construct informed and ethical arguments
- effectively communicate ideas in written and oral formats
- write analytical essays applying historical knowledge, theory and research methods

Course Prerequisites: None.

Course Goals

World History 102 aims to prepare students for life by inculcating the following enduring goals of the course:

- Critical thinking - prepare students to make informed decisions and ethical choices by examining historical examples
- Competent citizenship – knowledge of and concern for a multicultural global world
- Historically objectivity – develop an increasing awareness of the problem of personal bias and opinion in historical analysis
- Social engagement - encourage students to become participants instead of bystanders in the movements and issues affecting their lives and others around the world

Course Requirements

Blackboard and Email: You will be required to use WKU's Blackboard system and communicate using your WKU email. All assignments must be turned in via Blackboard and all grades and assignment

feedback from the instructor will be posted there. Be sure that you check your WKU email regularly, since it is your WKU email that will be linked to the Blackboard system.

Research Paper and Exam: You will complete a cumulative exam and write a research paper. You must complete these assignments in order to receive a final grade for the class, regardless of your grade average for the course.

The research paper must use the Chicago Manual of Style citation for formatting footnotes and the bibliography. For a handy reference to this latter style sheet, use the following link:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

Attendance: Students are required to attend both of the required, scheduled class meetings as indicated on the syllabus. See statement earlier in this syllabus on extended absences for more information about what do to if you are absent and unable to complete assignments for significant stretches of our bi-term class.

Additional Assignments: You may be required to do additional assignments during the semester. Your scores on any additional assignments will be added to your overall course point total and will figure in the calculation of your final grade.

Grading

The point values for all assignments are posted on Blackboard. At the end of the semester, all the points you earned will be added up and divided into the total number of points possible. Final grades will be determined as follows:

<u>Total Points Earned During Semester</u>	<u>Grade for the Course</u>
90% of possible points or better	A
80-89.99% of possible points	B
70-79.99% of possible points	C
60-69.99% of possible points	D
59.99% of points or less	F

The instructor reserves the right to award up to 10% of the total points possible to each student. Such points will be given only to students who merit them because they **show significant improvement** in the quality of their written work over the course of the semester. Discretionary, added points are not given to any student automatically and will only be awarded at the end of the semester, if at all, and only to students who merit them. Each student must earn any discretionary points by demonstrating the above-mentioned qualities to the instructor. The number of discretionary points awarded will vary from student to student according to the instructor's evaluation of each student's performance. Students who, in the opinion of the instructor, do not warrant discretionary points will not receive them.

The instructor may decide to assign other work. If such work is assigned, the point value of the assignments will be added to the total points possible for the course and your grade will be determined according to the percentages mentioned in the grade table above.

Due Dates and Late Work Policies

Late Assignments. Major assignments (those worth at least 100 points) must be turned in, and they must be turned in on time. Major assignments that are turned in late will be penalized heavily: each will

be dropped one full grade (10%) for each calendar day that is late. For example, if a research paper due on Friday is turned in Monday, the best possible grade that the paper can earn is a C (70 percent), since the paper would be three days late and would have 30 percent subtracted from its final grade.

You must turn in all the major assignments in order to receive a grade for the class, regardless of your grade average for the course.

Assignments worth less than 100 points, such as the weekly reading comprehension and primary source essays, must be turned in on time, and may not be turned in late. Such assignments will be given zero points in the grade book. The reason that such assignments may not be turned in late is that they are designed to complement the work we're doing in our course at the time they are due, as well as to practice and build writing and critical thinking skills that you will use in future assignments. That is why it is important to complete and turn them in on time.

History Tutoring:

The History Success Center provides free tutoring services for all students enrolled in history classes. Tutors are available to go over any aspect of the class, including essays, readings, exam preparation, and study skills. Drop-in appointments will be offered in Cherry Hall 202 from 10am-3pm on weekdays. Evening Zoom hours are also available. To make an appointment, visit <https://www.wku.edu/tlc/tutortrac.php>

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Dishonest plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students who cheat or plagiarize dishonestly will be penalized heavily because these are the worst academic offenses that it is possible for a student to commit. Any instance of dishonest plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a score of 0 points awarded for the assignment. In some cases, if the instructor feels that the occurrence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty is extremely grave, the instructor may assign the student a grade of "F" for the entire course, regardless of the quality of the student's prior work in the course.

If you do not understand what plagiarism is, ***it is your responsibility to approach the instructor for clarification***. Just as ignorance of the law is not an excuse for committing a crime, ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an excuse for committing plagiarism.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, meaning AI tools used to create new content based on user prompts, are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#). It is acceptable to use grammar checkers and spell checkers in this course.

The university's policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty are outlined in detail in the student handbook and at the following link:

<http://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php>.

Other Comments

Please visit the following link for university policies and procedures regarding ADA, Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment, the Student Code of Conduct, Academic Integrity, Student

Complaint/Student Grievance, Safe Spaces, active shooter situations, and other important issues. The site includes WKU's position statement on inclusion and its Land Acknowledgement Statement, as well as other useful information.

<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>

The policies outlined there are the policies of this course, unless stated otherwise in this syllabus (see this course's Artificial Intelligence policy above).