

CONVERGING WORLDS: THE WORLD SINCE 1400

UIC, Spring 2020

HIST/INST 106 (CRN: 27594, 27781)

Lecture: Lecture Center B, room B101, M/W 9:00-9:50

Discussion sections:

AD1 (28285/28286) ETM&SW 2217 – Fri. 9-9:50 AD3 (28383/28385) ETM&SW 2217 – Fri 10-10:50

AD2 (28373/28374) ETM&SW 2219 – Fri. 9-9:50 AD4 (28384/28386) ETM&SW 2219 – Fri 10-10:50

Professor

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Teaching Assistants

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M 11:00-1:00

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This course is designed to give students an overview of world history since the 15th century with special emphasis on the key historical importance of complex systemic ties between regions, nations, and peoples. Too often “modern world history” is reduced to a story of the apparently self-generated rise of Euro-American political and economic domination. Without denying its importance, this course aims to retell the story of Western industrialization and imperialism from a world perspective. Our goal will be to go beyond nationalist or regionalist histories (which portray history as an essentially internal affair), toward a greater appreciation for how all modern histories are fundamentally interconnected and mutually productive parts of a greater world history. This course stresses how the modern histories of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe are intimately inter-twined.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available at the UIC bookstore)

Equiano, Olaudah (1999 [1789]) *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications.

Gandhi, Mohandas K. (1997 [1909]) *Hind Swaraj, and Other Writings*. Anthony J. Parel, ed.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Marks, Robert B. (2020) *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative (4th Edition)*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

- Additional readings, marked with an asterisk (*), are available as pdfs on the course Blackboard site.

CLASS FORMAT, EXPECTATIONS, AND EVALUATION

This course combines lecture (M and W) and discussion (F). Students are required to have completed each week’s assigned reading in time for Friday discussion and can expect short quizzes on assigned readings. Quizzes will not be announced and cannot be rescheduled unless the student has made prior arrangements with the instructor. There will also be two short papers, two in-class exams, and a final exam. Any material from lectures, readings, or films may be included in the exams.

Grading is based on:

2 short papers	30%	attendance and participation	10%
quizzes	10%	2 in-class exams	30%
		final exam	20%

Regular attendance is required: five or more unexcused absences will result in a drop of one letter grade for the course. (Ten absences = two letter grades, etc.) Excused absences must be pre-arranged with the instructor. Students are responsible for signing the attendance sheet circulated during each class. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the course outline (below). Late papers will be graded and then marked down one letter grade per day late.

Computers and cell phones. Using electronic devices is not permitted during class unless you have a registered disability that makes a laptop necessary. Phones must be put away for the duration of the class.

GRADING STANDARDS

“C” papers and essays are ones that provide correct answers with basic detail in a standard essay format. “B” answers include more supportive detail within the framework of a coherent and systematically developed argument. An “A” paper or essay is one that demonstrates both a command of the historical material, and signs of creative engagement. That is, “A” work shows that the writer has gone beyond reproducing and organizing other people's ideas, to contributing their own analytical thoughts and insights into the material.

HOW TO GET A GOOD GRADE IN THIS CLASS

- ▶ Take detailed notes on class lectures paying particular attention to people/places/ideas presented in the lecture outlines.
- ▶ Attend class and sign the attendance sheet. Regular attendance is required (see above).
- ▶ Complete weekly assigned readings by Friday in preparation for Friday quizzes.
- ▶ Study class notes and review readings in preparation for exams.
- ▶ Start work on essay assignments well in advance of the due date.
- ▶ If you have any questions on the assignments, talk with the professor or TAs early and often.
- ▶ Hand in a draft of your essay no later than one week prior to the due date for comments and suggestions by the professor or TAs.
- ▶ Hand in assignments on time. (Late papers will be marked down.)
- ▶ Take advantage of your professor's and TA's office hours: *we're here to help you!*

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Why world history?

- Why take a global perspective? Pre-modern world systems.

Mon. 1/13 lecture Wed. 1/15 lecture Fri. 1/17 discussion

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Introduction: The Rise of the West? (1-18).

Week 2: The world in 1400

- Europe on the global periphery and Iberian maritime exploration.

Mon. 1/20 **no class: MLK day** Wed. 1/22 lecture Fri. 1/24 discussion

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 1: The Material and Trading Worlds, circa 1400 (19-41).

*Janet L. Abu-Lughod: Before European Hegemony. (In *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire*. Thomas Benjamin, Timothy Hall, and David Rutherford, eds. Pp. 13-18. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001).

Week 3: 15th Century Europe

- Rise of European trade activity and expanding European world view.

Mon. 1/27 lecture Wed. 1/29 lecture Fri. 1/31 discussion

Assigned Readings:

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 2: Starting with China (43-68).

Week 4: Columbian Exchange I

- Plant and animal exchange, disease and global epidemiology.

Mon. 2/3 lecture Wed. 2/5 **film: “Invisible Armies”**

Fri. 2/7 discussion, **essay one assigned**

Assigned Readings (see next page)

Assigned Readings

- *John Thorton: The Birth of an Atlantic World. (*The Atlantic World...*, 18-29)
- *D. W. Meinig: America as a Continuation. (*The Atlantic World...*, 29-37)
- *Olive Patricia Dickason: Some First Reactions. (*The Atlantic World...*, 37-53)
- *Alfred W. Crosby: Infectious Disease and the Demography of the Atlantic Peoples. (*The Atlantic World...*, 169-179)

Week 5: Columbian Exchange II

- New World cultigens, population growth, and global interdependence.

Mon. 2/10 lecture Wed. 2/12 **exam one** Fri. 2/14 discussion

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 3: Empires, States, and the New World, 1500-1775
(pages 69-85 only).

- *Jennifer L. Morgan: Male Travelers, Female Bodies. (*The Atlantic World...*, 112-122)
- *Sylvia R. Frey & Betty Wood: The Survival of African Religions in the Americas. (*The Atlantic World...*, 122-132)

Week 6: The Atlantic World I

- European colonization and the transformation of native North American societies.

Mon. 2/17 lecture Wed. 2/19 lecture, **essay one due in class** Fri. 2/21 discussion

Assigned Readings

- *Carla Rahn Phillips: The Spanish Treasure Fleets. (*The Atlantic World...*, 135-138)
- *Denys Delage: The Fur Trade of New France. (*The Atlantic World...*, 139-144)
- *Allan Greer: French Colonization of New France. (*The Atlantic World...*, 191-195)
- *James Horn: English Colonization of the Chesapeake. (*The Atlantic World...*, 196-201)

Week 7: The Atlantic World II

- Mercantilism or proto-capitalism? African societies and the slave trade.

Mon. 2/24 lecture Wed. 2/26 lecture Fri. 2/28 discussion, **geography quiz**

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 3: Empires, States, and the New World, 1500-1775
(pages 85-101).

- *Charles Bergquist: The Paradox of American Development. (*The Atlantic World...*, 153-165)
- *Filipe Fernandez-Armesto: Africans, The Involuntary Colonists. (*The Atlantic World...*, 185-190)

Week 8: The Atlantic World III

- Caribbean plantation production, and colonial commodity trade in the Atlantic.

Mon. 3/2 lecture Wed. 3/4 lecture Fri. 3/6 discussion

Assigned Readings

Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano* (entire, though skim chapters 9-11).

Week 9: The Asian World I

- The Far Eastern world system, early European trade and colonialism in China, Japan, and S. E. Asia.

Mon. 3/9 lecture, **essay two assigned** Wed. 3/11 lecture Fri. 3/13 **exam two**

Assigned Readings: none

Week 10: The Asian World II

- The Indian subcontinent in the world system, European trade and colonialism in S. Asia.
Mon. 3/16 lecture Wed. 3/18 lecture Fri. 3/20 discussion

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 4: The Industrial Revolution and Its Consequences, 1750-1850 (**pp. 103-120 only**).

SPRING BREAK

Week 11: The Capitalist World System I

- European industrialization and the world colonial economy.
Mon. 3/30 lecture Wed. 4/1 lecture Fri. 4/3 discussion

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 4: The Industrial Revolution and Its Consequences, 1750-1850 (**pp. 120-133**).

*Susan Dunn: Sister Revolutions: America and France. (*The Atlantic World...*, 218-227)

*Franklin W. Knight: The Haitian Revolution. (*The Atlantic World...*, 227-234)

Week 12: The Capitalist World System II

- High Imperialism, the 19th century world.
Mon. 4/6 lecture Wed. 4/8 lecture Fri. 4/10 discussion

Assigned Readings

Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 5: The Gap (135-173).

Week 13: The Post Colonial World I

- World wars, national independence movements, and the birth of the "third world."
Mon. 4/13 lecture Wed. 4/15 lecture Fri. 4/17 discussion

Assigned Readings

Mohandas K. Gandhi: *Hind Swaraj* (pages 5-71 only).

Week 14: The Post Colonial World II

- Economic/cultural globalization, and the "development" paradigm.
Mon. 4/20 lecture Wed. 4/22 lecture Fri. 4/24 discussion

Assigned Readings

Mohandas K. Gandhi: *Hind Swaraj* (pages 72-119).

Week 15: The Post Colonial World III

- Current events in world historical perspective.
Mon. 4/27 **film: "Blind Spot," essay two due in class**
Wed. 4/29 lecture/discussion Fri. 5/1 discussion/review

OPTIONAL Reading

Marks: *The Origins of the Modern World*, Chapter 6: The Great Departure (175-235).

Final exam: Tuesday, May 5: 10:30-12:30