

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

History 3030 (Online)
World History Since 1500
Spring 2016
Dr. Eli Rubin

SYLLABUS

Introduction

Welcome to History 3030, World History Since 1500! This course will focus specifically on the interaction of cultures from around the world, with an emphasis on empires, trading networks, and other cross-cultural experiences, and the things that connected cultures. This includes slaves, coffee, opium, gin, clothes, viruses, pigs, and religion.

This course will also focus on one very particular question—why is there such a massive disparity in wealth and standard of living between the first world (US, Western Europe, Japan etc.) and the developing world (Africa, India, central Asia etc.)? Is it racial superiority? Colonial oppression? Bad luck?

This is an online course, which means that we do not meet “face-to-face” in a classroom. However, the objectives, expected learning outcomes, and many of the tasks in this course are the same as a “face-to-face” course. The following pages will explain in detail what those objectives and expectations are, as well as how this course is structured in order to meet those objectives and expectations. This syllabus is broken down into the following sections:

1. About your instructor
2. Contact information
3. Learning objectives and expected outcomes
4. Course structure and assessment (grading)

5. Student conduct and ethics
6. Weekly schedule of lectures, assessments and assignments

Please take the time to read through this syllabus carefully, and ask your instructor if there are any questions you might have about it.

I. About Your Instructor

My name is Dr. Eli Rubin, and I have taught at WMU since 2004, with a 2-year hiatus while I conducted research in Germany. My area of research specialization is modern German history, and I have authored one book on the subject (*Synthetic Socialism: Plastics and Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic*, University of North Carolina Press, 2008) and have another coming out next year with Oxford University Press, in addition to several scholarly articles. I am currently working on a research project that focuses on the impact of bombing and war within urban environments in Germany during World War Two. In addition, I am co-authoring a textbook of activities for teaching history in the classroom, to appear in 2016, with Oxford University Press.

At WMU, in addition to general education courses such as History 1010 and History 3030 (World History Since 1500), I also teach 3000-level Writing Intensive (WI) level courses on 20th Century European History (History 3616 and History 3618) and 4000 level Baccalaureate Writing (BW) courses on Modern German and European History, including Modern Germany, The Holocaust in History and Memory, and World War Two in Europe. I also frequently teach History 2900, Introduction to the Study of History, the required introductory course for history majors.

If you enjoy the content of this course, I encourage you to take other history courses taught by myself or others, and to consider becoming a history major or minor! Contact me, or our undergraduate advisor Dr. James Cousins (james.cousins@wmich.edu) for more information.

II. Contact Information

My contact information is as follows:

Dr. Eli Rubin

Eli.rubin@wmich.edu

269-387-4646

4418 Friedmann Hall

My office hours are Mondays, 12-2 pm and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 or by appointment. It is my policy to reply to all emails within 24-48 hours. If you have not heard back from me within 48 hours, please contact me again. Please address me as "Dr. Rubin" and use your wmich.edu email addresses to contact me. In addition, please check your wmich.edu accounts frequently, as I will use email to send important information and reminders to you.

The **Teaching Assistant** for this course is:

Joseph Helzer

Joseph.c.helzer@wmich.edu

III. Learning Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This course satisfies the graduation requirement for general education area IV (Other Cultures and Civilizations). There are three main objectives for this course:

- **Objective 1:** To understand the way that cultures around the world have interacted with each other since approximately the year 1500.
- **Objective 2:** To understand the way in which non-Western cultures have influenced, and been influenced by, Western culture.

- **Objective 3:** To understand why Europeans and their descendants have risen to a status of economic and political dominance over other cultures during the last 500 years, and what the ramifications of that are.
- **Objective 4:** To be able to effectively analyze historical documents and write in a clear and convincing manner about them, using evidence.

IV. Required Course Textbook

The required texts for this class are:

Patterns of World History (Volume II) 2nd edition, by Peter von Sivers, Charles Desnoyers and George Stow (Oxford University Press) ISBN: 0199399638

The Oxford Map Companion: One Hundred Sources in World History by Patricia Seed (Oxford University Press). ISBN: 0199765634

Both of these are bundled together, so if you buy them through the bookstore you will get a discount on them.

V. Course Structure and Assessment (Grading)

This is an online course. On the "content" page of your course, you will find the course organized by weeks ("Week One," "Week Two," etc.). Each week corresponds to the week you are on in the semester. In each week you will find the following:

- An overview of the week that lays out the basic topics covered in the lectures that week.
- A list of the objectives of that module.

- A list of the assignments for that module.
- An online lecture (a recorded power point) that students must watch before taking quiz.
- A quiz based on the lecture.
- A discussion forum, which will include questions about the assigned readings. These are divided into last names A-G, H-M, N-Z because of the size of the class. Please post to the right forum!
- If there are other assignments, such as writing assignments, these will be posted in the week they are assigned.

The following is a detailed list of each grade item and its weight:

Quizzes (20% of grade)

Each lecture is followed by a 10 question, multiple-choice quiz, which students must take by 11:59 pm on the Sunday that ends that week. Therefore, all the quizzes for Modules one and two will be due by 11:59 pm on Sunday,. After that point, the quizzes automatically close and cannot be re-opened. The new quizzes open at 12:01 am the following Monday.

Online Forums/Threads (20% of grade)

Discussion topics will be posted and students must respond to them, or post new questions, related to the lecture and/or the reading for that week. These will related to the textbook as well as the accompanying volume, *The Oxford Map Companion: One Hundred Sources in World History*.

Students must post a meaningful reply to the discussion prompts, at least once, to receive credit, but can earn extra credit for more participation. The forums open and close similar to the quizzes: they close at 11:59 pm on Sunday and the new one opens at 12:01 am on Monday. To receive full credit for participating, your participation must be significant and demonstrate thoughtfulness and engagement with the topic and with other participants.

First Writing Assignment (10% of grade)

This will be a 4-page, double-spaced writing assignment based on a series of primary source documents. Students will be asked to pick from one of three modules. Each module will have a prompt, and students must answer it using extensive quotation from the documents. Students will be provided specific examples of what is expected in this assignment, as well as the rubric that will be used to grade the assignment.

Midterm Exam (10% of grade)

This will be a short-answer exam based on both the lectures and the book that will require students demonstrate an understanding of the course material and progress towards the course objectives. It will take place during week eight, in lieu of lectures, quizzes, or reading. It will be available at 12:01 am on Monday, Oct. 26 and will be due by 11:59 on Sunday, Nov. 1. It will cover the course material up through the end of week seven.

Final Writing Assignment (20% of grade)

This will be similar to the first writing assignment, but it will be 7 pages instead of 4.

Final Exam (20% of grade)

This will be a similar structure as the midterm exam. It will be cumulative, although will focus mainly on the material covered after week eight.

Your final letter grade in the course will be determined using the standard WMU grading scale:

A = 100-93

BA = 92-88

B = 87-83

CB = 82-78

C = 77-73

DC = 72-68

D = 67-60

E (failing) = 59 and below

Late policy: The online class environment is different than the face-to-face one, and although it allows greater flexibility, it also puts more responsibility on the student to keep track of deadlines, as your instructor is not present to remind you. I will endeavor to send out reminders over email, but it is your

responsibility to keep track of your due dates and deadlines. I do not accept late work without a documented excuse. I encourage anyone experiencing difficulties outside the “classroom” to discuss these with me in advance, and work out a plan for how to work around the disruption.

V. Student Conduct and Ethics

The online class is unique also because students do work independently on their own, with no supervision from the instructor. This can mean that there is a temptation to plagiarize by using the internet for text or answers to assignments, rather than the assigned course material.

All answers to reading questions, exam questions, all text on the writing assignment, **must be written only by you the student, and must be based on the material assigned or provided in the course.**

Any copying and pasting, even of just one sentence, from any other source; any paying for any other person or service to write a paper or complete an assignment for you; or any other similar violation is **plagiarism.** I take plagiarism very seriously and if I suspect that you have plagiarized, I will immediately initiate charges with the Office of Student Conduct, which will lead to a hearing and, if found guilty, a punishment ranging from a zero on the assignment to failure in the course or worse.

Furthermore, the online discussion forum is an environment unique from a face-to-face environment, as are all online discussion forums. The same standards of courtesy and respect for diversity of opinions and backgrounds holds for online discussions as for face-to-face discussions.

For complete information on your rights and responsibilities as a student, please go to the Office of Student Conduct’s webpage at:

<http://www.wmich.edu/conduct/index.html>

VI. Schedule of Lectures, Assignments, and Assessments

Wk 1 (Jan 11-17): Introduction

Lecture 1: Mongols, Islam, Marco Polo

Lecture 2: Black Death

Reading: Seed, *Oxford Map Companion*, maps #29 & 30

(No reading or questions from von Sivers, *Patterns of World History*)

Wk 2 (Jan 18-24): Exploration and Exploitation

Lecture 1: Columbus and the Columbian Exchange

Lecture 2: Slaveries

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns of World History* Ch. 19
Seed, *Map Companion*, maps #38, 41, 56

Wk 3 (Jan 25- Jan 31): Drugs, Palaces and Empires

Lecture 1: Palaces and Empires

Lecture 2: The Ming Dynasty

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, Ch. 20

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps #48, 54

First writing assignment available

Wk 4 (Feb 1 – Feb 7) The Great Divergence: China's Fall and Europe's Rise

Lecture 1: The Scientific Revolution

Lecture 2: Drugs and the New World Economy

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 21

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 51, 60, 61

Wk 5 (Feb 8-Feb 14) Tyranny and Liberty I

Lecture 1: The Enlightenment

Lecture 2: The French Revolution and the Haitian Revolution * (done, to be transferred)

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 22

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 59 & 64

First writing assignment due in dropbox by Sunday, Feb 14, 11:59 pm

Final writing assignment becomes available

Wk 6 (Feb 15-21): Factories and Colonies

Lecture 1: The Industrial Revolution

Lecture 2: Colonialism and Imperialism

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 26

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 65, 72, 85

Wk 7 (Feb 22-28): Radical Ideologies

Lecture 1: Radical Ideologies I

Lecture 2: Radical Ideologies II

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 24

Seed, *Map Companion* maps #70, 72

Wk 8 (Feb 29- March 6)

MIDTERM EXAM WEEK

(Midterm available Feb 29; due March 6, 11:59 pm)

SPRING BREAK

Wk 9 (March 14-March 20): the Great War and its Aftermaths

Lecture 1: World War One

Lecture 2: Modern Art

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 27

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 86, 87, 88

Wk 10 (March 21-March 27) WWII

Lecture 1: WWII pt. I

Lecture 2: WWII Pt II

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 28

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 90, 91, 92

Wk 11 (March 28-April 3): the Cold War from Berlin to Seoul

Lecture 1: The Cold War I

Lecture 2: The Cold War II: Proxies

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 29

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 94, 95

Wk 12 (April 4-April 10) Liberty and Tyranny II

Lecture 1: 1968: A Global Revolt

Lecture 2: The Fall of the Wall

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 30

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps # 81, 82, 83

Wk 13 (April 11-April 17) The Heavy Price of Freedom

Lecture 1: Aliyah and Intifada

Lecture 2: Arab Spring Pt. 1

Reading: von Sivers, *Patterns*, ch. 31

Seed, *Map Companion*, maps #97, 98, 100

Wk 14 (April 18-April 24) Liberty and Tyranny III

Lecture 1: Arab Spring Pt. 2: From the Arab Spring to ISIS

NO READING THIS WEEK

Final writing assignment due in dropbox, Sunday, April 24, 11:59 pm

Final exam available Monday, April 25 12:01 am; DUE IN DROPBOX Thursday, April 28, 11:59 PM