HIST 105
Early Modern World History
Winter, 2014

Course Description

The history of the Early Modern world is a tale of the collision of civilizations, the emergence of European nation states and the creation of new artistic, legal, religious, and scientific traditions in the West, and the rise and fall of great empires and imperial dynasties in the East. It is a tale of both continuity and change, of great accomplishment and equally great atrocity, of conflict and revolution. In this course we will explore this pivotal period in world history, paying particular attention to what one historian has called “The Great Divergence,” the ascendance of the West rather than the East, where Chinese power seemed destined to become the world’s major economic center. Ultimately, our discussions will reveal how critical political, social, cultural, economic, and even geographic differences – not to mention a large measure of luck – led to the dominance of western powers by 1800.

Required Reading

The following titles are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore.

- I-Clicker 2 (available at the bookstore)

Additional Readings indicated with an asterisk (*) are available via Blackboard.

Grading

- Discussion Section Assignments: 40%
- Midterm Examination: 25%
- I-Clicker Quizzes 5%
- Final Examination: 30%

Please note: All elements are required in order to receive a passing grade.
Course Policies

Attendance

Lecture Attendance, while not mandatory, is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all information given as part of any lecture or reading assignment in this course. The Midterm and Final exams will both contain questions requiring a thorough understanding of material presented in lecture. It will be difficult to do well in the course if you do not attend and take good notes, particularly since there is no assigned textbook. Finally, I will give unannounced I-Clicker quizzes periodically.

Discussion Section Attendance is Mandatory. Your Section Instructor will take roll and evaluate your participation on a weekly basis. There will also be a weekly quiz, prepared paper, or in-class writing due during your section meetings, conducted on the following schedule:

- Three written assignments due in weeks 2, 4, and 6.
- Three quizzes during weeks 3, 8, and 9.
- In-class exercises during weeks 5 and 7.

Your instructors will grade the assignments on a “check” system (\( \checkmark + = 'A' \), \( \checkmark = 'B' \), \( \checkmark - = 'C' \)), and this grade will form the basis for your Section grade for the week. However, participation counts – if your participation is good during discussion, you will receive a ‘+’ to your existing letter grade; if you do not participate but seem engaged, your grade will remain as it stands; if you are inattentive, clearly unprepared, or disruptive, you will receive a ‘-’ to the weekly grade.

Your instructors will accept no late papers or assignments. You must be present in Section from beginning to end of class in order to receive credit for your attendance and participation, as well as for any assignments or quizzes given or due during the meeting.

One Exception: You may choose to miss one section during the term for any reason and submit your paper (for a missed quiz, see your instructor for a one-page paper assignment). Your instructor must receive this makeup assignment prior to or during the next Section meeting.

Format for Papers due in Section:

- Margins: 1” maximum top, bottom, left, right.
- Spacing: Double-spaced.
- Heading: Name, date, and title on one line.
- Length: Where indicated, Paper lengths are minimum lengths.

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You must notify me or your Instructor of any scheduling problems with either the Midterm or the Final examination by the end of the first week of classes. I will consider these matters on a case by case basis, but you must realize that you may be unable to continue in the course if you cannot sit for the exams as scheduled.

**General Student Conduct**

- You may refer to me as either Dr. or Professor Furtado. I will not respond to email messages that do not begin with one of those two salutations.
- Please turn off all cell phone ringers before class begins. No texting or reading text messages during class.
- Please refrain from reading materials unrelated to our course during class.
- Please do not engage in conversations during lecture; remember that others may be trying to concentrate as they listen and take notes. If you have a question, please ask.
- The lecture hall is an expensive and uncomfortable bedroom. If you are too tired to stay awake during class, please go find somewhere else to sleep.
- If you know you will be leaving class early, please sit near an exit to avoid disturbing the lecturer or other students.
- You may use laptops or tablets only for taking notes, as activities unrelated to the course may be distracting to others.
- Note: You are agreeing to abide by these policies by continuing to attend this class.

*I reserve the right to ban the use of electronic devices at any time for all students.*

**Schedule of Lectures**

**Part I: From Land to Sea**

**Week One: Eurasian Land Empires**

- **Monday, Jan. 6**  
  Introduction to the Course
- **Wednesday, Jan. 8**  
  Mongols, Muslims, and the Ming
- **Friday, Jan. 10**  
  How to build an Empire: The Ottomans

**Read:**  
*Ogie Ghiselin de Busbecq, The Turkish Letters, 1555-1562
  Atlas pages 62-3, 66-7, 68-9, 81, 83.*

**Section Meeting:** Discuss section procedures and course requirements.
Week Two: The Indian Ocean

Monday, January 13  The Politicization of the Indian Ocean
Wednesday, January 15  The Takeover of India
Friday, January 17  The Conquest of the New World

Read: *Nicholas Kristof, “1492: The Prequel”  
*Louise Levathes, “The Strange Kingdoms of Malacca and Ceylon”  
Atlas Pages 74-5, 84-85, 82, 76-7.

Section Paper: Read Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, The Turkish Letters, 1555-1562. Then, write a one-page paper consisting of the following elements: one paragraph summarizing the qualities the author finds most important to the success of the Ottoman Jannisary, one paragraph comparing the document to what you now know about the Mongol military successes, and one paragraph discussing the effect of each empire’s successes on trade.

Week Three: The Atlantic Ocean

Monday, January 20  NO CLASS: Martin Luther King Holiday
Wednesday, January 21  The Columbian Exchange
Friday, January 23  The Slave Trade

Read: *Olaudah Equiano, Equiano’s Travels: His Autobiography (excerpts).  
*Paul Erdmann Isert, “Eleventh Letter” from Letters on West Africa and the Slave Trade  
Atlas pages 70, 71, 76-7, 91, 88-9

Sections: Quiz in Lecture comparing Chinese and European imperialism in the Indian Ocean.

Week Four: The Pacific Ocean

Monday, January 27  Tokugawa Japan and Petrine Russia
Wednesday, January 29  Oceania and the Enlightenment.
Friday, January 31  Midterm Examination  (Bring Green Book)

- Map quiz: blank world map with ten locations (20%)
- One short reading response linked to the “Big Questions” (35%)
- Longer essay on the “Big Questions” (45%)

Read: *Charles Mann, “1491”.  
Atlas pages 77, 79, 85(Russia Only), 101

Section Paper: Locate Benin on p. 76 of your atlas. Write one paragraph describing the effects of the Columbian exchange on agriculture in Africa. Then locate the Danish Virgin Islands (included St. Croix) on p. 91. Write another paragraph contrasting agriculture in the eighteenth-century Caribbean with that in eighteenth-century Africa. Review for Midterm.
PART II: Comparing China and Europe

Week Five: The State

Monday, February 3  The European state system and the wars of religion
Wednesday, February 5  The Chinese Imperial system and the Manchu Conquest
Friday, February 7  Official religion in China and Europe

Read: *Judge Dee* I-XXIII (skim), 1-87
Atlas pages 83, 86

Section: Review Midterm; Discuss notetaking, assess study habits and performance.

Week Six: Patriarchy

Monday, February 10  Family Life in China and Europe
Wednesday, February 12  Popular Religion in China and Europe
Friday, February 14  Migration and Stratification in China and Europe

Read: Glückel, vii-xviii (skim), 1-119
Review *Judge Dee*, 61-87

Section: Write a one-page defense of the Imperial Chinese justice system addressed to a modern American lawyer who thinks it is (1) abusive, (2) inefficient, and (3) superstitious.

Week Seven: Money

Monday, February 17  European High Finance
Wednesday, February 19  Chinese Silver
Friday, February 21  A World Economy?

Read: *Judge Dee*, 88-136
Glückel, 146-184

Section: Compare and contrast economic systems presented in Judge Dee and Glückel.

Week Eight: Literacy

Monday, February 24  The Confucian Examination System
Wednesday, February 26  The Republic of Letters
Friday, February 28  Popular Literacy: the Opera and Novel
Read: *Judge Dee*, 137-223

Section Quiz on Glückel, with comparative attention to the status and roles of women in *Judge Dee*.

**Part III: Why the West?**

**Week Nine: Ecology or Culture?**

Monday, March 3  European Mathematics
Wednesday, March 5  Chinese Medicine
Friday, March 7  The Great Divergence

**Read:** *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, “Preface to the Novissima Sinica”*  
*Morial from Xu Guangqi to the Wan-Li Emperor*

**Section Quiz:** As you read, consider this question: How does Judge Dee’s Confucian education help, as well as hinder, his ability to catch and punish criminals? Be prepared to use specific examples.

**Week Ten: Modernity**

Monday, March 10  “Western” Revolutions
Wednesday, March 12  Social Revolt and Political Rebellion in China
Friday, March 14  Conclusion

**Read:** Jack Goldstone, “The Rise of the West or Not? A Revision to Socio-Economic History”

Atlas pages 94-5, 96, 102-3

**Final Exam Review:** Jack Goldstone’s essay will provide the basis for the comprehensive final exam essay question. Come prepared to provide an example of a way that Goldstone’s argument converges with, or differs from, the account of Western dominance developed in part III of this class.

**Final Examination:** Monday, March 17th, 10:15 AM  
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