

H108: Perspectives on the World from ~1200 to ~1800

Fall 2006/ 3 credit hours
T/R 1:30-2:45pm, Sec. 6374
IUPUI/Cavanaugh Hall 235



Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Belley by Anne-Louis Girodet (1797)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will explore the history of early globalization and the ever-intense relationship of contact and exchange among different global communities before the modern period. We will trace historical events, circumstances, and trends as they unfolded from around 1200 to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, a period of historical experience very much still shaping our world today. The emphasis in the course will be on sketching the emergence of interdependence between world regions and systems. We will always question the idea that such interaction was created/stimulated largely by European ideas and will, instead, examine the history of the world through the lens of non-western contributions. In analyzing and understanding global histories as inter-connected, we will pay close attention to the social, cultural, political, economic, demographic, and even ecological implications of

this history. We will stress upon issues of diversity, power imbalances, and the interactive workings of ethnicity, wealth status, gender, and regional variables.

REQUIRED TEXTS FOR PURCHASE:

1. Richard W. Bulliet, et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History*, Third Edition, Part B-1200 to 1870
2. Ken Wolf, *Personalities and Problems, Vol. 1*
3. Bartolome de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*
4. Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*

**All required texts for purchase may be checked out for a short loan term from the main library's reserve desk.*

ADDITIONAL/ SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS:

Additional readings will be available either through Oncourse or distributed in class by me. All students should have access to Oncourse as long as they are registered for the class. Oncourse readings can be found under the heading, "Syllabus," where either the actual document or a hyperlink to an online source will be available. Due to a lack of space, Oncourse readings will not be available indefinitely. You should therefore print all materials in a timely fashion.

SYLLABUS:

The syllabus is subject to small changes dependent on circumstance. I will update the version available on Oncourse under the heading, "Syllabus," as necessary.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

Regarding the content of the course,

- I expect that you will gain holistic knowledge and understanding of the histories that have shaped the world.
- I also want to acquaint you with a variety of cultural beliefs and opinions, never exclusively western, considered from the perspective of a broader global context.
- You will also develop an appreciation for the complexity of historical knowledge and the inherently contentious ways to interpret history.

I have organized this course to help you build your historian skills.

- You will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of primary and secondary sources, discussion with other students and lecture materials.
- You will use these skills to synthesize this material for your papers and exams and you will be expected to learn how to articulate these ideas in a cohesive manner.
- In the end, you will become better readers and writers.

CLASS FORMAT:

The class periods will combine several different formats. For instance, a typical class session will feature a bit of lecture, maybe some music or video, group work and discussion. This approach aims to create an environment in which you learn from each other as well as from me. As an instructor I am a facilitator and guide who does not have all the answers. I hope to learn as much from you as you do from me.

MY RESPONSIBILITIES/YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

We are all responsible for the success of this course.

While it is ***my responsibility*** to guide you in learning the objectives of the course, to give clear presentations and encourage your participation, to explain assignments and grade them appropriately, to return assignments in a timely fashion and to make myself available to you, this class cannot depend on me alone.

It is ***your responsibility*** to read the material, reflect on it and be prepared to ask critical questions. Reading, doing the homework, actively taking notes and listening to the ideas of others are your contributions to the success of this class. You must also ***bring all pertinent materials to class*** on the day those materials are scheduled for discussion.

I require that ***we respect each other*** and our differences while in the classroom. This class is an open forum, a place where every member of the class has the opportunity and should feel comfortable raising questions, voicing opinions, and engaging in the historical debate. Disrespect will not be tolerated.

CLASS POLICIES:

In general, ***late work will only be accepted in cases of illness*** and then only if supported by a note from the student health services or a physician. But please ***consult with me*** if you should be sick, have a car accident, family emergency, etc. I am always willing to listen and will make the appropriate considerations regarding grade penalties and absences as long as you have made an effort, preferably as soon as possible, to contact me and let me know what has happened. Unexcused, late papers or exams will be docked one third (1/3) of a letter grade per day i.e., an A grade would become an A-, and so forth.

Attendance is absolutely mandatory and simply expected. Unexcused absences will result in a substantially lowered grade! Active participation is 10% of your overall grade; if you are not present in class, you will not earn any participation points for that day. If you are not present to hand in your weekly assignments, your assignment will not be graded for points. Please also arrive on time out of respect for your classmates and myself. Chronic late-comers will begin to be marked absent and thus lose participation points. Again, regular attendance will greatly enhance your chances for success here!

Inform yourself of the university's policy on plagiarism in the undergraduate catalog or on the web. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense: anyone caught plagiarizing will be subject to the university's procedures regarding such an offense. Address all questions concerning the exercises and plagiarism to me before they are due. Go to the following web address for more information:
<http://www.hoosiers.iupui.edu/handbk/handbook.htm>.

You should also ***inform yourself of the university's withdrawal policies***. It is your responsibility to withdraw from class. I cannot administratively drop you.

And to give a nod to the world in which we live, please ***turn off*** all cell phones and pagers before class.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) active class participation, reading assignments and attendance (40%)**
- 2) one short paper (15%)**
- 3) two take-home exams (15% each)**
- 4) one in-class final exam (15%)**

1. Participation, assignments and attendance-40% of the final grade

In order to receive the full 40% you need to actively participate in class (10%) and submit your weekly assignments (30%).

Active Participation-

- In general, **active participation means staying interested and involved in the class**. So, you can actively participate in several ways: by speaking up in class, by working enthusiastically with your group members, by asking for points of clarification (if you need them) during my lectures, by asking me and the other students questions or making critical comments about readings and lecture, by completing all assignments and submitting them in a timely fashion, etc. Stay involved by doing at least a few of these suggestions and your participation grade will be great!

Weekly Assignments-

- There are fifteen (15) weekly assignments for this class. **You will be responsible for doing only ten (10) of these assignments. Each assignment will be worth 3 points, for a total of 30 points. If you choose to do more than 10 assignments, I will count each additional assignment you complete for 1 point of extra credit.** Given the nature of the assignments, I will except late work only for the most compelling reasons and generally will give extensions of no more

than one week. Assignments turned in late (without my approval) will not be accepted for a grade.

Each week one short assignment will be posted on Oncourse or distributed in class and will be due on the date given on the syllabus. The assignments are designed to stimulate your active participation in class by “forcing” you to keep abreast of the readings. If done with diligence, the assignments will allow you to accumulate 30% of your grade easily and give you a ready-at-hand sense of where you stand in class.

When I produce the assignment, I will design questions or exercises that build upon a greater understanding of the supplemental reading material. The first series of assignments will focus on reading documents in the context in which they were written. As the semester moves along assignments will change focus and begin to ask you to more fully explore an author’s point of view by comparing one work with another or with broader themes that we’ve discussed in the course. Some assignments will be written to help you study for your exams or to read the novels more closely so that you can write good papers about them.

Attendance-

- Attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences can result in a substantially lowered grade. For each unexcused absence from class I will deduct 1 point from the 40% allotted for participation and assignments. This calculation will be made at the end of the semester.

2. One Paper-15% of the final grade

Toward the end of the semester you will be presented with a formal essay question concerning what we have been studying, particularly in reference to the accounts by Bartolome de las Casas and Olaudah Equiano. After the question is released, you will have 4 weeks to compose **a typed, 4-5 page, 12-point font/Times New Roman, double-spaced paper** in response to the question and you should support your position with what we have read, discussed and written in the week before. Specifically, the week’s reading assignments will be structured to provide the appropriate proficiency necessary for the paper assignment.

3. Two Take-Home Exams-15% of the final grade each

Twice during the semester you will be given a take-home exam (once in the middle of the semester and once the last day of regular class) to be returned by the next class period or by the allotted finals exam date and time, respectively. For each exam you will be asked to evaluate a primary source document based on certain assessment criteria that I will develop with you in class. The testing documents will not be documents you have seen before. I will, however, choose documents from authors or themes you have encountered in class. The tests will

therefore encompass material with which you are familiar but will also present new challenges for which you can employ the tools and skills you develop over the course of the semester.

4. One In-Class Final Exam-15% of the final grade

On the last day of class you will be given a final exam that will ask you to comment on/critique a film we will watch that day and to incorporate the themes and materials of the course in your review. You will have approximately one hour to complete the exam.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week One: Discussion of syllabus.

Thursday, August 24:

- Introductions/Discussion of Syllabus

Week Two: Defining World history.

Tuesday, August 29:

- Introductions; Defining World History

Thursday, August 31:

- According to your group assignment read one of the following articles: “The Prospects of World History” by Geoffrey Barraclough (Group 1); “The Changing Shape of World History” by William H. McNeill (Group 2); “World-Systems Analysis; Five Questions in Search of a New Consensus” by Immanuel Wallerstein (Group 3); “Periodization in World History Teaching: Identifying the Big Changes” by Peter N. Stearns (Group 4); “Global and Comparative History” by Michael Adas and “The Comparative World History Approach” by Philip D. Curtin (Group 5); “World History as Gender History: The Case of the Nation-State” by Ida Blom (Group 6) (all on Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 1 done in class**

Part One: The Rise and Fall of the Mongol Empire

Week Three: Conquest and Consequence – Empire in Western Eurasia and China

Tuesday, September 5:

- Labor Day!!! No Class!!!

Thursday, September 7:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 336-364
- Read “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” by Horace Miner (distributed in class)
- **Weekly Assignment 2 done in class**

Part Two: The Islamic World

Week Four: The Spread of Islam and Imperial Expansion in Africa and India

Tuesday, September 12:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 372-380
- Read selections from Sultan Selim I, “Letter to Shah Ismail of Persia” (Oncourse)
- Read selections from Abul Fazl, *Akbarnama* (Oncourse)

Thursday, September 14:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 380-389
- Read selections from Abul Fazl, *Akbarnama* (Oncourse)
- Read *Personalities and Problems*, pgs. 103-127
- **Weekly Assignment 3 due in class**

Part Three: The Atlantic World before the “Age of Discovery”

Week Five: The Aztecs and the Incas

Tuesday, September 19:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 305-320
- Read selections from Oviedo y Valdés, *Historia General y Natural de la Indias* (Oncourse)

Thursday, September 21:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 320-329
- Read selections from Hernan Cortés, “Second Letter to Charles V, 1520” (Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 4 due in class**
- First/Midterm exam distributed in class, to be completed at home and due the following class period

Week Six: Europe, from the “Dark Ages” to the “Rebirth”

Tuesday, September 26:

- **First/Midterm Exam due in class**
- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 391-415
- Read selections from “The Expulsion from Spain, 1492” (Oncourse)

Thursday, September 28:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 448-472

- **Weekly Assignment 5 done in class**

Week Seven: Maritime Revolution; and Europe's Commercial Encounters with Africa and Asia

Tuesday, October 3:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 417-431
- Read *Personalities and Problems*, pgs. 149-159

Thursday, October 5:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 431-435
- Read selections from Hans Mayr, *The Voyage and Acts of Dom Francisco* (Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 6 done in class**

Part Four: Colonialism in the Americas

Week Eight: Conquest and Destruction

Tuesday, October 10:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 435-441
- Read selections from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, "Agreements with Columbus of April 17 and 30, 1492" (Oncourse)

Thursday, October 12:

- Read Bartolome de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*
- **Weekly Assignment 7 done in class**

Week Nine: The Spanish in the Americas

Tuesday, October 17:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 473-477
- Read selections from Bernal Diaz, "The Aztec Civilization of Mexico" (Oncourse)

Thursday, October 19:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 477-488, 495-497
- Read Gregory Cerio, "Were the Spaniards that Cruel?" (Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 8 due in class**

Week Ten: The British and French Difference

Tuesday, October 24:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 488-493

- Read selections from Richard Hakluyt, “A Discourse on Western Planting (Oncourse)

Thursday, October 26:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 493-495
- Second/Midterm exam distributed in class, to be completed at home and due the following class period
- **Weekly Assignment 9 due in class**

Week Eleven: The Caribbean and the Slave Trade

Tuesday, October 31:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 499-523
- **Second/Midterm Exam due in class**

Thursday, November 2:

- Read *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano* by Olaudah Equiano
- **Weekly Assignment 10 due in class**

Part Five: “West Meets East,” Ottoman and Mughal Exchanges

Week Twelve: Missionary, Merchant and Cultural Negotiations

Tuesday, November 7:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 525-541
- Read selections from Khayr al-Din Rimali, “Legal Options” (Oncourse)
- Paper assignment distributed in class, to be completed in four weeks time

Thursday, November 9:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 541-548, 550-556
- Read selections from Jahangir, *Memoirs* (Oncourse)
- Read *Personalities and Problems*, pgs. 161-176
- **Weekly Assignment 11 due in class**

Part Six: The Great Divergence, China and the West

Week Thirteen: Imperial China and the Birth of Modern Economic Systems

Tuesday, November 14:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 556-565
- Read selections from Tokugawa Iemitsu, “Closed Country Edict of 1635” (Oncourse)
- Read *Personalities and Problems*, pgs. 179-188

Thursday, November 16:

- Read selections from Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence* (Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 12 due in class**

Week Fourteen: Thanksgiving Break!!!

Tuesday, November 21: Thanksgiving Break, No Class

Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving Break, No Class

Part Seven: Enlightenment and the Seeds of Revolution

Week Fifteen: Peter the Great's Russia and the *Haskalah*

Tuesday, November 28:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 565-573
- Read selections from Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, "Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews" (Oncourse)

Thursday, November 30:

- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 580-592
- Read selections from Moses Mendelssohn, "Response to Dohm" (Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 13 due in class**

Week Sixteen: The Dual Revolutions, France, Great Britain and the Modern World

Tuesday, December 5:

- **Paper due in class**
- Read *The Earth and its Peoples*, pgs. 592-606, 608-630
- Read *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* and selections from Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Oncourse)
- **Weekly Assignment 14 done in class**

Thursday, December 7: Last day of class; concluding remarks; final exam review

- **Weekly Assignment 15 done in class**

Week Seventeen: Final Exam

Tuesday, December 12: **Final Exam from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**