

California State University, Sacramento

2021 Summer Program

HIS 120 Introduction to World History

Course Outline

Course Code: HIS 120

Instructor: Brandon C. Downing

Home Institution: Marietta College

Office Hours: by appointment

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Credit: 3

Course Objectives:

This course is an introduction to Modern World History. As a class, we will examine Modern World History as a form of inquiry and understanding. The aim is to develop a familiarity with the complexity of human affairs, of the way in which a variety of forces—economic, cultural, military, political—have interacted with individual aspirations and with the deliberate efforts of individuals to control and shape events. Students should develop a means of interpreting and thinking critically about the events of the Modern World through a historic lens.

Format:

This course will utilize both primary and secondary sources in order to better understand the dynamics of change over time, generate a historical argument, apply historical knowledge and analysis to contribute to contemporary social dialogue, and to understand that the ethics and practice of history means recognizing and building on other scholars' work, peer review, and citation. There are also days that will focus primarily on a discussion based on article-length readings. I will utilize other media and experiential-learning exercises when and where it is appropriate. There will also be field trips to local Chinese historical sites, museums, and monuments.

Course Policies:

1. **Attendance:** It is virtually impossible for you to excel in higher education without regard to regular classroom attendance. Attendance will be kept by the TA. If regular attendance becomes a problem, you can expect it to adversely affect your final grade at the end of the

course. Moreover, it is expected that you arrive in the classroom on time and prepared for class.

2. **Respect:** It should go without saying that all use of cell phones, computers, or any other electronic devices not directly related to the lecture or assignment for that particular class will not be tolerated. Be respectful by either not bringing them to class or turning them off during the entire class period. The same goes for food. All views and values are to be respected without interruption during the class. Although we may have different opinions, the classroom is a place where we should recognize that these differences are an asset rather than an impediment.

3. **Academic Integrity:** Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be your own. The direct and unattributed use of another's efforts, however, is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own. Ask me if you are unsure of any potential violation to this policy. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you will receive a disciplinary penalty of a zero on that particular assignment. I reserve the right to amend this policy based on the extent of the dishonesty.

4. **Coursework:** You will be graded on your attendance, participation, class discussion, quizzes, field trip papers, and a final paper. All work is to be completed on time without exception. Quizzes and discussions cannot be made-up unless a valid excuse is presented and documented.

Course Requirements:

Attendance	10
Participation	40
Discussions	60
Quizzes	60
Field Trip + Papers	90
Primary Source Papers	40
Final Paper	100
TOTAL	400

Grade Grade Points

A 4.0

A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Grade Descriptions:

Attendance (10 Points): Attendance is kept by the TA during every class for a total of 10 points for the session. Missing more than three classes will result in an automatic zero score. A score lower than 8 points automatically denies any make up work or extra credit unless approved documentation is presented.

Participation (40 Points): Participation is graded during each class and evaluated on an overall weekly basis. You should do your best to reply to general questions asked throughout the lecture, when discussing the primary sources, and after watching videos. If you use your cell phone, sleep, talk during the lecture, or use any electronic device not associated with the course content for that day, you should expect it to negatively impact your overall participation score.

Discussions (60 Points): There are three discussions based on academic articles. It is expected that you read the entire article and come to class prepared to discuss it with your classmates. Each discussion is worth 20 points. If you do not participate during the discussion, you will receive a score of zero for that class. In order to gain points, you should attempt to answer, raise a question, counterargue, or add to the dialogue three or four times during the discussion to maximize your score.

Quizzes (60 Points): There are three quizzes administered during the session. Each quiz is worth 20 points. A variety of methods will be used to evaluate your understanding of the course material, but primarily multiple choice and short essay questions.

Field Trip + Papers (90 Points): There will be one field trip to a local historical site for the first three weeks of the session worth 30 points each. After preparation in class and taking the field trip, you will be required to submit a two-page paper by the following Monday based on

your experience. The paper should be two pages, 12” Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1” margins with a cover page.

Primary Source Papers (40 Points): There is a primary source each week and all will be available to you prior to the start of the session. You will be required to write a response paper based on two questions provided in a thoughtful, coherent narrative [double-spaced, 1” inch margins, and 12” Times New Roman font]. I will provide you with an assessment rubric and examples of what is expected for you to receive the full 40 points for each paper.

Final Paper Project (100 Points): A 4-5 page final paper [double-spaced, 1” inch margins, and 12” Times New Roman font] is required at the end of the four-week session. The paper is an analytical essay based on one of the academic articles you read for class. You will have to corroborate or refute the thesis with three additional articles found through either J-Stor or the university library. Guidelines will be provided.

Recommended Reading:

Robert Tignor, et al., eds., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World: From 1000 CE to the Present*, vol. 2, Fourth Edition (W. W. Norton & Company, 2013).

Required Reading:

Alison Games, “Violence on the Fringes: The Virginia (1622) and Amboyna (1623) Massacres,” *The Journal of the Historical Association* 99, 336 (July 2014): 505-529.

Mark Cohen, “The Political Process of the Revolutionary Samurai: A Comparative Reconsideration of Japan's Meiji Restoration” *Theory and Society* 43, 2 (March 2014), 139-168.

Richard H. Kohn, “The Danger of Militarization in an Endless ‘War’ on Terrorism,” *The Journal of Military History* 73 (January 2009): 177-208.

+All Primary Documents will be provided in class

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1: to 1500

WED:	Introductions/Syllabus
	Primary Source Exercise
THUR:	Becoming “the World”
	Video: <i>Ibn Battuta: the Man Who Walked Across the World</i>

FRI:	Primary Source: Giovanni Boccaccio, <i>The Decameron</i> [1353]
	Field Trip Preparation
SAT:	Visit: Shanghai Museum, No. 201 Renmin Da Dao, Huangpu District [FREE]

WEEK 2: 1450-1800

MON:	Contact, Commerce, and Colonization
	Primary Source: <i>The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico</i> [1519]
TUES:	Worlds Entangled
	Video: <i>The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross</i>
WED:	Cultures of Splendor and Power
	Field Trip Preparation
THUR:	Visit: Shanghai History Museum, Oriental Pearl Radio & TV Tower, 1 Lujiazui, Pudong [FREE]
FRI:	Quiz I
	Discussion 1: Games, “Violence on the Fringes”

WEEK 3: 1750-1900

MON:	Reordering the World
	Primary Source: Nathaniel Isaacs, <i>Descriptions of Shaka and the Zulu Military</i> [1836]
TUES:	Nations and Empires
	Video: <i>The Haitian Revolution</i>
WED:	An Unsettled World
	Field Trip Preparation
THUR:	Visit: Shanghai Propaganda Poster Art Center, RM. BOC 868 Hua Shan Road [25 Yuan]
FRI:	QUIZ II
	Discussion 2: Cohen, “The Political Process of the Revolutionary Samurai”

WEEK 4: 1900-Present

MON:	Visions of the Modern
	Primary Source: Nelson Mandela, <i>The Rivonia Trial</i> [1964]
TUES:	Three-World Order
	Video: Ferguson, <i>The War of the World</i>

WED:	Globalization 2001-Present
THUR:	Discussion 3: Kohn, “The Danger of Militarization in an Endless ‘War’ on Terrorism”
FRI:	Quiz III DUE: Final Paper