



## Beijing Jiaotong University

### 2022 Summer Session

## HIS 120 Introduction to World History

### Course Outline

**Course Code: HIS 120**

**Instructor: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Email: TBA**

**Credit: 4**

#### **Course Description:**

This course will be conducted on the basis of two divergent goals. Our first goal is to achieve basic fluency in the dominant, internationally employed frameworks for structuring the global past, with a focus on the prevailing narratives of the modern period (post 1492). As part of this first goal, we will:

- *Place world history within the larger context of planetary history through a review of basic concepts in cosmology, geology, evolution, and meteorology;*
- *Review the milestones of human adaptation and technology, along with their social and imperial contexts, up to the Columbian Exchange.*
- *Gain command of the principle geographic and political divisions of the earth.*
- *Study in depth the demographic, biological, commercial, political and imperial consequences of the “New Pangaea” created by the European encounter with the New World.*
- *Study these same consequences as brought by the shift to fossil fuels and global trade starting in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.*
- *Study the “Great Acceleration” of commerce and culture brought by the “2nd Industrial Revolution,” and the 20<sup>th</sup> c. world wars that followed.*



- *Review the basic features of today's economically integrated and culturally postmodern world.*

Our second goal is to practice thinking historically, that is, to critique the dominant narratives of world history using the tools of evidence, perspective, logic, and imagination. In pursuit of this goal, we will:

- *Analyze primary documents from a wide-range of places, time periods, and social perspectives;*
- *Read a monography and selections from other books and articles that offer new ways to interpret familiar stories about the global past.*
- *Students will practice integrating their knowledge of world history with contemporary political and environmental issues.*

### **Required Textbooks:**

- Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *The World: A History, Vol II*. Pearson, 2016.
- Alfred Crosby, *Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy*. Norton, 2006.
- Additional reading materials to be posted on Blackboard.

### **Requirements:**

A. Reading. You will read a textbook, a monograph, several articles or chapters of books, and several primary sources. In addition, there will be required chronologies and glossaries posted weekly, in addition to optional readings and links.

B. Homework, Class Exercises and Quizzes. You will have periodic homework and class exercises. You must be present to turn in your homework, no late homework will be accepted, and class exercises cannot be made up.

C. Examinations. There will be a midterm examination and a cumulative final examination. Both will be in short answer and essay format.

### **Evaluation:**

Attendance 10%

Participation 15%

Homework, Exercises, Quizzes 20%



<u>Midterm Exam</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>

### **Grading Scale**

A+:4.3——95-100

A :4.0——87-94

A -:3.7——82-86

B+:3.3——78-81

B :3.0——75-77

B -:2.7——71-74

C+:2.3——68-70

C :2.0——65-67

C -:1.7——61-64

D :1.0——55-60

E :0.0——49-54

X :0.0——0

### **Class Policies:**

- No late homework will be accepted and missed class exercises and quizzes cannot be made up.
- Each student is expected to prepare for and attend class, take notes and participate in discussion, quizzes, and/or exercises throughout the duration of the class.
- Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. All work other than the student's must be cited appropriately. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in penalties ranging from failure of the assignment, to failure of the course, to ejection from the program.

### **Tentative Course Schedule:**

All assignments must be read *before* the first day of the week they are assigned. Book and page number assignments for Weeks 2-5 will be distributed on the first day of class:



### **Week1**

Big History

Humans

Agrarian Regimes.

Crosby, ch. 1 & 2; Fernández-Armesto, ch. 14; additional materials to be posted on Blackboard.

### **Week2**

The Columbian Exchange

Modern Science

Western Imperialism.

### **Week3**

Industrialization and the Nation-State

Midterm Exam.

### **Week4**

Global Capitalism

Total War.

The Anthropocene and the Postmodern World

Final Exam.