This class provides a fast-paced introduction to the history of the world from the Reformation and voyages of discovery to the present day. The course will use a comparative approach, exploring similarities and differences between regions, taking special note of interactions and exchanges between cultures as well as the lives of everyday people. Particular attention will be paid to cultural and ideological interchanges among the world’s civilizations and the evolution of the global community.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have acquired the ability to do the following:

1. To understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of world history since 1500
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the commonalities and differences among two or more societies, nations, or cultures outside of the United States in regard to any of the following: language, literature, aesthetics, politics, economics, or social and cultural practices
3. To evaluate critically primary sources and to make use of these sources in posing and answering important historical questions
4. To discuss historical questions and problems in standard English prose

**Required Reading:**

McKay, et. Al., Understanding World Societies: A brief History Vol. 2 (Text)
Additional Readings accessed via this syllabus and CourseDen

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

**Class Participation 30%**

Each week, you will have one discussion activity based on that week’s course material. Each week, you will receive a separate grade for that discussion, which will be applied to your class participation grade. Discussion activity assignments are community discussions about specific topics that include individual postings made by you and responses to other student postings. Postings should relate directly to the topic. Discussion postings have two deadlines: one for the initial posting and one for your response posting. Please make sure that you plan accordingly. Additional details will be provided in each assignment. Please see the Class Participation Guidelines and Grading section in the Course Overview for information on how these discussions will be graded.

**Reading Quizzes 20%**
Each student will take three quizzes on CourseDen. Deadlines for taking each quiz, as well as the material covered on each quiz, are listed on the schedule of assignments below.

Reaction Papers 20%
Each student will write three papers, 2-3 pages in length, based on primary sources and the course textbook. The paper topics are posted on CourseDen.

Final Exam 30%
Each student will write a final exam essay, 3-5 pages in length. The paper topic is posted on CourseDen and the essay will be due on CourseDen on the date of the final exam for the course.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Please note that anyone committing plagiarism in any written assignment will earn an F for the course and may face further disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined in the University of West Georgia Handbook as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.” Please see the UWG’s History Department statement on plagiarism at [http://www.westga.edu/~history/plagiarismhtm.htm](http://www.westga.edu/~history/plagiarismhtm.htm) and the UWG English Department’s guide for avoiding plagiarism at: [http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/Plagiarism/index.html](http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/Plagiarism/index.html).

Students, please carefully review the following information. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, and university accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester. [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

Course Schedule and Assignments:

**Unit 1  Foundations of the Modern World (31 May-9 June)**

This unit will explore some of the economic, social, and intellectual foundations of modernity. Topics to be explored include the Reformation, the Voyages of Discovery and Colonization, Empires in Asia, and the Scientific Revolution

To Do List for Unit 1:

Introduce yourself to the class! Stop by the discussion forum and tell us a little about yourself. See Discussion Forums for details. (Complete by 11:59pm 2 June)


Quiz: Take the 20 question reading quiz. (Complete by 11:59pm 5 June)

Watch: Crash Course Videos on the Columbian Exchange and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
Discuss: Pick any two of the primary documents assigned for this unit to compare and contrast interactions between Europe and other regions of the world in the early modern era. See the Discussion Forum for details on how to complete this assignment.

Write: A 2-3 page paper exploring global voyages and cultural exchange. See the Module for additional instructions as well as the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for general information on how to write this paper. (Upload by 11:59pm 9 June)

Unit 2  Ideology, Industry, and Empire (12-16 June)

This unit will explore the great revolutions of the late eighteenth century and their ideological, economic, and political legacies. Topics to be explored include the French and Industrial Revolutions, the Age of Isms, the New Imperialism, and East Asia at the turn of the twentieth century.

To Do List for Unit 2:

Read: Text, 576-719, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, Justification of the Use of Terror, Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen, Evidence Given before the Sadler Committee, A Description of Manchester “On French colonial expansion,” Tools of Empire (excerpt)

Quiz: Take the 20 question reading quiz. (Complete by 11:59pm 12 June)

Watch: Crash Course Videos on the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and Imperialism

Discuss: Compare and contrast the impact of the dual revolutions in France and Britain. You and a classmate are cousins living in late eighteenth-century Britain and France. Exchange a series of short letters (in character) describing the great changes you see happening around you. What are the social costs of these changes and how do some members of society justify them? See the Discussion Forum for details on how to complete this assignment.

Write: Write a 2-3 page paper exploring the role of technology in the New Imperialism. See the Module for additional instructions as well as the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for general information on how to write this paper. (Upload by 11:59pm 16 June)

Unit 3 Apocalypse and After (19-22 June)

This unit will explore the origins and events of the two World Wars and how they shaped the world that followed. Topics to be explored include World War One, Fascism and Stalinism, World War Two, the Holocaust, and the postwar world order.

To Do List for Unit 3:

Read: Text, 750-867, Selections from My Daily Journal, All Quite on the Western Front (excerpts), Combat and the Soldier’s experience in World War One, Propaganda and Reality-World War One, Walter Gross “Race,” Treblinka
Quiz: Take the 20 question reading quiz. (Complete by 11:59pm 19 June)

Watch: British Library Video on World War One Propaganda, Crash Course Videos on World War Two and the Cold War

Discuss: Discuss the ways in which governments fighting the First World War attempted to motivate their people to contribute to the war effort. How did the actual experience of trench warfare compare to the propaganda? Compare and contrast the experiences of the Canadian and German soldiers that we read for this unit. See the Discussion Forum for details on how to complete this assignment.

Write: A 2-3 page paper on totalitarianism and genocide. See the Module for additional instructions as well as the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for general information on how to write this paper. (Upload by 11:59pm 22 June)

Final Exam (due 11:59pm 26 June)
See module for details on how to complete this assignment.