

MSU Texas
HIST 1453: World Civilizations since 1500
FCAC Dual Credit Syllabus

Course Information

History 1453: World Civilizations since
1500 Fall 2023
Room #10

Professor Information

Prof. Trevor J. Davis, M.A., B.A., A.A.
Contact: tjdavis@responsivedtx.com (RES)
trevor.davis@msutexas.edu (MSU)

Course Description/Objectives

This course serves as a survey of world history from 1500 A.D. up to the present. Our course will begin by examining the Early Modern period, with the rise of nation states and European empires that vied for power in the Americas, Africa, and Asia, frequently coming into contact (militarily, economically, and culturally) with civilizations that had previously been far removed or completely unknown to Europeans of earlier centuries. Then, we will consider the nineteenth century and the transformative power of the Industrial Revolution, which intensified competition among these increasingly global empires as they competed for resources and territory to fuel their economic and military expansion. Industrialization also would inspire a strong reaction by relative newcomers to the world stage (such as Germany, the United States, and Japan) that would come into conflict with older imperial powers such as France, Britain, Spain, and Russia as they sought to carve out their own empires on the global stage. This will then enable us to evaluate the historical context of the great-power conflicts and socio-economic changes wrought by the World Wars and the Cold War, with competing military alliances being supplanted by the hegemonic superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union from 1945 onwards. Our examination of modern history will help us understand the context of our current historical moment, as well as to interpret how these events and processes occurred within their own historical context. As such, students should expect to become acquainted with key developments, events, figures, and processes in world history from 1500 to the present.

Required Books, Readings, and Materials

Peter Frankopan, *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*. New York: Vintage Books, 2017.

John France, *Perilous Glory: The Rise of Western Military Power*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2011.

Peter Stearns, ed. *World History in Documents: A Comparative Reader*, 2nd edition. New York: New York University Press, 2008.

Requirements and Grading

Grades for this class will fall into the following categories: weekly discussions posts responding to assigned readings/classmates, four book reviews (800 words each), a midterm, and a final.

Class Attendance

All students are expected to attend regularly and arrive punctually for class. It is your responsibility to study for any material you miss and request notes from colleagues on an as-needed basis. Students should also ensure that they arrive prepared for class – i.e., equipped with the appropriate textbooks, a notebook, and pens (no pencils) for their classwork.

Materials

Notebook paper, pens, and laptop computer for assignments and research projects.

Grading and Assignments

Book Reviews – 30%

Discussion Posts – 30%

Midterm – 20%

Final – 20%

Students will have discussion board posts and responses every week (excepting those weeks where a midterm, final, or book review is due) to ensure they are reading the assigned books and paying attention to our in-class lecture content. The midterm and final will consist of short answer and essay questions written in a Blue Book in-class. All essays must be written in comprehensible and stylistically refined academic English. Additional guidance will be provided by the course instructor in preparation for all written assignments. Make-up work (for example, for a doctor's visit with a doctor's note) will be possible at the instructor's discretion. See next section for late work.

Grade Scale

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Homework and Assignments

Students are expected to complete their work and turn their assignments in on the specified due dates. **NO** late work will be accepted unless it is under the most extenuating circumstances as determined by the course instructor. Rubrics and guidelines will be provided for all assignments. Plagiarism and cheating (including the use of AI text generators such as ChatGPT) is absolutely unacceptable and will result in academic discipline in keeping with FCAC and MSU policies for academic dishonesty. Please note that the Turnitin.com plagiarism detection tool used by instructors comes equipped with an AI text generation detection tool, and other services are being made available to teachers to catch AI generated content in essays.

Participation

Students should be prepared to ask questions and engage in discussion of course content. Regular notetaking is absolutely essential for succeeding in this course. This is a college class; if you do not pay attention and do not complete assignments, your grades will reflect the amount and quality of effort you put in (or don't) to the course. Laptops **ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** (as are all **other digital devices**, including cell phones and smart watches) in the

context of lecture. All students will be expected to take down notes in pen and paper. Laptop computers may only be used during approved days under the strict supervision of the course instructor.

Communication Policy

Students must contact the instructor either in-person during school hours or via Skyward or one of the professional email addresses provided in the syllabus. All other forms of communication will be disregarded. All messages must be written as formal correspondence with a salutation, using grammatically correct English, and conclude with a signature. Any messages that are written without these features (for example: written like a text message) will be ignored until their contents are re-formatted and re-written according to these standards.

Written Assignments

Students will be expected to complete four academic book reviews for this class. These papers will be 800 words each, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and must be formatted using the Chicago-Turabian system. These papers will require students to choose and carefully read academic monographs (which must be approved by the instructor) and then review them with the purpose of explicating the specific contribution of this work of scholarship to the study of world history. Note that these are *academic book reviews*, not book reports; we will discuss the difference in greater detail in class.

Classroom Procedures and Conduct

All standard rules and procedures laid out in the Responsive Ed Parent-Student handbook and the MSU Student Code of Conduct will apply to this course. The instructor will especially expect the following from all students:

1. Punctual and regular attendance.
2. Food and most drinks will ***not*** be permitted in the classroom (exceptions are made here for the use of water bottles)
3. Students will show appropriate respect and courtesy towards their classmates and the course instructor.
4. All students must be seated and prepared (with notes, pens, and textbooks) for class ****before**** the official start of class periods; bags must be placed in the designated parts of the room ****away**** from the student's desk.
5. Use of prohibited digital devices (i.e., cell phones, smart watches, laptops, etc.) will result in disciplinary measures at the discretion of the course instructor and school administration.
6. Only ****one**** student may leave the class at a time to use the restroom. Students are strongly encouraged to use the restroom during passing periods, not class time, if at all possible.

Academic Dishonesty

There is zero-tolerance for academic dishonesty in this class. Per the handbook, academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, plagiarism, or the use of prohibited AI text generation tools. Cheating is defined as copying the work of another student on an assignment and passing it off as your own work. Plagiarism is defined as the possessing, viewing, or distributing pictures, text messages, or e-mails of test content or answer keys, or the submission of another author's work (in the context of an essay) as one's own without providing proper citation and attribution. AI text generation tools – such as, but not limited to, ChatGPT – are prohibited because they eliminate the need for the student to actually learn anything about the writing process and are not

representative of a student's actual abilities as a writer. If a student is caught engaging in dishonest academic behavior, they will receive a penalized grade on that particular assignment and suitable disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct. If you are having trouble with an assignment in the class, the best thing to do would be to contact the course instructor for help, rather than damaging your personal and academic integrity by resorting to dishonesty.

FERPA

Please note that all relevant federal regulations for FERPA legislation apply to this course.

HIST-1453 MSU/FCAC Modern World History Course Schedule

Caveat: This schedule is subject to change and revision and is only intended to provide a guide of the course contents and expectations for each week.

Period #6 (Rotation; meets on Alpha, Beta, and Delta, Gamma is off)

Week 1:

August 10 – Welcome to Class/Syllabus. Class time: Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

August 11 – What is History? (Short lecture; distribute excerpts from Richard J. Evans, *In Defense of History*). Class time: Beta, 11:15-12:15.

Week 2:

(Course content corresponds w/chapters 1-3 of Frankopan, chapters 1-3 of France)

August 14 – No class, Gamma

August 15 – Discussion: What is History? (see Evans); Delta, 2:10-3:05.

August 16 - Lecture: Legacy of Antiquity – Empires and Trade Routes; Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

August 17 - Lecture: Legacy of Antiquity – Religion and Philosophy; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

August 18 – No Class, Gamma

Week 3:

(Course content corresponds to chapters 4-10 of Frankopan, chapter 5 of France)

August 21 – Lecture: The Medieval Legacy – The Early Medieval World. Delta: 2:10-3:05.

August 22 – Lecture: The Medieval Legacy – The High Middle Ages. Alpha: 1:10-2:05.

August 23 – Lecture: The Medieval Legacy – The Fifteenth Century and the Roots of the Early Modern World. Beta: 11:15-12:15.

August 24 – No class, Gamma.

August 25 – In-Class discussion: How do the ancient and medieval worlds give shape to the “modern” world of the sixteenth century? What do we mean when we refer to the “Modern Era” as a historical measurement of time? Delta, 2:10-3:05.

Week 4 (first week of class for MSU)

(Frankopan, Chapter 11; France, Chapter 6)

Discussion board #1 in D2L posted Monday, due by 09/01/23.

August 28 – Age of Exploration. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

August 29 – Reformation in Europe; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

August 30 – Gamma; no class.

September 1 – No class (student holiday; teacher work day)

Week 5

(Frankopan, Chapter 12; France, Chapter 6)

September 4 – Labor Day; no class.

Discussion Board #2 posted by Tuesday, due by 9/08/23.

September 5 – European Exploration of Early Modern Africa and Asia. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

September 6 – The Conquest of the Americas: The Sixteenth Century. Beta: 11:15-12:15.

September 7 – Gamma, no class.

September 8 – The Age of Battle: Imperialism and the European Wars of Religion. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

Week 6

(Frankopan, Chapter 13; France, Chapter 7)

Book Review #1 due by 09/15/2023.

September 11 – The Early Modern Ottoman Empire: The Balkans and the Greater Middle East; Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

September 12 – India and European Imperialism in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

September 13 – Gamma, no class.

September 14 - Asia in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries; Delta, 2:10-3:05.

September 15 – Book Review #1 due; in-class time to edit, receive feedback, and submit. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

Week 7

(Frankopan, Chapter 14; France, Chapter 7)

Discussion Board #3 due by 09/22/23.

September 18 – Absolutism and the Rise of the Nation State; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

September 19 – Gamma, no class.

September 20 – Colonial Revolution and Reform: The Loss of British North America; Delta, 2:10-3:05.

September 21 – The French Revolution and the Age of Revolutions; Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

September 22 – Discussion Board #3, work in-class; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

Week 8

(Frankopan, Chapter 15; France, Chapter 8)

Discussion Board #4 due by 9/29/23.

September 25 – Gamma, no class.

September 26 – The Napoleonic Wars; Delta, 2:10-3:05.

September 27 – The Industrial Revolution in Europe and North America; Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

September 28 – The Nineteenth Century: Revolution and Autocracy; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

September 29 – Gamma, no class.

Week 9

(Frankopan, 16; France, Chapter 8)

Book Review #2 due by 10/06/23.

October 2 – Nation-Building: Germany and Italy in the Nineteenth Century. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

October 3 – New Imperialism and Social Darwinism. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

October 4 – The Opening of Japan and the Meiji Restoration. Beta, 11:15-12:15.

October 5 – Gamma, no class.

October 6 – Half day; early release (classtime for book review feedback).

Week 10

No Discussion Board.

(Frankopan, Chapter 17; France, Chapter 9)

October 9 – School holiday, no class.

October 10 – Student holiday, no class.

October 11 – Imperial Conflict and the Roots of World War I; Delta, 2:10-3:05

October 12 – Midterm Review; Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

October 13 – Midterm (in class, Blue Book); Beta, 11:15-12:15

Week 11

Discussion Board #5 due by 10/20/23

(Frankopan, Chapter 17; France, Chapter 9)

October 16 – Gamma, no class

October 17 – World War I: 1914-1915; Delta, 2:10-3:05.

October 18 – World War I: 1916-1917; Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

October 19 – World War I – 1918 and Versailles; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

October 20 – Gamma; no class, discussion board due.

Week 12

Book Review #3 due by 10/27/23

(Frankopan, Chapters 18-19; France, Chapter 10)

October 23 – The Rise of the Soviet Union. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

October 24 – Inter-war Economics: The Depression. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

October 25 – Inter-war Imperialism and the Rise of Fascism. Beta, 11:15-12:15.

October 26 – Gamma, no class.

October 27 – Book Reviews – work in-class. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

Week 13

Discussion Board #6 is due by 11/03/2023.

(Frankopan, Chapter 20; France, Chapter 10)

October 30 – Origins of World War II, 1933-1939. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

October 31 – World War II: 1940-1942. Beta, 11:15-12:15.

November 1 – Gamma; no class.

November 2 – World War II – 1943-1944. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

November 3 – Discussion Board – work in-class. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

Week 14

Book Review #4 due by 11/10/23.

(Frankopan, Chapter 21; France, Chapter 11)

November 6 – World War II: 1945; Beta, 11:15-12:15.

November 7 – Gamma, no class

November 8 – Collapse of Empires, 1946-1949. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

November 9 – Cold War: Cuba, Korea, and Hungary, 1950-1956. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

November 10 – Book Review due: use classtime to finish. Beta, 11:15-12:15.

Week 15

No Discussion board due.

(Frankopan, Chapter 22; France, Chapter 11)

November 13 – Gamma, no class.

November 14 - Cold War: China and French Indo-China, 1949-1960. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

November 15 – Cold War: and The Greater Middle East, 1949-1960. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

November 16 – Cold War: Modern Vietnam and China. Beta, 11:15-12:15.

November 17 – Half day, no class content.

Week 16

No class: Thanksgiving Break, 11/20-11/24/23.

Week 17

Discussion Board #7 is due by Friday, December 1.

(Frankopan, Chapters 23-24; France, Chapter 11)

November 27 – Gamma, no class.

November 28 – Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge (Possible guest lecture – Mr. Demonteiro).
Delta, 2:10-3:05.

November 29 – The Greater Middle East, 1960-1980. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

November 30 – Cold War: From Afghanistan to the Collapse of the Soviet Union, 1979-1990.
Beta, 11:15-2:05.

December 1 – Gamma, no class.

Week 18

No Discussion Board.

(Frankopan, Chapter 25 and Conclusion; France, Chapter 11)

December 4 – Final Lecture: The Post-Cold War World, 1990-Present. Delta, 2:10-3:05.

December 5 – Final Review. Alpha, 1:10-2:05.

December 6 – Final Review – Beta, 11:15-12:15.

December 7 – Gamma, no class.

December 8 – Final – in-class, Blue Books. Delta, 2:10-3:05.