



Course Syllabus: World Civilizations Since 1500
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1453 Section 101
Fall Semester 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Brandon Blakeslee

Office: OD 217

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday: 12:50pm-1:50pm; Tuesday, Thursday:
10:00am-12:30pm

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Course Description

This course is an introductory overview of the major events and trends in world civilization from c. 1500 CE to the present. It differs from Western surveys by also covering the history of peoples on the continents of Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. This course assumes no prior knowledge.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Carter, James and Richard Warren. *Forging the Modern World: A History*. 3rd Ed. Oxford University Press: 2023.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information.

Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Grading – Your grade will be out of 1000 possible points spread out over four categories of assignments: Chapter Summaries (200 points), Lecture Responses (200 points), Written Assignments (400 points), and Exams (200 points)

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Chapter Summaries	200
Lecture Responses	200
WEIRD Proposal	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Outline	50
WEIRD Rough Draft	150
WEIRD History Final	100
Exams	200
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Homework represents 600 points (60%) of your final grade

- Lecture responses (100 points each): four lecture responses spread out over the semester each worth fifty points.
- Chapter summary (20 points each): thirteen chapter summaries each worth twenty points and I will drop the lowest three scores. While I recommend you read a chapter a week, I will check your summaries four times a semester.

Exams

You will have two exams over the course of the semester, a midterm exam and a final exam. Both will be online and both will be worth 100 points each. You will have at least twenty-four hours to complete the exam and you will **not** be required to have a lockdown browser.

Projects Required

There is a big project where you will write your own global history paper and it is worth 400 points (40% of your grade). Rather than have one big deadline, I split this project into five smaller, more manageable deadlines).

- WEIRD Proposal (50 points)
- Annotated Bibliography (50 points)
- Outline (50 points)
- Rough Draft (150 points)
- Final Draft (100 points)

Extra Credit

There may be opportunities for extra credit over the semester but I do not offer individual extra credit.

Late Work

While I am generally happy to give extensions for late work, you should let me know you need an extension as soon as you can.

Important Dates

Deadline to file for May graduation: February 17

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 30

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. That being said, I understand that things happen and you may not be able to attend class and so I do not take attendance. However, you are still responsible for information that was discussed in class and I recommend you get notes from your fellow classmates (lecture slides will not be posted online).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still

requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

See schedule on next page

Week or Module	Readings/ Important Dates	Due Date
Week 1 8/25 to 8/29	First Week of Class, No Reading	N/A
Week 2 9/3 to 9/5	Chapter 1:A World Connected	Chapter 1 Summary
Week 3 9/8 to 9/12	Chapter 2: The New Global Interface	Chapter 2 Summary
Week 4 9/15 to 9/19	Chapter 3: The Paradoxes of Early Modern Empire	WEIRD Proposal Chapter 3 Summary
Week 5 9/22 to 9/26	Chapter 4: Production and Consumption...	Lecture Response 1
Week 6 9/29 to 10/3	Chapter 5: Global War and Imperial Reform	N/A
Week 7 10/6 to 10/10	Chapter 6: A New Order for the Ages	Annotated Bibliography Chapters 4-6 Summaries
Week 8 10/13 to 10/17	Chapter 7: Engines of Industrialization	Lecture Response 2
Week 9 10/20 to 10/24	Chapter 8: Modernity Organized	WEIRD Outline
Week 10 10/27 to 10/31	Chapter 9: Globalization and its Discontents	WEIRD Rough Draft
Week 11 11/3 to 11/7	Chapter 10: Total War and Mass Society	Chapters 7-10 Summaries
Week 12 11/10 to 11/14	Chapter 11: The Ongoging Crisis of Global Order	Lecture Response 3
Week 13 11/17 to 11/21	Chapter 12: Wars and Liberation Movements	WEIRD Final Draft
Week 14 11/24 to 11/28	Chapter 13: The Many Worlds...	N/A
Week 15 12/1 to 12/5	No Readings	Lecture Response 4 Chapters 11-13 Summary