



Course Syllabus: World Civilizations Since 1500
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1453 Section X21
Spring Semester 2026

Contact Information

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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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given).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](#)

Generative AI-Usage

This class involves students developing their research and writing skills. Students should develop those skills themselves rather than offload that responsibility onto generative AI. As such, an excessive use of AI in research or the writing of papers counts as a form of plagiarism as far as this class is concerned. Papers flagged for excessive AI will be given a zero and the students will have one opportunity to rewrite the paper for a better grade.

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 995 possible points spread out over four categories of assignments: Chapter Summaries (220 points), Lecture Responses (375 points), and Written Assignments (400 points)

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Chapter Summaries	220
Lecture Responses	375
WEIRD Proposal	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Outline	50
WEIRD Rough Draft	150
WEIRD History Final	100
Total Points	995

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

Weekly Homework represents 595 points of your final grade

- Lecture responses (25 points each) one at the end of each week/lesson.
- Chapter summary (20 points each): thirteen chapter summaries each worth twenty points and I will drop the lowest two scores. While I recommend you read a chapter a week, I will check your summaries four times a semester.

Projects Required

There is a big project where you will write your own global history paper and it is worth 400 points. 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

Last day for term schedule changes: January 23.

Deadline to file for graduation: February 16

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29 at 4pm.

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.

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](#).

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
Unit 1 (1/20-2/7)	Chapter 1-3	no assignment due
Unit 2 (2/9-2/28)	Chapter 4-5	Weird World Proposal Feb 13
Unit 3 (3/2-3/28)	Chapter 6-8	Annotated Bibliography Mar 6 Outline Mar 27
Unit 4 (3/30-4/18)	Chapter 9-11	Rough Draft Apr 17
Unit 5 (4/20-5/9)	Chapter 12-13	Final Draft May 8