

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2013

Discipline: History

HIST 2559: The West and the World

Lower Division

Professor Breck Walker

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

The course will examine the development of and interactions between Western and non-Western civilizations through time. Emphasis will be placed on the regions that are on our itinerary. Issues to be considered will include, among others, the influence of Western religious, political and economic ideals and systems on the African and Asian societies encountered. The course will also investigate the international implications of a gathering, and eventually dominant, American economic, political and cultural influence in the 20th century, and conclude with a discussion of the concept of ‘American Exceptionalism’ in the context of the end of the Cold War, the rise of globalization and the advent of global terrorism.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain an understanding of the historical interactions and influences that the West and the rest of the world have had with and on one another. In a narrow sense, a topical focus on our voyage destinations will provide students with a better understanding of the places we visit. In a broader sense, different historiographical perspectives will be explored in hopes that students will both develop an interest in global issues (historical and contemporary) and begin to sharpen their tools and approaches for thoughtful historical inquiry. These skills, in turn, should better prepare students to meaningfully address some of the global problems facing all of us now and in the future.

Course Schedule:

‘A’ Day 9:25am – 10:40am

Required Textbooks: (All can be ordered new or used)

Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, W.W. Norton (2005), \$17.00
(ISBN-13: 978-0393317558)

Amy Chua, *Day of Empire*, Anchor (Reprint edition 2009), \$10.00
(ISBN-13: 978-1400077410)

Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, Oxford University Press (2004), \$12.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0195176117)

Johannes Postma, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, University Press of Florida (2005), \$13.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0813029061)

Yasmin Kahn, *The Great Partition*, Yale University Press (2008), \$9.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0300143331)

Nigel Worden, *The Making of Modern South Africa*, Wiley Blackwell (4th ed. 2007), \$26.00 (ISBN-13: 978-1405154291)

Joseph Nye, *The Paradox of American Power*, Oxford University Press (2003), \$6.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0195161106)

Robyn Meredith, *The Elephant and the Dragon: The Rise of India and China and What It Means for All of Us*, W.W. Norton & Company (2008), \$11.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0393331936)

Andrew Bacevich, *The Limits of Power*, Metropolitan Books (2008), \$9.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0805090161)

Fareed Zakaria, *The Post American World*, W.W. Norton (2009), \$8.00 (ISBN-13: 978-0393334807)

Topical Outline of the Course:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Day 1	Prologue – Outline of the course, rules of the road, introductions	Short in class essay
Day 2	A Short Continental History of the Last 13,000 years	Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs...</i> [Please read over the semester break and before embarkation]

Hilo, Hawaii

Day 3	Early Empires	Chua, <i>Days of Empire</i> , pp. 1-191
Day 4	Islam and the Making of Europe	Lewis, <i>Europe and Islam</i> [ECM]
Day 5	Conquest of the New World	Restall, <i>Seven Myths...</i>
Day 6	Slavery in the Atlantic World	Potsma, <i>The Atlantic Slave Trade</i>

Response paper due

Yokohama and Kobe, Japan

Day 7 The Great Divergence “The Rise of the West...” [ECM]
“How the West was Won”... [ECM]
Landes, *The Wealth...* [ECM]

Shanghai and Hong Kong, People’s Republic of China (Mandatory Field Lab on February 8)

Day 8 The Global Economic Crisis “The Global Financial Crisis” [ECM]

Day 9 The Limits of Imperialism – Vietnam Vietnam Part I [ECM]
Vietnam Part II [ECM]

Field Lab paper due

Hi Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Day 10 The Rise and Fall of the British Empire Chua, *Days of Empire*, pp. 192-232
Ferguson, *The Rise and Demise...*, [ECM]

Singapore

Day 11 Religion and Globalization Bentley, *Old World...*, [ECM]
“The Clash of Civilizations,” [ECM]

Movie shown in the evening: *Gandhi* [Part 1 on B10, Part II A 11]

Rangoon, Burma

Day 12 The Partition Khan, *The Great Partition*, pp. 1-103

Day 13 The Partition Khan, *The Great Partition*, pp. 104-210

Cochin, India

Day 14 European Colonization of Africa Chamberlain, *The Scramble...*, [ECM]
Fage, *A History...*, [ECM]

Day 15 Minority Rule in Southern Africa Worden, *The Making of Modern South Africa*

Port Louis, Mauritius

Day 16	The Emergence of the U.S. as a World Power	Chua, <i>Days of Empire</i> , pp. 233-66 Nye, <i>The Paradox...</i> pp. 1-136
Day 17	Africa as a 'Fourth World'	Easterly, <i>The White Man's...</i> , [ECM] Schwab, <i>Designing West Africa...</i> , [ECM]
Day 18	The Reemerging East	Meredith, <i>The Elephant</i> , pp. 9-75, 117-138

Cape Town, South Africa

Day 19	The Problems of Modern Warfare	Filkins, <i>The Forever...</i> , [ECM] Ferguson, "The Next War..." [ECM]
Day 20	American Exceptionalism	Bacevich, <i>The Limits...</i> , pp. 1-123

Tema (Accra), Ghana

Day 21	Global Terrorism	"9/11 in Retrospect" [ECM] "The Bush Administration..." [ECM]
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Final Exam Take Home Due

Day 22	Future Prospects	Zakaria, <i>The Post American World</i>
Day 23	Summing Up	

Casablanca, Morocco

Barcelona, Spain

Field Lab:

The Mandatory Field Lab will take place on February 8 in Hong Kong. Our class will meet with a series of senior capital market executives of at a major international capital markets and financial services firm. Over the course of the day, our class will participate in presentations which will include the following topics: a broad overview of the post war development of Asian national economies and a review of their strengths and weaknesses, the causes and impacts of the global financial meltdown in 2008-2009, the economic outlook for Asia going forward, and major trends in the delivery of global financial services.

Students will complete a Field Report summarizing their experiences at UBS, evaluating the arguments presented, and integrating this experience with our classroom materials and discussions on global financial markets to present their own perspectives.

Grading:

In addition to the Field Report, other written work will include three response papers and a final exam. Class participation is an important part of this class and will encompass attendance, contributions to class discussion and a short review of one movie we will watch outside of class. In every class, students will be assigned specific readings to summarize and provide brief commentary on. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Class participation	20%
Field Lab participation and report	20%
Response Paper #1	20%
Group Presentations	20%
Final Exam	20%

A+ 98-100	C+ 77-79
A 94-97	C 74-76
A- 90-93	C- 70-73
B+ 87-89	D+ 67-69
B 84-86	D 64-66
B- 80-83	D- 60-63
	F <60

Plagiarism: a critical part of the course is retention and analysis of the information presented to you. The way in which that is determined in this course is through writing assignment, class discussions and a final paper. It is very disheartening to other students if someone turns in plagiarized written work. All graded work must be done individually, not as a collaborative activity. If either cheating or plagiarism should occur, the student will be given a failing grade for that assignment, and if it happens a second time, it will result in a referral to the Student Concerns Committee.

Electronic Course Materials [ECM]:

Bernard Lewis, *Europe and Islam* [Tanner Lectures]

Goldstone, “The Rise of the West – Or Not?”

McNeill, “How the West was Won,”

David S. Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations* (Excerpt)

“The Global Financial Crisis”

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/768/global-financial-crisis>

Vietnam Part I (Excerpt SarDesai, *Vietnam: Past and Present*)

Vietnam Part II (Excerpt Duiker, *Sacred War: Nationalism and Revolution in a Divided Vietnam*)

Niall Ferguson, *The Rise and Demise of the British World Order ...*, (Excerpt)

Bentley, *Old World Encounters* (Excerpt)

Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations”

M.E. Chamberlain, *The Scramble for Africa* (Excerpt)

J.D. Fage, *A History of Africa* (Excerpt)

William Easterly, *The White Man’s Burden* (Excerpt)

Peter Schwab, *Designing West Africa* (Excerpt)

Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War* (Excerpt)

Niall Ferguson, “The Next War of the World”

Leffler, “9 /11 in Retrospect”

“The National Security Strategy of the Bush Administration”