

HISTORY 380A

The Long History of Globalization and the “Rise of the West”

Whitman College, Spring 2008

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Office Hours: M/W 1:00-2:00

Many historians have traced the making of the modern world back to the twin European discoveries of the New World in 1492 and to the old world of the Indian Ocean in 1498. In subsequent centuries, the formerly “backward” Europeans not only gained prowess and power but also came to dominate much of the world, in a long process often referred to as “The Rise of the West.” Competing theories have explained this major shift in World History in various ways, resulting in a vital debate among world historians. One aspect of this debate has been the periodization of globalization. While some have argued for very recent origins of globalization, others have pointed to the long history of the phenomenon. This class will explore key issues in the debate on globalization and the rise of the west by reading several of the classic works of 20th-century history. Themes addressed include the history of globalization, comparative economic history, world systems theory, and the role of Eurocentric methodologies in the writing of history. The format of the class will be a combination of lecture and discussion.

COURSE POLICIES

Expectations and Rules of Conduct:

- Students are expected to express themselves openly and participate in creating a non-intimidating classroom environment that contributes to open discussion. They are expected to attempt to think objectively and historically and to listen attentively and respectfully to others’ remarks.
- Students are expected and required to be present at every class session and to be prepared for class. Unexcused absences will be penalized. (Excused absences are illness or injury to the student; death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like; religious reasons; jury duty or government obligation; University sanctioned or approved activities. For other possibilities, check with me.) You must inform me of these absences as soon you are aware of them.
- Students may not take part in any activity that disrupts class.
- All cellular phones, pagers, and alarms must be turned off during class.
- Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. They are violations of university regulations. Students in this class will be held to a high standard of academic integrity, which is defined as "the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception." Academic

dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Such actions will be subject to disciplinary action. If you have any questions about academic integrity, please talk with me. A single instance of cheating and plagiarism will result, at the very least, in a failing grade for that assignment. Depending on the severity of the case, other consequences may include a failing grade for the class, regardless of performance on other assignments, and further disciplinary actions. While all written work must be exclusively your work, you may study and prepare together.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSESSMENT

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, in black ink, and with one-inch margins.

Class attendance and participation in discussions: (25%)

1) This includes coming to every class session on time having read and thought about the week's material and being prepared to discuss it. Knowledge and understanding of readings will enable us to have productive class discussions as well as help you be prepared for other assignments. Attendance without participation will be insufficient and will be reflected in grades. Much of this class is discussion-focused; therefore, preparation is crucial and participation essential. **15%**

2) In addition to regular participation, each student will make a presentation on readings at least once a week. Furthermore, each student will lead and facilitate discussion after the presentation. First, each student will sign up for a particular day of discussion. Second, one week before your selected date, the student reads the articles and comes up with two questions for each reading relevant for discussion. Third, the student will pass questions by me no later than two days before the class discussion. You can do this by e-mail or by meeting with me during office hours. This part is required so that I can give you feedback on the questions and recommend discussion strategies. The purpose of this assignment is to raise important issues on the readings and to get the rest of the class to engage in discussion. **10%**

Book Review (25%):

One book review on either Bentley's *Old World Encounters* or Fernandez-Armesto's *Pathfinders* of eight pages. Guidelines will be provided.

Final research paper (50%)

In addition students will have to write either one research paper of 20-25 pages or two shorter research essays of 10-12 pages each.

Notes, Cautionary and Otherwise:

- You must start reading from the *first* week.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. I will not accept an

assignment turned it at my office if the student has not attended class that day.

- Electronic submission and late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission.
- Late assignments will be penalized ½ a grade down per day.
- Unless otherwise advised, most class sessions will consist of some lecture and mostly discussion. Please bring appropriate readings and texts to class with you. Give yourself sufficient time to complete the reading and prepare before coming to class. Moreover, give yourself sufficient time to understand assignment guidelines, complete writing assignments accordingly, and seek help early if you are having difficulties.
- The schedule below is subject to revision at any time. Changes will be announced in class ahead of time. You are responsible for keeping yourself updated on those changes. Ignorance or absence is not an excuse.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters*

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*

Robert Marks, *The Origin of the Modern World (second edition)*

Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*

Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: The Global Economy in the Asian Age*

Fernand Braudel, *Capitalism and Material Civilization: Volume three, The Perspective of the World*

Additional readings available on Electronic reserves in Pdf format are marked by an asterisk next to the reading.

SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: 1/14 & 1/16

Topic: Introduction to the course and to the discipline of world history

WEEK 2: 1/21 & 1/23

Topic: The Concept of “Globalization” and World History

Reading:

-- Jerry Bentley, “Hemispheric Integration, 500-1500 C.E.,” *Journal of World History* pp. 237-254*

-- Jerry Bentley, “Globalizing History and Historicizing Globalization,” *Globalizations*, (September, 2004), 1/1, pp. 69-81.*

--C.A. Bayly, ‘“Archaic” and “Modern” Globalization in the Eurasian and African Arena, c. 1750–1850’ in A.G. Hopkins (ed.), *Globalization in World History* (London 2002), pp. 47–73*

--Adam McKeown, "Periodizing Globalization," *History Workshop Journal*, 63/1 (2007) pp. 218-230.*

--Nayan Chanda, "Globalization: From Buzzword to Curse," *Bound Together: How Traders, Preachers, Adventurers, and Warriors Shaped Globalization*, pp. 245-269.*

--Thomas Friedman, "Opening Scene: The World is Ten Years old," *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, pp. xi-xxii.*

WEEK 3: 1/28 & 1/30

Topic: Globalization is not ten years old.

Reading: --Jerry Bentley, *Old World Encounters*

Recommended Reading:

WEEK 4: 2/4 & 2/6

Topic: Exploration and the global convergence

Reading: --David Northrup, "Globalization and the Great Convergence: Rethinking World History in the Long Term," *The Journal of World History*, 16/3: 249-267*

--Fernandez-Armesto, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*, pp. 1-193

WEEK 5: 2/11 & 2/13

Topic: Exploration and the global convergence (continued)

Reading: --Fernandez-Armesto, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*, pp. 193-400.

WEEK 6: 2/18 (no class, Presidents' Day) & 2/20

Topic: First wave of globalization?

Reading: --Janet Lippman Abu Lughod, "The World System in the Thirteenth Century: Dead-End or Precursor," *Islamic and European Expansion: The Forging of a Global Order*, ed. Michael Adas, pp. 75-106.*

--Janet Abu Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*, Part I

Victor Lieberman, "Abu-Lughod's Egalitarian World Order. A Review Article," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Jul., 1993), pp. 544-550.*

WEEK 7: 2/25 & 2/27

Topic: First wave of globalization? (continued)

Reading: --Janet Abu Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*, Parts II and III
 -- Robert Finlay, 'The Treasure-Ships of Zheng He: Chinese Maritime Imperialism in the Age of Discovery', *Terrae Incognitae: The Journal for the History of Discoveries*, 23 (1991), pp. 1-12.*

BOOK REVIEW DUE ON 2/27

WEEK 8: 3/3 & 3/5

Topic: Eurocentric and alternative narratives of "the Rise of the West"

Reading: --Kenneth Pomeranz, "Introduction," *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, pp. 3-28*
 --James Blaut, "Eurocentric History," *Eight Eurocentric Historians*, pp. 1-19*
 --Robert Marks, *The Origin of the Modern World*, pp. 1-123

SPRING BREAK: March 10 to March 21

WEEK 9: 3/24 & 3/26

Topic: Eurocentric and alternative narratives of "the Rise of the West" (continued)

Reading: --Robert Marks, *The Origin of the Modern World*, pp.123-209.
 --Gale Stokes, "The Fates of Human Societies: A Review of Recent Macrohistories," *American Historical Review* 106, no. 2 (April 2001): 508-25.*
 --Dennis Flynn, and Arturo Giráldez, "'Born with a Silver Spoon': The Origin of World Trade in 1571," *Journal of World History*, 6/ 2, 1995, pp. 201-221.*

WEEK 10: 3/31 and 4/2

Topic: *The Making of the Global Economy*

Reading: --Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: The Global Economy in the Asian Age*, chapters 1-5
 --David Buck, "Was It Pluck or Luck That Made the West Grow Rich?" *Journal of World History*, 10/ 2, Fall 1999, pp. 413-430.*

WEEK 11: 4/7 & 4/9

Topic: *The Making of the Global Economy*

Reading: --Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: The Global Economy in the Asian Age*, chapters 6-7

WEEK 12: 4/14 & 4/16 [No class. I will be at a conference at the University of Michigan.]

WEEKS 13 to 15: 4/21 & 4/23; 4/28 & 4/30; 5/5

Topic: Grand sweep

4/21 & 4/23

Reading: Fernand Braudel: *Capitalism and Civilization: Volume three, The Perspectives of the World*, pp. 89-266

4/28 & 4/30

Reading: Fernand Braudel: *Capitalism and Civilization: Volume three, The Perspectives of the World*, pp.352-633

5/5 [NO CLASS. I WILL BE AT A CONFERENCE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY.]

Final Essay/s due Tuesday, May 13.