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# The Emergence of the Modern World

HIS 125 – Wesleyan College

Syllabus

Summer 2024, May 13 - June 14

## Professor Contact Information

**Professor:** TBA

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Contact Information:** TBA

**Text/ISBN:** McNeill, J.R. *The Webs of Humankind: A World History*, Seagull Edition, Volume 2. Canada: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2021. 978-0-393-42879-7

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## Policies and Procedures

### Course Goals

This course is designed to meet two goals: first, to provide students with an overview of the development of world civilization from the beginning of the Age of European exploration to the near present, and second, to build students' ability to think critically about history and analyze evidence in the form of a variety of primary sources.

### Content:

In this course students investigate and compare the cultures, political structures, and social organizations of world civilizations in the early-modern and modern period, with particular emphasis on three major themes - 1. the changing relationship between individuals and the state; 2. distinctions and conflict based on class, ethnicity, religion, and gender; 3. how and why Europe achieved hegemony in the world during the modern era, and how this power declined in the 20th century. By the end of this course, students shall be familiar with the major civilizations of the modern world and be able to explain the most significant developments of the period. They shall also be able to critically analyze major types of historical evidence and use that evidence to draw conclusions about the past.

### Credit Hours

3

### Participation and Grading

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance in the following categories:



| Assignments           | Percentage  |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Writing Assignment #1 | 20%         |
| Writing Assignment #2 | 20%         |
| Exam UNIT 1           | 20%         |
| Exam UNIT 2           | 20%         |
| Exam UNIT 3           | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>100%</b> |

**Writing Assignments: (40 points):** Students are required to submit two writing assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment is worth 20% of your grade. Students will write a 300–500-word analysis of class topics from the selected readings. Students must identify the argument/thesis, explain the historical context, and discuss the audience. Students must support their analysis by providing examples from the text. Students should also seek to compare their chosen reading to other class texts. The answers should reference specific material in the chapter they come from and include key words/concepts referenced in the corresponding online videos and course reading as well as details from primary sources.

Each writing assignment will be graded on a 0-20-point scale:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 20 points | Correctly answers the questions with ample key words/concepts, references back to the corresponding chapter and video material and provides details from primary source(s). Full word count. |
| 15 points | Full word count, mostly correct answers, some reference back to the chapter and video material, some references to key words/concepts, some detail from the primary source(s), some typos.   |
| 10 points | Partial word count, grammar issues, missing references to the words/concepts, missing reference to the corresponding chapter material, missing detail from the primary source(s).            |
| 5 points  | Far below word count, did follow directions.   |
| 0 points  | Did not do assignment.   |

**UNIT Exams (60 points):** There will be three exams this semester, at the end of each UNIT. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions, worth one point each and each exam will be worth 20% of your total grade. The exams will have students connect to the pre-recorded lectures and related course material. The final exam will not be a cumulative but will cover all material following the last exam.

**Make-up Policy:**

You will be allowed to make up work for full credit only under extreme circumstances (such as a documented, serious health-related emergency).

Cheating will not be tolerated. This includes giving or receiving aid on an assignment or exam and plagiarizing the work of others (including your classmates).

Late assignments will **not** be accepted, unless students have an excused absence from the professor. The Teacher Assistant or Professor must receive late assignments no later than one week after the due date. Because a central goal of this course is to learn the importance of ethical work habits, all makeup assignments and excused absences will only receive partial credit. All assignments will be penalized one letter grade. *All makeup assignments will be graded at the end of the semester.* This policy does not include the exams, which cannot be made up for any reason.



### Grading Scale:

The grading scale in the class will be as follows:

- A=90-100%
- B=80-89%
- C=70-79%
- D=60-69%
- F=59% And Below

You may track your running point total throughout the term via our course site. Please be aware, however, that the course grade you see in the site will reflect only assignments and activities you have already completed and that your professor has graded.

### Academic Integrity

Wesleyan's College expects student to show integrity in all of their work. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, inventing or falsifying information, turning in work for more than one class without authorization, or helping someone else are all violations of the Honor Code and are not tolerated. Any of these forms of cheating will not be tolerated and will be grounds for a grade of zero on the exam or assignment and a grade of F for the course, in addition to any penalties imposed by the Provost.

### Potential Changes to Course Schedule

The following week-to-week schedule is a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced in advance via announcement and/or e-mail. Students should check their course site announcements and emails at least once every twenty-four hours throughout the term to watch for updates regarding this course.

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## Course Schedule

### WEEK ONE: Weaving the Global Web, 1400-1800

This week we will be looking at the history of the world from 1400-1800, focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: the Old World, the Ming Voyages, Columbus, biological globalization, the Columbian Exchange, disease disasters, transatlantic slave trade, plantation zone, Treaty of Waitangi, creole cultures, printing press, Renaissance, Protestantism, Catholic Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Shi'a Islam, Safavids, neo-Confucianism, Tokugawa shogunate, Qing dynasty, Ottoman Empire, Habsburgs, pirates, gross world product, cotton, silver, slave-and-sugar plantations, Dutch East India Company, and fractional reserve banking.

#### To do this week:

1. **Watch:**
  - a. Intro Video
  - b. Videos
2. **Read:**



- a. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 16 “Convergence: The Discovery of the Oceans and Biological Globalization 1400-1800.”
  - b. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 17 “Disruption: Africa, the Americas, Siberia, and Oceania, 1492 to 1850”
  - c. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 18 “Cultural Upheavals: Religious and Intellectual Movements, 1500-1750”
  - d. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 19 “University of War: Empires and Power, 1450-1800”
  - e. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 20 “The First Global Economy, 1500-1800”
3. **Exam on UNIT 1** (due Friday, @ 8pm-9pm CST)

### WEEK TWO: Revolutions, 1640-1920 (Part 1)

This week we will be looking at the history of the world from 1640-1920, focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: Kongo monarchy, rising merchant class, Parliament, Pontiac’s War, American Revolution, French Revolution, Jacobin, Napoleon Bonaparte, Haitian Revolution, political decentralization, Industrial Revolution, Communist Manifesto, Trans-Siberian Railway, Meiji Restoration, de-industrialization, socialists, Vital Revolution, Sons of Africa, Slavery Abolition Act, and indentured labor.

#### To do this week:

1. **Watch:**
  - a. Videos
2. **Read:**
  - a. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 21 “The Best and Worst of Times: Atlantic Revolutions, 1640-1830.”
  - b. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 22 “Fossil Fuels and Mass Production: Industrial Revolutions around the World, 1780-1914”
  - c. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 23 “Two Liberations: The Vital Revolution and the Abolitions of Slavery and Serfdom, 1750-1950.”
3. **Writing Assignment #1** (due Friday, @ 11:59pm CST)

### WEEK THREE: Revolutions, 1640-1920 (Part 2)

This week we will continue looking at the history of the world from 1640-1920, focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: nationalism, Yamato race theory, multiethnic empires, new imperialism, social Darwinism, British Raj, settler colony, partition of Africa, land empire, Comanche Empire, millenarian movements, Ghost Dance, Taiping Rebellion, Indian Rebellion, Chinese Revolution, Mexican Revolution, and Young Turk Revolution.

#### To do this week:

1. **Watch:**
  - a. Videos
2. **Read:**
  - a. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 24 “Nationalism and Imperialism: Tightening the Global Web”
  - b. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 25 “Making the Modern World”



### 3. Exam on Unit 2 (due Friday, @ 8pm-9pm CST)

#### WEEK FOUR: The Global Web since 1870 (Part 1)

This week we will look at the history of the world after 1870 focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: World War I, Russian Revolution of 1917, Treaty of Versailles, self-determination, suffragism, fascism, anti-colonialism, Pan-Africanism, World War II, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Holocaust, Chinese Civil War, Prague Spring, Korean War, Vietnam War, and domino theory.

##### To do this week:

1. **Watch:**
  - a. Videos
2. **Read:**
  - a. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 26 "International Politics: War, Peace, and Ideologies, 1870 to 1940"
  - b. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 27 "World War II and the Cold War, 1937 to 1991"
3. **Writing Assignment #2** (due Friday, @ 11:59pm CST)

#### WEEK FIVE: The Global Web since 1870 (Part 2)

This week continue looking at the history of the world after 1870 focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: Jawaharlal Nehru, Kwame Nkrumah, Algerian war of independence, Asian tiger economics, containerization, land reform, Great Leap Forward, Deng Xiaoping, Anthropocene, climate change, HIV/AIDS, and Covid-19.

##### To do this week:

1. **Watch:**
  - a. Videos
2. **Read:**
  - a. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 28 "Decolonization and the Rise of East Asia, 1945-1991"
  - b. *The Webs of Humankind*: Chapter 29 "A Shrinking World: Globalization since 1980"
3. **Exam on Unit 3** (due Friday, @ 8pm-9pm CST)

#### Civility in the Academic Community

Students, faculty, and staff are expected to treat one another with respect in all interactions both during class meetings and on the Moodle course site. Rude, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors as determined by a faculty member interfere with other students' rights and with the professor's ability to teach. Therefore, any student exhibiting unacceptable behaviors during a class meeting or Moodle collaborative activity will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that class period or activity. Failure to cooperate with this process will result in disciplinary action that may include withdrawal from the class or dismissal from the College. Violations will be reported to the Provost.



## **Disabilities Statement**

Wesleyan College is committed to equal education, full participation and access to facilities for all students. Any student who requires reasonable academic accommodations, use of auxiliary aids or facility access for a class must first register with Disability Resources by contacting Jill Amos, Director of Disability and Advocacy Services, [jamos@wesleyancollege.edu](mailto:jamos@wesleyancollege.edu) or (478) 757-5219. If reasonable accommodations are established, students should request Accommodation Letters from Disability Resources then schedule an appointment to meet with the professor to determine how the accommodations will be implemented for each class as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations require advance notice to implement and will not be retroactively administered for the semester. Accommodations that decrease the integrity of a course will not be approved.

## **Privacy in Teaching & Learning Spaces**

In order to promote an environment in which ideas may be freely expressed, the interior offices; in-person and virtual classrooms; and Moodle course sites at Wesleyan are private spaces. The unauthorized creation of photographic images, audio recordings, or video recordings of students or faculty in these spaces is considered to be disruptive behavior which may result in a student's removal from class according to the professor's discretion. The distribution of unauthorized images or recordings, or of class meeting recordings shared by a professor for instructional purposes, without the express written permission of the College is strictly prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action by the Provost of the College.