

SABANCI UNIVERSITY
HIST 501 / Explorations in World History I
FALL 2022

Seminars: On campus on Friday 10:40-13:30, at FASS 2080

Instructor: Mehmet KURU

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Office hour: by appointment

Course Description:

This is the first of a sequence of two term-courses that are required of all MA students in History. It is a general survey course that explores specific themes and periods from the first human communities to the late 18th century, and problematizes them in comparative, theory-intensive ways. It runs parallel to the SPS 101 (Humanity and Society I) freshman course, which serves as the teaching practicum of HIST 501 for SU graduate students in History who also serve as SPS 101 section instructors.

This course, in parallel with SPS 101, provides an introduction to the study of the human experience in the pre-modern world. It brings together various disciplinary approaches and major topics of the pre-modern world in a roughly chronological order. There are three central aims of this course. The first aim is to present our students the challenges and potential in the scientific study of human experience through the introduction of various analytical tools from disciplines such as history, sociology, anthropology, and economics. The idea is to show to our students that the human experience is as much the realm of scientific inquiry and critical thinking as it is the case with the natural world. The second aim is to introduce the basic dynamics of the pre-modern world before the 19th century so that students would be adequately equipped to follow our consecutive course Hist 502 about the modern era and the concept of modernity.

Topics dealt with in this semester include:

- * Hunters and gatherers & Agricultural revolution
- * Emergence of cities and civilization & Origins of the state
- * Early Afro-Eurasian empires & Cultural & material exchange in pre-modern societies
- * Early belief systems and world religions
- * Afro-Eurasian macro systems & Pre-modern economies
- * Columbian Exchange
- * The Renaissance & The Reformation
- * Maritime empires and resilient empires
- * Atlantic Trade System
- * Scientific Revolution
- * Enlightenment
- * The Age of Revolutions
- * The Age of Nationalisms & The Nation State
- * The Energy Revolution
- * Humans and Collective Learning

Grading: The components of the final course grade are as follows:

Midterm examinations:	60%	(1 st midterm 30% & 2 nd midterm 30%)
Book reviews	20%	(%10 x 2; The list of books is provided)
Lecture/Presentation	15%	(1-hour long lecture must be prepared)
Lecture report	5%	(A report should be submitted on the lecture)

Course Components:

Midterm examinations:

There will be two midterm examinations in this course to be conducted face-to-face on campus. The first midterm examination constitutes 30% of the course grade and the students are responsible for the first six weeks of the curriculum. Similarly, the second midterm also covers 30% of the total grade and the exam questions will be about the latter part of the curriculum.

Book Review Assignment:

Students are responsible to write two book reviews (each %10 of the total grade) in the semester. The first title should be related to topics of the first six weeks. The written reviews should focus simply on summarizing and analyzing the reading itself. The written review should also include at least one question (but preferably more) which you would ask of the author (this can be a matter of clarification, or a challenge to the author's thesis or methods).

Book reviews should be about 800 – 1000 words. At the head of the review, give a complete and correct bibliographic citation (Chicago Manual of Style), and the Library call number. Cover the points below in your review:

- * The author's thesis (where appropriate/relevant) and the arguments used in support of it; any clear, ideological approach/interpretation which the author has.
- * The kinds of sources which the author has used
- * The organization of the work (chapters? sections?)
- * The geographical and temporal parameters of the study
- * Whether & how the work responds to the work of other scholars.
- * One or two questions which you would ask of the author (this can be a matter of clarification, or a challenge to the author's thesis or methods)
- * Find at least 2 reviews of the book in scholarly journals, and include these citations in your review. Make sure you read these reviews so that you can discuss in class how reviewers have treated the book.

The list of the books is listed above. This list may be updated, and in case of an update, all the amendments will be announced via SuCourse. Students are also allowed to suggest titles to review. Upon the approval of the instructor, students may write the review on the book which they suggest.

Deadline for the first book review: **17 November; 23:55**

Deadline for the second book review: **5 January; 23:55**

Lecture / Presentation:

Students have to pick one of the topics that are listed in the curriculum, and they are responsible to prepare a one-hour long lecture about that topic. Students are entirely free while creating the content of the lecture. "Lecture performances" of the students will be graded over 15% of the total grade.

In the following of the presentation, students should follow the SPS 101 lectures, and they have to write a two-pages long report to evaluate their own lecture presentation considering the SPS 101 lecture. This evaluation report is calculated as 5% of the course grade. For this report, students may pick one the sessions below to follow considering the availability of their own schedule.

SPS 101 A: Tuesday 9:40 – 11:30 at FMAN 1099
SPS 101 B: Wednesday 10:40 – 12:30 at FMAN 1099
SPS 101 C: Thursday 10:40 – 12:30 at FMAN 1099

Readings:

All the readings are uploaded into SuCourse. Additional readings may be assigned for certain weeks. These new assigned readings will be also shared through SuCourse and the students will be informed about these new readings.

Make-Up Policy:

Make-ups are only allowed for midterms and assignments to students with an official report from or approved by the University Health Center for the date of the exam.

Objection Policy:

Students are allowed to object to grades for their midterms, book review assignments and presentations grades. All objections must have a solid basis. In case of objection, students have to request an office hour from the instructor.

Academic Integrity:

Cases of plagiarism and cheating will automatically be penalized with a 0 (zero) from the examination and assignment. In addition to that, these cases will be directly referred to the Dean's Office for disciplinary action. This course does not tolerate any breach of academic integrity. For the university's Academic Integrity Statement, see:

<http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>

Important Disclaimer: Amendments could be made to this syllabus. Please follow email and SUCourse announcements throughout the semester.

Books for Review:

- * Alfred W. Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, (London: Praeger, 2003)
- * Alfred W. Crosby, *The Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006)
- * Brian M. Fagan and Nadia Durrani, *World Prehistory: A Brief Introduction* (London & New York: Routledge, 2017)
- * Clive Ponting, *A New Green History of the World* (London: Penguin Books, 2007)
- * David Christian, *Origin Story: A Big History of Everything* (Penguin Books: London, 2019)
- * David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History* (University of California Press: London, 2004)
- * J. Donald Hughes, *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life* (London & New York: Routledge, 2009)
- * Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution* (Vintage, 1996)
- * Gerard Delanty, *Formations of European Modernity* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019)
- * Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999)
- * Michael Cook, *A Brief History of the Human Race* (New York - London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003),
- * Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Premodern World* (London: Oneworld, 2000)
- * Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962)
- * William J. Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008)
- * William E. Burns, *The Scientific Revolution in Global Perspective*, (New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 – (7 October):

Hunters & Gatherers ; Agricultural Revolution

- * Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), pp. 20-48.
- * Clive Ponting: *A New Green History of the World* (London: Penguin Books, 2007): Chapter 3: “Ninety-Nine percent of human history”, pp. 17-35
- * Michael Cook, *A Brief History of the Human Race* (New York - London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003), pp. 3-37.
- * Brian M. Fagan and Nadia Durrani, *World Prehistory: A Brief Introduction* (London & New York: Routledge, 2017), pp. 175-204.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 2– (14 October):

Emergence of cities and civilization ; The origins of states

- * J. Donald Hughes, *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life* (London & New York: Routledge, 2009), pp. 30-51.
- * Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), pp. 225-250.
- * Lewis Mumford, *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects* (New York: Harcourt Brace and Jovanovich, 1961), pp. 119-125.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 3 – (21 October):

Early Afro-Eurasian empires ; Cultural & material exchange in pre-modern societies

- * Peter Stearns et al. *World Civilizations, The Global Experience* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc. 2011) Chapter 4: “Unification and the Consolidation of Civilization in China” pp. 80-100; Chapter 7: “Rome and its Empire”, pp. 146-162.
- * William J. Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008), pp. 20-42.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 4 – (28 October):

Culture and Religion ; Early belief systems and world religions

- * Yuval N. Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, (London: Vintage Books, 2014), pp. 22-44.
- * Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (New York: The Free Press, 1995), pp. 33-44, 207-216.
- * Raymond Williams, “Culture is Ordinary” (1958), in Ben Highmore ed., *The Everyday Life Reader* (Psychology Press, 2002), pp. 91-100.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 5 – (4 November):

Afro-Eurasian macro systems ; Pre-modern economies

* Clive Ponting, *World History: A New Perspective*, (London: Chatto & Windus, 2000), pp. 250-257, 355-376.

* Peter Stearns et al., *World Civilizations, The Global Experience* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc. 2011), pp. 328-349.

* Lynda Shaffer, 'Southernization,' *Journal of World History* Vol. 5, No. 1 (Spring 1994) pp. 1-21.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 6– (11 November):

Columbian Exchange

* Alfred W. Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, (London: Praeger, 2003), pp. 3-34.

* Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, (E-book: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), pp. 306-325.

Extra readings: TBA

First Midterm (17 November; Thursday)

Week 7 – (18 November):

The Renaissance; The Reformation

* Richard W. Bulliet et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History* (2011), pp. 449-455.

* Gerard Delanty, Chapter 6: "The Renaissance and the Rise of European Consciousness," *Formations of European Modernity* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), pp. 109-131.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 8 – (25 November):

Maritime empires and resilient empires; Atlantic Trade System

* Richard W. Bulliet et al., *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History (Fifth Edition)* (Boston MA: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning, 2011), pp. 446-468.

* Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, (London: Vintage Books, 2014), pp. 341-373.

* Ben Teensma and John Anderson, *Navigator: The Log of John Anderson, VOC Pilot-Major, 1640-1643* (Leiden: BRILL, 2010), pp. 3-9.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 9 – (2 December):

Scientific Revolution

* Roger B. Beck et al., *World History: Patterns of Interaction* (Evanstone, IL: McDougal Littell, 2009), pp. 623-628.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 10 – (9 December):

Enlightenment

- * Kieron O’Hara, *The Enlightenment: A Beginner’s Guide* (London: Oneworld Publications, 2010), pp. 1-22.
- * Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (New York: McClelland & Stewart, 2014), ‘The Ideal of Progress’ and ‘And They Lived Happily Ever After’.
- * Immanuel Kant, “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment,” *Berlinische Monatschifte*, 1784.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 11 – (16 December):

The Age of Revolutions: The American and the French cases

- * Jack Goldstone, “The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions”, *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 8, 1982, pp. 187-207.
- * Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution* (Vintage, 1996), pp. 117-131.
- * John Coatsworth et al., *Global Connections: Volume 2, Since 1500: Politics, Exchange, and Social Life in World History* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 202-211.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 12 – (23 December):

The Age of Nationalisms: The Nation State

- * Christopher Pierson, *The Modern State*, 3rd ed. (Routledge, 2011), pp. 4-49.
- * Anthony D. Smith, “State-making and nation-building,” *States in History* 15 (1986): pp. 228-263.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 13 – (30 December):

The Energy Revolution ; Humans and Collective Learning

- * Alfred W. Crosby, *The Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006), pp. 59-84.
- * David Christian, *Origin Story: A Big History of Everything* (Penguin Books: London, 2019), pp. 169-187.
- * David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History* (University of California Press: London, 2004), pp. 182-190.

Extra readings: TBA

Week 14 – (6 January)

Midterm II – 6 January
