

SYLLABUS FOR HIST 502 – Explorations in World History II  
Spring 2023

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/92414430883>

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Office hours: by appointment

**Disclaimer:** “We may have to revise the course plan according to the reassessment to be made country-wide, regarding higher education, at the beginning of April. The content to be delivered is certain but the method of course delivery, the number and dates of exams, and some other details are subject to change.”

This is the second of a sequence of two related courses on World History that are required of all MA students in History. It is a general survey course that explores specific themes and periods from ca. 600 to ca. 1600, and problematizes them in comparative, theory-intensive ways. The early modern age serves as the end-point of our discussion, as it was a turning point in human history, bringing about profound shifts in the economic, social, and political make-up of Eurasia and the wider world. Topics to be dealt with in the second semester include but are not limited to such theoretical problems as

- the periodization of history;
- religion and state;
- elites vs. subalterns;
- center vs. periphery;
- history and nature;
- Modernity's subsumptions and transformations of pre-modernities;

and more historical issues, such as

- the economics of peasant production;
- the rise of monotheistic religions and late Antiquity;
- nomadic pastoralism, mounted archers, steppe empires;
- the role of movement and conquest in history;
- tributary states and societies;
- the function and varieties of fief distribution;
- types of urban space and culture;
- the Italian Renaissance as the dawn of early modernity;
- the world on the eve of the “European miracle.”

Instead of covering the entire span of human history, which is an impossible task without running the risk of superficiality, we will concentrate on major nodes of interaction and leading patterns. In addition to the substance of history, students will also be encouraged to learn and develop methods as to how to broach historical sources—be they textual, material, or any other kind—critically.

The course will proceed in a rough chronological sequence. The readings will be made up of the textbooks and other more specialized books, supplemented with primary reading texts in English translation.

**Class set-up:** Lecture and discussion

**Weekly Assignments:** To prepare for lectures and discussions, students are expected to complete the assigned readings in advance of the class meeting where they are mentioned on the Course Schedule. To facilitate the students' engagement with the reading assignments, they are required to reflect on them on the Class Discussion Forum (on SuCourse+) by 09:00 p.m. on Mondays before the day of the class at the latest. In their written comments on SuCourse+, they can also ask questions about the readings and bring those questions to class, where we will discuss some of them.

**Evaluation:** Mid-term (30%) and Final (30%) examination, presentation on an assigned reading (20%), weekly assignments, on which students are required to reflect on the discussion forum in SuCourse+ (20%).

The two exams are comprised of two sections: (1) a section on the primary concepts, events, persona discussed in class, and (2) an essay assignment, in which students have to demonstrate how well they have understood the basic historical processes and the larger framework outlined during the course.

**Key dates:**

Every Monday 09:00 p.m. last time to contribute to the discussion about the weekly reading assignment on the SuCourse+ discussion forum.

Week 8: Midterm

Final exam: specific date to be announced on SIS

**Reading assignments:** There are reading assignments both from primary and from secondary sources. Primary sources are just as essential a part of the course material as secondary readings from the text books as well as lecture notes and presentations.

**Academic dishonesty:** Plagiarism includes copying from books or journals, duplicating the work of fellow students, and copying or downloading materials from the internet. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind and extent will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action. (Disciplinary action means that the student is referred to the Disciplinary Committee.)

**Textbooks:**

Clive Ponting, *World History: A New Perspective* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2000).

Mark A Kishlansky, *Sources of World History: Readings for World Civilization* (New York: HarperCollins College Publishers, 1995).

Michael Cook, *A Brief History of the Human Race* (New York: Norton, 2003).

- Readings and extra materials will be available online or on SUCourse+: <http://sucourse.sabanciuniv.edu>. Students are to regularly check the SUCourse+ website to follow weekly pacing, additional materials and announcements.

## Weekly schedule

### 1. Introduction:

- Peter Brown, *The Making of Late Antiquity* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1978), Chs. 1 and 3.
- Ponting, Overview 6.

### 2. The Rise of Islam and the Eastern Roman Empire

- Ponting, Ch. 11: pp. 301-313; Overview 7.
- Warren Treadgold, *The Byzantine Revival* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988), Ch. 1.
- Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (London: Faber and Faber, 2002), Ch. 3.
- Marshall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), Ch. 3: "The Early Muslim State, 625-692".

### 3. Europe, 600-1000 CE

- Ponting, Ch. 11: pp. 313-347; Overview 8.
- Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society*, vol. 1, (London: Routledge, 2004 [1961]), Ch. 4: "Material Conditions and Economic Characteristics".
- Chris Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome: A History of Europe from 400 to 1000* (London: Penguin, 2010), Ch. 9: "Wealth, Exchange and Peasant Society".

### 4. Europe, ca. 1,000 CE

- Ponting, Ch. 12.
- Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society*, vol. 1, Ch. 11: "Vassal Homage".
- Chris Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome*, Ch. 21: "Aristocrats between the Carolingian and the 'Feudal' Worlds".
- Kishlansky, vol. 1, nos. 41-42.

### 5. Asia, ca. 1,000-1,250 CE

- Ponting, Ch. 13, Overview 9.
- Simon Lloyd, "The Crusading Movement 1096-1274", in Jonathan Riley Smith (ed.), *The Oxford History of the Crusades* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 35-67. (IC online)
- Francesco Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades* [Sources] (London: Routledge, 1984), excerpts.
- Jonathan Bloom, *Paper before Print: The History and Impact of Paper in the Islamic World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), excerpts.

### 6. The Mongol Empire (1200-1350)

- Ponting, Ch. 14.
- David Morgan, *The Mongols* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1986), Ch. 3: "Chingiz Khan and the Founding of the Mongol Empire".
- Moğolların Gizli Tarihi* (1240) (Ankara: TTK, 1986), excerpts.
- Mazhar İpşiroğlu, *Bozkır Rüzgarı: Siyah Kalem* (İstanbul: YKY, 2004), excerpts.

## **7. Recovery (1350-1500)**

-Ponting, Ch. 15, Overview 10.

-Monica Green, "Taking 'Pandemic' Seriously: Making the Black Death Global", in Monica Green (ed.), *Pandemic Disease in the Medieval World: Rethinking the Black Death* (The Medieval Globe, 2014), [https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/medieval\\_globe/1/](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/medieval_globe/1/)

-Hannah Barker, "Laying the Corpses to Rest: Grain, Embargoes, and *Yersinia pestis* in the Black Sea, 1346-48", *Speculum* 96/1 (2021), pp. 97-126.

-Şevket Pamuk, "The Black Death and the Origins of the 'Great Divergence' across Europe, 1300-1600", *European Review of Economic History* 11/3 (2007), pp. 289-317.

## **8. MIDTERM**

### **9. The Columbian World**

-Ponting, Ch. 16.

-Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), pp. 74-81, Ch. 5.

-David Abulafia, *The Boundless Sea* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), Ch. 28 "The Great Acceleration" and Ch. 32 "A New Atlantic".

-Kishlansky, vol. 1, nos. 61, 63-64.

### **10. The Early World Economy**

-Ponting, Ch. 17.

-Dennis O. Flynn and Arturo Giraldez "Cycles of Silver: Global Economic Unity through the mid-18<sup>th</sup> c", *Journal of World History*, 13/2 (Fall 2002), pp. 391-427.

-Şevket Pamuk, "The Price Revolution in the Ottoman Empire Reconsidered", *IJMES* 33 (2001), pp. 69-89.

### **11. From pre-industrial societies to modernity**

-Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Premodern World* (London: Oneworld, 2000), Chs. 2 and 8.

-Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of Modern World Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), excerpts. (IC online)

### **12. Modernity and Globalization**

-Jürgen Osterhammel and Niels Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Ch. 3 "The Development and Establishment of Worldwide Connections until 1750", Ch. 4 "1750-1880: Imperialism, Industrialization and Free Trade".

-Anne McCants, "Exotic Goods, Popular Consumption, and the Standard of Living: Thinking about Globalization in the Early Modern World", *Journal of World History* 18/4 (2007), pp. 433-462.

### **13. The Mediterranean (1500-1600)**

-Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean*, vol. 1, Ch. 5 "The Mediterranean as a Human Unit: Communications and Cities".

-Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell, *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), Ch. 4 "Ecology and the Larger Settlement".

#### **14. Eastern Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean**

-Fikret Yılmaz, “Osmanlı Hanedanı, Kullar ve Korsanlar: Beşiktaş’ın Doğuşu ve İktidar Rekabeti (1534-1557)”, *Journal of Turkish Studies*, vol. 52 (2019), pp. 397-425.

-Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *Empires between Islam and Christianity 1500-1800* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2019), Ch. 3 “Italians, Corsicans, and Portuguese in the Indian Ocean”.