

SABANCI UNIVERSITY

HIST 501 / Explorations in World History I

FALL 2023

Seminars: On campus on Friday 12:00-15:00, at FASS 2080

Instructor: Marloes CORNELISSEN AYDEMIR

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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 the History Program. 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 discussion section facilitators.

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. However, this graduate course moves beyond the introduction of historical narratives and discussion of various theories and focuses also on some of the more recent debates with regard to the topics under discussion. It investigates general trends in further detail and focuses on important case studies of the undergraduate SPS 101 course.

Students can follow the SPS 101 lectures which this course is created in parallel with:

SPS 101 A: Tuesday 09:40 – 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

Course Components:

1) (Take-home) examination:

There will be one examination in this course. This exam may be a take-home or in-class examination, based on the decision of the course instructor. The tentative date for the exam is around the 7th week of the semester. The exam weighs 30% of the course grade.

2) Lecture / Presentation:

Students will select one of the topics that are listed in the curriculum, and they are responsible for the preparation of 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 20% of the total grade.

3) Museum talk:

Students will select an object (or collection of objects) on display at the Istanbul Archaeological Museums and prepare a short talk at the museum about the object’s relevance for (a topic within) the study of world history. In week 13, the class gathers at the museum and all talks will be presented there in front of the selected objects on that day. This museum talk constitutes 25% of the course grade.

4) Active lesson and class discussion preparation:

At the beginning of the semester, students are assigned to 5 specific weeks of content and are expected to actively prepare a discussion and questions on these 5 weeks, based on the regular and additional readings. This component constitutes 25% of the course grade (5% of the course grade each)

Grading components:

1. Examination	30%
2. Presentation/ lecture	20%
3. Museum talk	25%
4. Active lesson & discussion preparation	5 x 5% = 25%
Total	100%

Make-Up Policy:

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

Academic Integrity:

This course does not tolerate any breach of 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. For the university’s Academic Integrity Statement, see:

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

This course adheres by the “FDD's Position Statement on AI-Based Technologies in Education” created by the Foundation Development Directorate of Sabancı University. You are only allowed to use AI tools when explicitly stated in the assignment and indicated by your course instructor. The statement will guide you in deciding if and when to use AI tools in academic contexts:

https://fdd.sabanciuniv.edu/peers/ai_statement

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

Textbooks:

* David Graeber and David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* (Dublin: Penguin Books, 2021)

* Peter Burke, *History and Social Theory* (2nd edition) (Cambridge: Polity Press 2005)

These and all other weekly readings are available on SUCourse and/or the IC.

Weekly Schedule:

6 October

1: Introduction, Hunters & Gatherers, and the Agricultural Revolution

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Graeber & Wengrow, Chapter 6: “Gardens of Adonis” (pp. 210-248) and Chapter 7: “The Ecology of Freedom” (pp. 249-275).

13 October

2: Emergence of Cities and Civilization & Theories on the Origins of States

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Burke, Chapter 1: “Theorists and Historians” (pp. 1-20)

* Graeber & Wengrow, Chapter 8: “Imaginary Cities” (pp. 276-327) & Chapter 10: “Why the State Has No Origin” (pp. 359-440)

20 October

3: Early Afro-Eurasian Empires & Material and Culture Exchange

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Mary Douglas, Foreword: “No Free Gifts” in Marcel Mauss, *The Gift. The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies* (London and New York: Routledge, 1990) pp. ix-xxiii.

* Igor Kopytoff, “The Cultural Biography of Things: Commoditization as a Process” in Arjun Appadurai (Ed.), *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), pp. 64-91.

* Burke, Chapter 2: “Models and Methods” (pp. 21-43) and Chapter 3: “Central Concepts” (pp. 44-115).

27 October

4: Culture & Religion

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Graeber & Wengrow, Chapter 3: Unfreezing the Ice Age (pp. 78-119 and Chapter 4: “Free People, The Origin of Cultures, and the Advent of Private Property” (pp. 120-163).

* Burke, Chapter 4: “Central Problems” (pp. 116-140).

3 November

5: Afro-Eurasian Macro Systems & Pre-modern Economies

SPS 101 Readings:

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

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

* Alexander Anievas and Kerem Nişancıoğlu, *How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism* (London: Pluto Press, 2015), pp. 67-77.

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

HIST 501 Readings:

- * Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350* (New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989), Chapter 1: “Studying a System in Formation” (pp. 3-40) and Chapter 11: “Restructuring the Thirteenth-Century World System” (pp. 352-373)
- * Burke, Chapter 6: “Postmodernity and Postmodernism” (pp. 172-189).
- * Graeber & Wengrow, Chapter 5: “Many Seasons Ago” (pp. 164-209).

10 November

6: The Columbian Exchange

SPS 101 Readings:

- * 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

- * Graeber & Wengrow, Chapter 9: “Hiding in Plain Sight” (pp. 328-358)
- * Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, “The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 24, No. 2 (Spring 2010) pp. 163-188.

17 November

7: The Renaissance and Reformation

SPS 101 Readings:

- * 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

- * Jacque Le Goff, *The Birth of Europe*, Chapter 6: “The Autumn of the Middle Ages or the Spring of a New Age?” (Blackwell, 2005) pp. 154-193.
- * Suggested: Johan Huizinga, *The Waning of the Middle Ages* [orig: 1924]
- * Suggested: Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* [orig: 1860]

Tentative date for the examination: during the 7th week

24 November

8: Maritime Empires and Resilient Empires & Atlantic Trade: Proto-globalization and the New Economy

SPS 101 Readings:

- * 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton. A New History of Global Capitalism*, Chapter 1: “The Rise of a Global Commodity” (Penguin 2015), pp. 3-28.

* Anne E.C. McCants, “Exotic Goods, Popular Consumption, and the Standard of Living: Thinking about Globalization in the Early Modern World,” *Journal of World History* Vol. 18, No. 4 (2007) pp. 443-462.

1 December

9: Scientific Revolution(s)

SPS 101 Readings:

* R. R. Palmer, Joel Colton and Lloyd Kramer, *A History of the Modern World* Vol. 1 to 1815 (New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2007), pp. 225-255.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Harold J. Cook “Moving About and Finding Things Out: Economies and Sciences in the Period of the Scientific Revolution,” *Osiris* vol. 27, no. 1 (2012) pp. 101-132.

* Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* 4th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2012), Introductory Essay and Chapters VI, VII and VIII.

8 December

10: The Enlightenment

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Graeber & Wengrow, Chapter 1: “Farewell to Humanity’s Childhood” (pp. 1-26), Chapter 2: “Wicked Liberty” (pp. 27-77) & Chapter 11: “Full circle” (pp. 441-492).

15 December

11: The Age of Revolutions

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Frank M. Turner (ed.) “Introduction: Edmund Burke: The Political Actor Thinking” (New Haven and London: Yale University Press 2003), pp. xi-xliii.

22 December

12: The Age of Nationalism and the Nation State

SPS 101 Readings:

* 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.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Eric Hobsbawm, "1. Introduction: Inventing Traditions" in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger (eds.) *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 1-14.

* Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (New York: Verso, 2006), Chapter 2 "Cultural Roots" (pp. 9-36), Chapter 3 "The Origins of National Consciousness" (pp. 37-46) and Chapter 10 "Census, Map, Museum" (pp. 163-185).

* Edhem Eldem, "The (Still)Birth of the Ottoman "Museum": A Critical Reassessment" in Maia Wellington Gahtan and Eva-Maria Troelenberg (eds.), *Collecting and Empires: An Historical and Global Perspective* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018), pp. 258-285.

29 December

13: Museum Talks at the Archeology Museum:

5 January

14: Wrap-up, makeup for presentations, lectures, etc.

HIST 501 Readings:

* Graeber & Wengrow, "Conclusion. The Dawn of Everything" (pp. 493-526).