

World History: Renaissance to Imperialism

Hist. 266
3 hours
MWF 10-10:50
AB 4, 305
Spring 08

Prof. Brian Domitrovic
Office: AB 4, 445
Office hours: MWF 9-10, Thurs. by appt.

This course traverses major economic, political, demographic, and cultural developments in the world, 1450-1900. A main objective of the course is to enable students to be familiar with, and be able to manipulate, such topics as Machiavellianism, aesthetic renaissances, industrial revolution, medieval Africa, the population explosion, (mind the cliché) early modern global warming, the Reformation, the nation-state.

Reading is essential and must be done by the class for which it is assigned. A schedule of reading for the first month of class is attached to this syllabus. Schedules for the remainder will be available as the semester progresses and we see where we are. The following books are required:

- Eugene Rice (with Anthony Grafton), *The Foundations of Early Modern Europe* (Norton)
- Basil Davidson, *West Africa Before the Colonial Era* (Pearson)
- Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East* (Harper Perennial)

N.B., if you cannot get all the books at once, you need only get the Rice to start. We shall not be using the Davidson until Feb. and the Lewis beginning in March.

The two midterm exams and the final will be mainly essay. There will be multiple-choice pop quizzes. An extra credit possibility will be offered to those students doing A and near-A work.

The grading breakdown:

- 2 midterms: 25% each
 - Final: 35%
 - Attendance and participation: 15%
- N.B.: Regular attendance and completion of all course requirements are requisite to passing the course.

Part I

Jan. 16. The early modern achievement

	Rice, Ch. 1
Jan. 18	Pirenne, Islam, and the Black Death Rice, Ch. 2
Jan. 23	Machiavelli: That old dog Rice, Ch. 3
Jan. 25	Machiavelli's virtue
Jan. 28	Ferdinand and Isabella
Jan. 30	Conquistadores Rice, Ch. 4
Feb. 1	Luther Rice, Ch. 5
Feb. 4	Reformation Rice, Ch. 6
Feb. 6	Trent
Feb. 11	Poland
Feb. 13	Jews
Feb. 15	Don Quixote
Feb. 18	MIDTERM #1
Feb. 20ff	Medieval Africa Davidson, 129-156

The schedule for after Feb. 20 will be available after Midterm 1.

Fine print:

University Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty

According to the administration's guidelines: "All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials."

University Policy Regarding Classroom Rules of Conduct

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

"Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, [chewing gum], using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave

class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy.”

The full policy for “Code of Student Conduct and Discipline” is found at the following link:

[<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>](https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html)

Visitors in the Classroom

According to the Administration’s guidelines: “Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.”

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days* Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

* Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Policy Regarding Disabled Students

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Additional Notes

v You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.