

World History since 1550 (HIS 155A)

Meetings: MWF 9-9:50 a.m. in Evans Hall 119
Instructor: Matt Stanard
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Office Hours: M&W 10-2:30, T/Th 1:45-2:45 & by appt.

Course description, purpose, and objectives

HIS 155. No pre-requisites, 3 credit hours. (Foundation F3b, F4a) (GE) History of the world from the 16th century to the present, focusing on major themes, ideas and forces shaping world history, including political, economic and cultural formations. This course involves lectures; reading, studying and writing outside of class meeting times; discussions of readings in class; take-home essay assignments; and exams. If students make the most of the course they will be able to explain and interpret texts from one or more traditions (F3b) and will gain understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture (F4a).

Requirements, grading, and grading scale

Two exams, worth 20% and 40% respectively	60%
Four papers, each worth 10%	40%
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Total 100%	

We will discuss the in-class examinations in advance. Instructions for the four papers will be handed out separately. Here is the grading scale for the course:

97-100 = A+	87-89= B+	77-79= C+	67-69= D+
93-96= A	83-86= B	73-76= C	63-66= D
90-92= A-	80-82= B-	70-72= C-	60-62= D-
			59 and below = F

A range = superior work, i.e. exceptional university-level work
B range = above average work, i.e. very good university-level work
C range = average work, that is to say customary university-level work
D range = passing, yet unsatisfactory or below average work
F = failing work, that is to say insufficient, incomplete, or inferior work

You are paying a great deal to attend Berry and your grades play a significant role in your future. As the course instructor, I see my role as a messenger: When a student does an assignment carefully and extremely well, I mark an "A" on that assignment, and if a student sustains such superior work throughout the course, I enter an "A" grade for that student at semester's end. When students choose to do less than outstanding work, or mediocre or no work, I deliver the appropriate grade. With this approach, of course, I do not curve grades on assignments or at the end of the course. It is possible that every student will sustain superior work over the course of the semester and thus earn an "A" grade. I have had classes where many students chose to do so. I also have had classes where students selected lower grades.

Required reading

- Peter N. Stearns, *World History in Brief: Major Patterns of Change and Continuity, Volume 2: Since 1450*, 8th edition.
- O. Equiano, with R. Allison, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*. 2nd or 3rd edition. Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Peter Duus, *The Japanese Discovery of America*. Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*.
- Duong Van Mai Elliott, *The Sacred Willow: Four Generations in the Life of a Vietnamese Family*.
- Some shorter readings, either on the course VikingWeb page or to be handed out.

Other course policies

- Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Exams must be taken on the dates indicated on the syllabus.
- Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in severe penalties. It is the student's responsibility to know and abide by Berry's Viking Code, including its provisions on academic integrity. The Viking Code is available via the Berry website.
- You are not permitted to use electronic devices in the classroom. Any student using an electronic device will have their final grade lowered by one-half a letter grade (5%) per usage. Use of device includes receiving information such as a call or text message.
- Attendance: If you choose to use class meeting times to be somewhere else to do something else, that is your decision.
- The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the syllabus as needed.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Reading (complete by Friday of week)</u>	<u>Exam or Assignment due</u>
Jan. 9-13	Stearns chaps. 16 & 20	
Jan. 16-20	Stearns chaps. 17-19; Equiano, begin <i>No class Jan. 16 (MLK Day)</i>	
Jan. 23-27	Equiano, continue	
Jan. 30-Feb. 3	Stearns chap. 21; Equiano, finish	
Feb. 6-10	Stearns chaps. 22-23	Paper #1 due Feb. 6
Feb. 13-17	Stearns chap. 25; Duus, begin	
Feb. 20-24	Stearns chap. 26; Duus, continue	Midterm exam on Feb. 24
Feb. 27-Mar. 3	Stearns chap. 27; Duus, finish	
Mar. 6-10	Stearns chap. 28; Jünger, begin	Paper #2 due Mar. 6
Mar. 13-17	<i>No class (Spring Break)</i>	
Mar. 20-24	Stearns chap. 29; Jünger, finish	
Mar. 27-31	Stearns chaps. 30, 31 & 33	
Apr. 3-7	Elliott, begin	Paper #3 due Apr. 3
Apr. 10-14	Elliott, continue <i>No class Apr. 14 (Good Friday)</i>	
Apr. 17-21	Stearns chap. 34, Elliott, finish	
Apr. 24-28	<i>(last day of class: Mon., Apr. 24)</i>	Paper #4 due Apr. 24
May. 1	Final exam in Evans Hall 119, 2:00-4:00 p.m.	