Syllabus

World Civilization Since 1500

HIST 1060.002

University of North Texas

19. August to 09. December 2025

11:00-12:20

Wh 215

3 credit hours

Instructor: Alfred C. Mierzejewski Instructor’s title: Professor

Instructor profile: <https://facultyinfo.unt.edu/>

Office location: WH 236 Email Address: [alfred.mierzejewski@unt.edu](mailto:alfred.mierzejewski@unt.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-13:30.

Email: I check my UNT email inbox on weekdays at about 08:00.

Telephone: By appointment.

**Course Description**

From the UNT Catalogue: “The course provides a basic survey of the development of civilization from the Protestant Reformation in Europe to the present. It includes descriptions of the societies, economies and states that evolved in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. It shows how nation states developed, explains the rise and decline of colonies and empires, the appearance of ideologies, and describes the appearance of economic growth and technological innovation. The course pays particular attention to the evolution of the role of women as part of the general phenomenon of modernization. Finally, the course highlights the changed roles of major religions such as Islam and Christianity. By studying these developments, students will improve their analytical skills, their competence in finding information and their communication skills.”

**Emergency Notification**

If the course is disrupted in some way, for example due to a technical problem, I will notify you using the UNT email system. If a problem arises UNT as a whole, UNT will inform you using its Eagle alert system and its website.

**Pre-requisites**

None.

**Learning Objectives**

**Goal I**. Students will improve their ability to think critically.

**Goal II**. Students will improve their ability to think in historical terms.

**Goal III**. Students will improve their written communication skills.

**Required Book**.

Wiesner-Hanks, et. al., *A History of World Societies, Volume 2 – Since 1450* 12th Edition New York: Macmillan, 2021.

NOTE: You only need access to the book whether printed or electronic. You do not need access to Achieve.

**Course Requirements**

**Assignments.**

1. Read the assigned material in *History of World Societies Volume 2. Since 1450, 12. Ed.*

2. **Quizzes** on each chapter in the main text. Take quizzes between 12:00 AM and 11:30 PM (23:30) on Friday each week listed. The quizzes are available on-line.

3. Participate in the four online **discussions**. Post your discussion contributions by Friday 12:00 AM and 11:30 PM (23:30) of the scheduled week. The topics are listed in “Calendar” at the end of the syllabus. Participate in discussions on line.

4. Take the **mid-term exam** in class on

5. Take the **final exam** in class on

**Grading.**

Your grade will be based on your performance in the four categories of assignments:

1. Weekly **quizzes** tied directly to the readings. They will constitute **25**% of your grade.

2. Participate in online **discussions**. They will contribute **25**% of your grade.

3. The **mid-term**, which will constitute **25**% of your grade.

4. The **final**, which will constitute **25**% of your grade.

Each assignment will be graded using the following scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grading Scale |  |
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| below 60% | F |

Grades will be calculated as follows:

The grades for your quizzes will be added up at the end of the semester, divided into the maximum number of points that could be earned and then multiplied by 25. The grades for your discussion posts will be added up at the end of the semester, divided into the maximum number of points that could be earned and then multiplied by 25. The grades for your mid-term and final exams will each be multiplied by 0.25. The four sums will be added together to provide your final grade in accordance with the scale shown above. Grades will be posted within forty-eight hours of the end of grading event.

**Description of graded Assignments**

**Online Quizzes**

The weekly quizzes based on *A History of World Societies* Vol. 2 can be accessed in the Quizzes and Assignments areas on Canvas. You should take the week's quiz beteen 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM (23:59) each Friday.

**Online Discussions**

The four discussions will take place at Discussions on Canvas. You will be graded based on the quality of your comments, not their quantity. If you do not participate, you will receive no credit, i.e. 0, for that discussion. Post your comments between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM (23:59) on Friday each week.

**Mid-Term Examination**

The mid-term examination will cover Module 1. Choose three questions from the list of five that will be provided. Each essay should be about 200 words long. The mid-term exam will take place in class on 16. October.

**Final Examination**.

The final examination will cover Module 2. Choose three questions from the list of five that will be provided. Each essay should be about 250 words long. The final will take place in class on 09. December.

**Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback**

My mission is to help you learn about the development of civilization and, in doing so, to help you learn how to think on your own. My goal is to provide you with an informative, challenging and interesting course, delivered in a professional manner. At the end of the semester, you should know more about world civilizations since 1450 than you did at the beginning. In addition, your reasoning skills and self-confidence should be stronger.

**Student Responsibilities**

As a student in this course, you are responsible for reading the assigned materials and completing all assignments within the time allowed. You are responsible for following the syllabus and interacting with your fellow students in the discussions in a respectful and scholarly way.

***Policies***

**Inclusion**

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation so we will work as a class to collaborate in ways that encourage inclusivity.

Attendance.

Attendance is required. Sign-into class using iClicker. If you are new to iClicker, please go to their website and create an account.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

You are encouraged to become familiar with the University's Policy of Academic dishonesty found in the [*Student Handbook*](http://www.unt.edu/student/). The content of the Handbook applies to this course. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult me as soon as possible. Note that your mid-term and final exams will be checked using Turnitin software to determine if you have complied with UNT’s plagiarism regulations.

**ADA Policy**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. (For our online course, “meet with” can be accomplished virtually.) Students are strongly encouraged to deliver Letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on- line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

**University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

**Calendar**

19-21 Aug Acceleration of Global Contact, 1450-1600. Read Chapter 16. Islamic World Powers, 1300-1800. Read Chapter 17.

26-28 Aug European Power and Expansion, 1500-1750. Read Chapter 18.

Discussion: John Locke. Two Treatises.

02-04 Sep New World views and Ways of Life, 1540-1790. Read Chapter 19.

09-11 Sep Africa and the World, 1400-1800. Read Chapter 20.

16-18 Sep Continuity and Change in East Asia, 1400-1800. Read Chapter 21.

23-25 Sep Revolutions in the Atlantic World, 1775-1825. Read Chapter 22.

Discussion: Robespierre justifies terror as a tool of revolutionary change, 1794.

30 Sep-02 Oct The Revolution in Energy and Industry, 1760-1850. Read Chapter 23.

07-09 Oct Ideologies of Change in Europe, 1815-1914. Read Chapter 24.

14-16 Oct Africa, the Ottoman Empire, and the New Imperialism, 1800-1914. Read Chapter 25. Mid-Term.

21-23 Oct Asia and the Pacific in the Era of Imperialism, 1800-1914. Read Chapter 26. Americas in the Age of Liberalism, 1810-1917. Read Chapter 27.

28-30 Oct World War and Revolution, 1914-1929. Read Chapter 28.

Discussion: Konoe, Against a Pacifism Centered on England and America, 1918.

04-06 Nov Nationalism in Asia, 1914-1939. Read Chapter 29.

11-13 Nov The Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945. Read Chapter 30.

18-20 Nov Decolonization, Revolution and Cold War, 1945-1968. Read Chapter 31.

02-04 Dec Liberalization and Liberation, 1968-2000s. Read Chapter 32.

Contemporary World in Historical Perspective. Read Chapter 33.

Discussion: The National Party’s Colour Policy, 1950.

09 Dec Final Exam.