

0601H260

World History

Instructor: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Time: May 18, 2026 - June 19, 2026

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Course Description

This course will examine the history and diverse cultures of the world since 1400 -- the era of the rise of European political, economic, and cultural worldwide dominance--until the present day, when that European-American dominance is reversing. The course mainly explores general trends and themes by looking at specific historical interconnections. Among the themes to be discussed are the advances in science and technology, the formation of a global economy, industrial and political revolutions, colonialism, the causes and results of the First World War, Second World War, the emergence of socialist countries, and the rise and decline of hegemonic powers. Particular attention will be devoted to the concept of "webs."

Required Textbook

Reading materials will be provided by the course instructor.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts in this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

WEEK ONE: Weaving the Global Web, 1400-1800

This week we will be looking at the history of the world from 1400-1800, focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: the Old World, the Ming Voyages, Columbus, biological globalization, the Columbian Exchange, disease disasters, transatlantic slave trade, plantation zone, Treaty of Waitangi, creole cultures, printing press, Renaissance, Protestantism, Catholic Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Shi'a Islam, Safavids, neo-Confucianism, Tokugawa shogunate, Qing dynasty, Ottoman Empire, Habsburgs, pirates, gross world product, cotton, silver, slave-and-sugar plantations, Dutch East India Company, and fractional reserve banking.

WEEK TWO: Revolutions, 1640-1920 (Part 1)

This week we will be looking at the history of the world from 1640-1920, focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: Kongo monarchy, rising merchant class, Parliament, Pontiac's War, American Revolution, French Revolution, Jacobin, Napoleon Bonaparte, Haitian Revolution, political decentralization, Industrial Revolution, Communist Manifesto, Trans-Siberian Railway, Meiji Restoration, de-industrialization, socialists, Vital Revolution, Sons of Africa, Slavery Abolition Act, and indentured labor.

WEEK THREE: Revolutions, 1640-1920 (Part 2)

This week we will continue looking at the history of the world from 1640-1920, focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: nationalism, Yamato race theory, multiethnic empires, new imperialism, social Darwinism, British Raj, settler colony, partition of Africa, land empire, Comanche Empire, millenarian movements, Ghost

Dance, Indian Rebellion, Chinese Revolution, Mexican Revolution, and Young Turk Revolution.

WEEK FOUR: The Global Web since 1870 (Part 1)

This week we will look at the history of the world after 1870 focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: World War I, Russian Revolution of 1917, Treaty of Versailles, self-determination, suffragism, fascism, anti-colonialism, Pan-Africanism, World War II, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Holocaust, Prague Spring, Korean War, Vietnam War, and domino theory.

WEEK FIVE: The Global Web since 1870 (Part 2)

This week continue looking at the history of the world after 1870 focusing on economic, political, intellectual, social and biological events that united the world. Key concepts we will cover include: Jawaharlal Nehru, Kwame Nkrumah, Algerian war of independence, Asian tiger economics, containerization, land reform, Deng Xiaoping, Anthropocene, climate change, HIV/AIDS, and Covid-19.

Course Requirements

In order to succeed in class, you must demonstrate the following:

- An understanding of the chronology of major events in World History.
- Recognize major figures and movements that played a pivotal role in the development of our global civilization.
- Think critically on how the memory of historical events has changed over time.
- Express strong communication and interpretive skills in writing assignments and assessments.

Grading Policy

Your final grade in this course is based upon performance on two writing assignments and three UNIT exams.

Writing Assignments: (40 points):

Students are required to submit two writing assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment is worth 20% of your grade. Students will write a 300–500-word analysis of class topics from the selected readings. Students must identify the argument/thesis, explain the historical context, and discuss the audience. Students must support their analysis by providing examples from the text. Students should also seek to compare their chosen reading to other class texts. The answers should reference specific material in the chapter they come from and include key words/concepts referenced in the corresponding online videos and course reading as well as details from primary sources.

Each writing assignment will be graded on a 0-20-point scale:

20 points	Correctly answers the questions with ample key words/concepts, references back to the corresponding chapter and video material and provides details from primary source (s). Full word count.
15 points	Full word count, mostly correct answers, some reference back to the chapter and video material, some references to key words/concepts, some detail from the primary source(s), some typos.
10 points	Partial word count, grammar issues, missing references to the words/concepts, missing reference to the corresponding chapter material, missing detail from the primary source (s).
5 points	Far below word count, did not follow directions.
0 points	Did not do assignment.

UNIT Exams (60 points):

There will be three exams this semester, at the end of each UNIT. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions, worth one point each and each exam will be worth 20% of your total grade. The exams will have students connect to the pre-recorded lectures and related course material. The final exam will not be cumulative but will cover all material following the last exam.

Make-up Policy:

You will be allowed to make up work for full credit only under extreme circumstances (such as a documented, serious health-related emergency).

Cheating will not be tolerated. This includes giving or receiving aid on an assignment or exam, plagiarizing the work of others (including your classmates), false representation of your own work, and/or the use of AI.

Late assignments will **not** be accepted, unless students have an excused absence from the professor. The Teacher Assistant or Professor must receive late assignments no later than one week after the due date. Because a central goal of this course is to learn the importance of ethical work habits, all makeup assignments and excused absences will only receive partial credit. All assignments will be penalized one letter grade. *All makeup assignments will be graded at the end of the semester.* This policy does not include the exams, which cannot be made up for any reason.

Grading Scale

Your final grade in this course is based entirely upon performance on your exams and writing assignments. It is required that you at least complete all of the exams and assignments in order to be eligible to pass.

<u>Writing Assignment #1</u>	20
<u>Writing Assignment #2</u>	20
<u>Exam UNIT 1</u>	20
<u>Exam UNIT 2</u>	20
<u>Exam UNIT 3</u>	20

This class operates on a point system. No plus/minus grades will be given on assignments or exams. The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Points
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

The grade total is determined based on student performance on the assignments and exams.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course. Failure to know what academic dishonesty is not an excuse.