



0601H260

World History

Instructor: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Time: December 15, 2025 - January 16, 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(s)

Reading materials will be provided by the course instructor.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

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 your examinations and writing assignments. You will notice that your grade is dependent upon only a few assignments. As such, it is required that you at least complete all of the major assignments in order to be eligible to pass.

Research Paper Proposal	10%
Midterm Exam (Sections 1-2)	30%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam (Sections 3-5)	30%

Exams

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final exam. Both exams will consist of 25 multiple choice questions, worth one point each and each exam will be worth 30% 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 a cumulative but will cover all material following the midterm.

Research Paper Proposal

At the end of Week 2, students will develop a short proposal for a research paper, which they will submit at the end of Week 4. The purpose of the proposal is to give

them a chance to think about what questions they want to answer in their final paper, as well as to provide for me an opportunity to give them some feedback/suggestions about your topic. This activity is an opportunity to create a blueprint for how students will proceed with their research project.

Students' research project should address a specific aspect of World History within the confines of the timeframe of this course: 1200-Present.

Research Paper

Students will also develop a 5-7-page (double-spaced) research paper on either an important person or event related to World History within the confines of the timeframe of this course: 1200-Present. While it is important to prove that you have internalized and gained recallable knowledge about World History, it is even more important that you are able to think critically about particular historical events and make evidence-based arguments and conclusions in relation to those events. While you will have a lot of freedom in choosing your topic, you will be asked to avoid choosing massive figures such as Churchill, Hitler, or Stalin, or much-too-broad events like the Enlightenment or World War II.

I will certainly help you find an appropriate topic as we progress throughout the semester, but my initial suggestion would be to take the opportunity to explore a person or event.

Live Session Requirements

Students will be expected to attend all live sessions hosted by both the Teaching Assistant and Instructor. If an unexpected absence occurs, students will need to file a petition and an alternative assignment will be arranged. Students will not need to turn on their camera, but active engagement and participation in the class discussion is expected. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of live sessions, where students will need to log in and log out.

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 and plagiarizing the work of others (including your classmates).

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.

This class operates on a point system. No plus/minus grades will be given on assignments or exams.

Grading Scale

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.

Statement on the Use of A.I./Chat GPT

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) are not permitted in this class. Use of AI tools for work in this class are considered a violation of our course Academic Honesty policy and Student Conduct Code, since the submitted work is not your own. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing is a craft that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice as a writer. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in automatic failure on an assignment and possible failure in the course.

Course Schedule

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

WEEK ONE: Encounters and Empires, 1200-1750

- Hinduism in India
- Mughal Empire
- Islam in India
- Great Zimbabwe
- Mali/Mande
- Inca
- Innovation and Exploration

No Assignment For Week 1

WEEK TWO: World Markets and Atlantic Revolution, 1600-1865

- Black Death
- Renaissance
- Merchants between 1600-1750

- French and Indian War
- American Revolution
- Haitian Revolution
- The New Science of the Seventeenth Century
- Europe During the Enlightenment
- The French Revolution

Research Paper Proposal Due: Friday, at 11:59 AM BJT

WEEK THREE: The Challenge of Modernity, 1700-1900

- Ming to Qing Dynasties
- Tokugawa Shogunate
- Meiji Restoration
- Revolutions in the Caribbean and Iberian America
- Spanish-American War
- Revolution and Nation Building
- Imperialism and Colonialism,
- Modern Industry and Mass Politics

Midterm Exam Due: Friday, at 11:59 AM

WEEK FOUR: The Whole World is Afire

- The First World War
- Turmoil Between the Wars
- The Second World War (Stop At: The Beginning of the War in Europe)

Research Paper Due: Friday, at 11:59 AM BJT

WEEK FIVE: Globalization

- The Second World War
- The Cold War World-Global Politics, Economic Recovery, and Cultural Change
- Red Flags and Velvet Revolutions-The End of the Cold War, 1973-1989

Final Exam Due: Friday, at 11:59 AM BJT

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.