

World Civilization II: 1500 to Present (History 1123)
University of Arkansas
Fall Semester 2009

Dr. Kathryn Sloan
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[Webpage](#)

Classroom: 423 Old Main
11:00-12:20 Tues & Thur
Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 T & TH
(course has [blackboard site](#))

Course Description

A course on “world history since 1500” presents a daunting challenge. This is not your conventional world history course that highlights great men and great wars or great empires and great thinkers. The purpose of this class is to explore the historical connections between producers and consumers of basic commodities and finished goods across the globe and over time. By linking up individual producers and consumers, the course seeks to cast a new light on the standard world historical narrative, with its emphasis on large scale change. Since producers and consumers in most world societies were often women, by studying commodities in world history we also spotlight gender in world history. Finally, the course provides a means of examining the role of individuals in stitching together the fabric of the world economy.

A conventional world history textbook will provide the general narrative of world history. Supplementary texts focus on commodities and trade across time and region from medieval to modern times. Our focus will be the period 1500-present.

Overview of Core Courses in History:

History is the study of the past. As an academic discipline, History embraces every aspect of the human experience, including warfare, political institutions, the economy, religious practice, technology, and artistic endeavor. History asks students to analyze empire and revolution, genocide and humanism, enslavement and liberation, sexuality and gender and to do so from the perspective of both social scientific and humanistic inquiry. There is no field more diverse than History and none more individualistic. History can be as long ago as the excavated texts and artifacts of ancient China or as recent as mass-produced newspapers from the twentieth-century American West.

Objectives of Core Courses in History:

By the end of the semester, you will have an understanding of the following issues:

- The role played by diversity in shaping human experience.
- The operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, technology, and religion.
- The challenges mounted by an increasing reliance on technology.
- The changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today’s world.

Required Texts

J.M. Roberts, *A Short History of the World*. Oxford, 1997.

Mark Kurlansky, *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World*. Penguin, 1997.

Steven Topik, Carlos Marichal, & Zephyr Frank, eds., *From Silver to Cocaine: Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of the World Economy*. Duke, 2006.

Other documents as linked or noted on blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Participation/Attendance | 50 |
| Map Quiz | 25 |
| Quizzes (5) | 100 |
| Take home Exam 1 | 100 |
| Take home Exam 2 | 100 |
| Book Review (of Kurlansky) | <u>100</u> |
| Total | 475 |

Grading. Grades on essays will be based on the following criteria: 1) use of relevant class material (evidence); 2) expression of ideas in a clear, concise, and engaging prose (style); and 3) development of an argument or point of view that is pertinent to the issue at hand and has breadth, coherence, and insight (interpretation).

- A – excellent in all three areas. Offers an insightful argument based on solid, ample evidence
- B – good. Strong in all three areas or notable strengths in one balanced by weaknesses in another
- C – average. Adequate performance in one or more areas offset by serious weakness in others that leaves presentation fragmented, unclear, or narrow
- D – poor. Notable problems in all three areas. Remedial work need to improve substantive understanding or basic communication
- F – unacceptable. Serious flaws in all three areas. No evident engagement in assignment.

Quizzes. There are five scheduled quizzes during the semester. They are a combination of short answer, identification, and multiple choice and will be BASED on the readings/primary sources (not lectures). **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

Take Home Exams. The professor will provide take home exam questions two weeks before the exams are due. They will be posted on blackboard. Students are required to follow the Chicago Style of Notes and Bibliography. A style guide is posted on the blackboard site for the course. Take home exams/essay are 3-4 pages, double-spaced and will be based on readings, lectures, and primary sources provided by the professor.

Book Review. In lieu of a final exam, students will turn in a book review of Mark Kurlansky's *Cod*. Guidelines for the book review are on blackboard. Page length is 3-4 pages, double-spaced. The book review is due by 5:00 pm on December 15, 2009.

Class Participation. The format of this course is lecture and discussion. This course requires regular and quality participation by all students. This means that students ought to come to class prepared by reading the assignment for the day and ready to discuss the reading and or themes of the day from a critical and analytical perspective. Coming to class regularly is not enough to earn a good participation grade – you must actively and verbally participate! Attendance is also expected of every student. Students are permitted three unexcused absences before they begin losing participation points. For each absence after three, three points will be deducted from the participation grade.

Late Work. Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class. Assignments that arrive during class will be counted late. For every class period that passes after the due date, assignments will be docked 10%.

Rules of the Classroom

- Attendance – if you must miss class please inform professor
- Late work – for each class that work is late, assignment loses 10%
- Make-up Exams – None will be allowed unless previously arranged with professor
- Courtesy during class – It is disruptive to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it! If you must leave early, sit by the door and inform me ahead of time. Turn off cell phones. If you must sleep, stay home.
- Academic Dishonesty- any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment and/or an F for the course, and/or academic write-up
- Modifications of the Syllabus – I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed during the semester. If there are significant changes, I will issue a new one.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

• The University of Arkansas strives to be a center of academic excellence. As part of our Statement of Ethics, the University strives to preserve academic honor and integrity by repudiating all forms of academic and intellectual dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and is subject to a disciplinary response.

• Students who are caught cheating or committing plagiarism may be given a failing grade in the course by the professor and may be subject to dismissal or further discipline.

• Plagiarism is often misunderstood. It can be defined as submitting someone else's work as your own. It is not permissible to "cut and paste" and then just cite another's work. In writing for homework or projects, you should read and learn, process through your mind, relate ideas, and then express what you learned in your own words. Cite the references where you found your information. If you do use someone else's words, you must use quotation marks and cite. You should not overuse quotes – save them for a rare occurrence.

Any student in this course that has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate the educational opportunity.

Inclement weather policy: If Fayetteville schools are closed for inclement weather, class is cancelled. Please check email because I live in rural Washington County and I may determine that the roads are not safe enough to travel.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, 8/25: Welcome and Introduction to Course Expectations

The Making of Markets and Trade

Thursday, 8/27: When Asia was the World Economy
Roberts, Ch. 8

Tuesday, 9/1: Europeans in the Tropics

Topik, Introduction

Transport and Technology

Thursday, 9/3: Who Ruled the Waves?
Roberts, Ch. 9
Quiz 1

Tuesday, 9/8: A History of Commercial Whaling, 1100-1982
Topik, Ch. 1
MAP QUIZ

Thursday, 9/10: The Search for Spices: Black Pepper
Roberts, Ch. 10

Drugs Make the World Go Round

Tuesday, 9/15: **Discussion**
Thursday, 9/17: Tobacco & Coffee
Topik, Ch. 4 & 5

Tuesday, 9/22: Opium & Tea
TBA

Thursday, 9/24: Cocaine
Topik, Ch. 12
Quiz 2

Commodities & World Trade

Thursday, 9/24: Indigo & Cochineal
Topik, Ch. 2 & 3

Tuesday, 9/29: Guano & Rubber
Topik, Ch. 9 & 10

Thursday, 10/1: Sugar and the Slave Trade
Topik, Ch. 6

Tuesday, 10/6: Porcelain
Robert Finlay article on blackboard
Quiz 3

Thursday, 10/8: Pirates and Birth of Corporations
Roberts, Ch. 12

Modern Markets

Tuesday, 10/13: **Discussion**

Thursday, 10/15: **No class – Take Home Exam due by 5:00 pm**
Please upload to blackboard. Do not email it to my uark account.

Tuesday, 10/20: Silver to Gold Standard
Roberts, Ch. 11

Thursday, 10/22: How the United States Joined the Big Leagues
Roberts, Ch. 13

Tuesday, 10/27: Economic Imperialism: Henequen and Mexico
Topik, Ch. 11

Thursday, 10/29: The Banana in the History of the Americas
Topik, 204
Quiz 4

Tuesday, 11/3: **Discussion**
Begin Kurlansky, finish by 12/1

Thursday, 11/5: Documentary TBA
Continue Kurlansky

Industrialization and Consumer Culture

Tuesday, 11/10: How Cotton Became the Fiber of the Industrial Age
Roberts, Ch. 14

Thursday, 11/12 Cigarettes and Cereal
Tricia Starks, “Red Star/Black Lungs: Anti-Tobacco Campaigns in 20th Century Russia” (blackboard)

Tuesday, 11/17: Going Nuclear: Consumption, Fear, and the Atomic Age

Thursday, 11/19: Documentary “Atomic Café”
Quiz 5

Tuesday, 11/24: Running on Oil, Building on Sand

Tuesday, 12/1: Diamonds, War, and Genocide

Thursday, 12/3: **No class – Take Home Exam due by 5:00 pm**
Please upload to blackboard. Do not email it to my uark account.

Tuesday, 12/8: **Discuss Kurlansky**

Book Review of Kurlansky’s *Cod* due by 5:00 pm on Dec. 15, 2009. Upload it to blackboard.