

SYLLABUS, WINTER, 2008
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
HITO 117: WORLD HISTORY, 1200-1700

Professor David Ringrose
Office Hours: M-W, 3-3:50 PM
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Most history courses look at events and processes that took place within particular countries or societies. This course begins with a look at how the "Modern West" came to dominate the rest of the world. It looks at how much the "West" depended on the rest of the world for its success and suggests the temporary nature of that domination. The bulk of the course then looks at the world before "Western" domination, tracking some of the ways in which societies and cultures interacted with each other from around 1200 CE to about 1700. We look at some of their differing adaptations to physical context, the mechanisms and narratives of contact, and changing "Western" perceptions of those contacts and their outcomes. Part of the story is the larger context of "non human" factors that affected everyone, particularly geography, disease, and climate. All of these seem to be accelerated after about 1200, leading to a technological and industrial revolution that gave the "West" a temporary dominance.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT BOOK STORE. CHECK ALSO AMAZON.COM FOR CHEAPER USED COPIES: (These books have also been placed on Reserve at the Geisel Library)

Bentley, Jerry. *Old World encounters: Cross-Cutlural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times* (New York: Oxford U. Press, 1993)

Available Amazon new \$30.33. 40 used & new from \$ 20
ISBN 0-19-507640-0

Brummett, Palmira. *Ottoman Seapower and Levantine Diplomacy in the Age of Discovery* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1994)

Amazon List Price: \$29.95. 33 used & new available from \$16.59
ISBN 0-7914-1702-6

Calloway, Colin G. *New Worlds for All: Indians, Europeans, and the Remaking of Early America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins U. Press, 1998)

Amazon List Price: \$19.95. 28 used & new available from \$8.90

Crosby, Alfred. *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Transformation of Europe, 900-1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Amazon List Price: \$22.99, discounted: \$19.82. 31 used & new available from \$13.98.
ISBN 0-521-45690-8

Hobson, John. *The Eastern Origins of Western Civilisation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)
Amazon: \$29.99 27 Used & new from \$19.80
ISBN 0-521-54724-5

Morgan, David. *The Mongols* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007)
Amazon: \$19.77 44 Used & new from \$16.00
ISBN 978-1-4051-3539-9

GRADING: EACH OF THE THREE REQUIRED PAPERS WILL COUNT 30% OF THE GRADE. THE REMAINING 10% WILL BE BASED ON CLASS PARTICIPATION. *In compiling the final grade I will toss out the weakest of the paper grades. To get a passing grade in the course, a student **must** make a good faith effort at all written assignments. You cannot omit one paper and assume that that will earn an F which will be averaged with the other two grades.*

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Jan 7-9-11

Framing the world: Challenging the idea of the modern "West"

Read: Hobson, chs. 9, 10, 11 (pp. 190-242)

Week 2 Jan 14 Martin Luther King Day/no class

Jan 16-18 AND

Week 3 Jan 21-23-25

Dynamics of the pre-modern World

Read: Hobson, chs. 1-5 (pp. 1-115)

Bentley, chs. 1-3 (pp. 3-110)

Week 4 Jan 28-30-Feb 1

First paper due Feb. 1

Nomads and Mongols

Read: Morgan, chs. 2-7 (pp. 30-173)

Bentley, ch. 4 (pp. 111-164)

Week 5 Feb 4-6 (Feb 8 no class) AND

Week 6 Feb 11-13 (Feb 15 no class)

Europe and the Age of Great Empires

Read: Brummett, all (pp. 1-182)

Morgan, ch. 8 (pp. 174-180)

Hobson, chs. 6-8 (pp. 116-189)

Week 7 Feb 18 (Presidents day/no class)-20-22

Second paper due Feb. 22

Week 8 Feb 25-27-Mar 1

Connecting America and Afro-EurAsia: Silver, Disease, Land

Read: Calloway, all (pp. 1-198)

Week 9 Mar 4-6-8

Climate, Biology, Disease - What Humans Could Not Control

Read: Crosby, all (especially chs. 4-11)

Week 10 Mar 11-13-15

Retrospective: Is the wave of Western power over?

Read: Hobson, ch. 13 (pp. 294-322)

Final Exam Date: Friday, March 17, 2008, 3-6 pm. There is no final exam, but the third paper is due by the start of the scheduled exam period.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. At the end of the 4th week, each student will submit a short paper (3-5 pages, 12-point type, and one-inch margins). The topic will be based on Hobson and/or Bentley and selected from three choices to be provided. (30%)
2. At the end of the 7th week, each student will submit a short paper (3-5 pages, 12-point type, and one-inch margins). The topic will be based on Morgan and/or Brummett and selected from three choices to be provided. (30%)
3. The final exercise will consist of a short paper (3-5 pages, 12-point type, and one-inch margins). The topic will be based on Calloway and/or Crosby and selected from three choices to be provided. (30%) This paper will be due during exam week, with the absolute last time for submission being 3 pm on Friday, March 17 (The beginning of our scheduled final exam period.)

Alternative topics may be negotiated (in advance) with the instructor.

To get a passing grade in the course, a student must make a good faith effort at all three written assignments. You cannot omit one task and assume an F will be averaged with the other two grades.