**Global History: Hst 100**

**Spring 2018**

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**Introduction**

“The present is not an inevitable outcome of the past.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

History is not a series of dates and names to memorize, although time, place, and identity are important. Instead in this course we explore the complex and contingent nature of history. Our world did not have to be the way it is. So how did we get here? This global history course explores major themes and changes in world history from the 1000s (11th century) through the 1900s (20th century) and through to today.

This discussion section will engage in depth with our reading and lecture material. This is not a time to be talked at (you will get that on Mondays and Wednesdays). Rather it is time for you to talk. The humanities are a public conversation- we have to talk to each other to learn.

We are on this journey together and should respect and support each other, even when we disagree. ***Profanity and disrespect will not be a part of this environment.*** It is okay, even healthy, to disagree with your colleagues. But remember that your job is educate and persuade them, not make them feel bad or insecure.

The skills and ways of thinking we develop here will serve you well through the rest of college and into your career. We work every week to better understand, analyze, and contextualize our sources. Through our discussions we improve our ability to build or challenge an argument using evidence. You should not be afraid to give a “wrong” answer; sections are a time and place to develop intellectual curiosity and critical thinking. If you show up and try you **will** improve your skills as a reader, writer, thinker, and speaker.

**Expectations**

\***Do the reading!** This is SO important. We cannot have a good discussion about a book section, article, or document if you have not done the reading.

\*Arrive to section on time and be prepared to discuss all relevant materials. **Arriving more than 10 minutes late will count as an absence.**

\*Bring relevant materials – such as lecture notes and readings – with you to class.

\*Attendance is mandatory. I understand that life happens outside of class, and because of this I will allow for **two** unexcused absences. Any unexcused absences beyond that will count against the Section portion of your overall grade.

\*Participate in class discussions. For some this may come easy, but for many it will require stepping outside of your comfort zone. It is important to let your voice be heard and to listen to the voice of others. Speak and allow others a chance to speak. Healthy and even heated debate is encouraged so long as it is respectful.

\*It is essential that you let me know if you have, or think you may have, problems that could influence your academic performance in this class. It is best if you come and talk to me before the situation begins to negatively affect your success in the course. Please feel free to email me, see me after section, or come and talk to me during my office hours.

\*I will attempt to answer emails from students promptly. But I am not a machine. I do not always answer emails on weekends, holidays, or outside working hours (after 5pm). I will not respond to emails that are disrespectful or sent anonymously. Please, tell me who you are and which section your in if you send me an email.

**Respect and Inclusion**

History is a vibrant subject that has different meanings for different people. Since our section will be made up of individuals with a wide variety of experiences, beliefs, orientations, backgrounds and identities, different students will inevitably have differences in perspective and interpretation. This section is a space in which *all* students – regardless of race, gender, sexual identity, nationality, or political and religious beliefs – should feel free to express their own interpretation of historical events, based upon the material at hand. Respectful debate is strongly encouraged. **Personal attacks of ANY kind will not be tolerated under any circumstances.**

**Grades**

Discussion Section consists of 25% of your overall grade for Hst 100. This 25% will be broken down the following way:

10% - Participation (thoughtful comments, questions, responses, etc… in section)

5% - Attendance (showing up to section on time)

10% - Assignments (to be determined throughout the semester)

**Section Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Absences related to health or family emergencies must be documented with a note from the Emergency Dean or your healthcare provider. Absences based on participation in a University-sponsored activity must be documented with a written letter from the coach or leader noting the specific dates you are to be excused. Only **two** unexcused absences are allowed. Any more than that will count against your overall Section grade. Each unexcused absence beyond the two allowed will take 5 percentage pointsoff of your total Section grade. (For example, if you have a grade of 90%, a third unexcused absence will knock it down to an 85%, a fourth will knock it down to an 80%, and so on). Showing up to class more than 10 minutes late without a *valid*reason will count as an unexcused absence.

**Assignments**

The assignments portion of your grade consists mainly of assignments due in class. I will announce these in section or through email as we move through the semester. From time to time there may also be in-class assignments or pop quizzes. Any assignment that is missed or not turned in because of an unexcused absence (beyond the two allowed) may not be made up and will count as a zero.

**Grade Complaints**

If you wish to discuss a grade (i.e. paper or exam grade), you must wait 24 hours before doing so. This will allow you to read my feedback and try to understand why you received the grade you did. If you have a complaint about a grade, I ask that you compose a short (one or two paragraph) written description of your complaint and submit it to me with your original graded assignment, after the 24-hour period has passed. This description should be as specific as possible in describing your concerns with the grade. This provides a clear paper trail of our discussion and formalizes your grievance. This also ensures that you have time to think through your grade, to read and reflect upon my comments, to look over your notes, and to make certain that you have a firm position for requesting to change your grade. You can submit a request at any point in the semester, up to the day of the final exam.

**Technology Policy**

We only meet for 50 minutes, once a week, so in order to ensure that we make the best use of our limited time, it is necessary to limit distractions.

Cell phone use is **prohibited** during class.

Computers and tablets are allowed for note taking and approved classroom activities. Computer use during class in ways that are unrelated to class is prohibited. No Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Amazon, Google Chat, checking email, or internet surfing allowed. If these rules cannot be followed, then we will reevaluate the use of computers and tablets all together. Remember, participation is a major part of your discussion grade, so that should be your focus during our time together.

**Plagiarism**

Because the development of your own interpretive and analytical abilities are so important to the objectives of this class, cheating or plagiarism of any kind will be investigated and penalized in accordance with departmental and campus policies.

As stated by History Department policy, “Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Submitting papers not written by the student is only the most blatant form of plagiarism. Plagiarism also includes, but is not limited to: copying another student’s work in exams, papers, or other exercises; inappropriate collaboration with another student; and verbatim copying, close paraphrasing, pasting in, or recombining published materials, including materials from the internet, without appropriate citation.”

This course adheres to departmental and University-wide definitions and policies on plagiarism, as laid out in Article 1, Part 4 of the Student Code, which may be found at <http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article1_part4_1-401.html>. All students should familiarize themselves with this part of the student code**. Please note that according to university guidelines “ignorance of a rule is never a defense.”** The instructor will diligently investigate any hint of practices that may violate Article 1, Part 4 of the Student Code, using all available means, including software and search engines designed to identify Internet-derived papers. **All forms of plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable and may result in AUTOMATIC FAILURE IN THE COURSE AND REFERRAL TO THE DEAN.**

**Special Needs**

Please let me know if there are any special circumstances or physical challenges that may affect your work so that I can facilitate your full participation in this section.

1. Behrooz Ghamari. “Hst 100 Course Syllabus.” University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Fall 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)