



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
SAN ANTONIO

Spring 2025

## **HIST 2322 World Civilizations II (23437)**

Monday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm  
Senator Frank L. Madla 203



**Instructor: Professor Zhaojin Zeng**

**Office:** Central Academic Building 313B

**Office hours:** MW 9:10-10:45 am or on Zoom by email appointment

**Email:** [zhaojin.zeng@tamusa.edu](mailto:zhaojin.zeng@tamusa.edu)

### **Course Description and Goals**

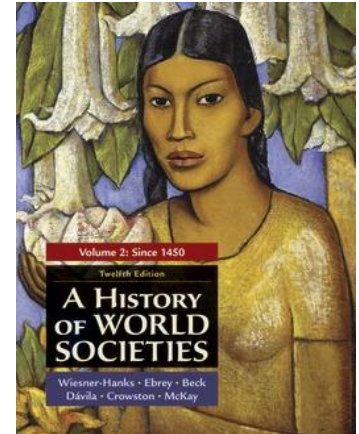
This course is an introductory survey of world history starting from the New World discovery c. 1500 and concluding in the current global age. Aimed at addressing macro-scale patterns as well as accommodating local narratives, this course enables students to treat world history as an approach to the past through to can pursue your own interest in various types of knowledge. This course is intended for undergraduate students in all majors. It not only provides background on globalization today but also reveals the contrasting processes of large-scale social interaction that take place rapidly (such as technology and migration) as compared with those that take place slowly (such as social and cultural values). For History majors, this course offers an initial step in the interactive and interdisciplinary study of the past that they will explore in more detail at more advanced undergraduate courses. For those considering a career in teaching or research, this course sets up a strong background for the world-history curriculum that is now taught in

most secondary schools and colleges. You may also consider pursuing this course for the purpose of preparing applications for graduate study in Law, Business, Public Policy, International Relations, and other humanities or social science disciplines.

## Course Texts and Resources

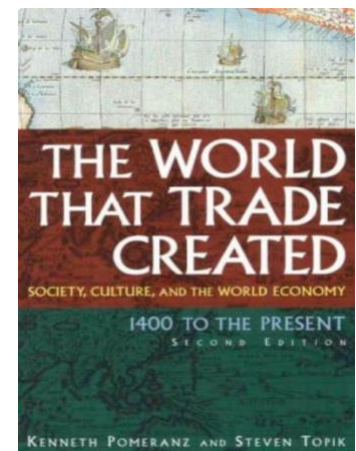
### 1. Required Textbook:

- Wiesner-Hanks, et al. *A History of World Societies, Volume 2 (Twelfth Edition)* United States, Bedford/Saint Martin's, 2020.
- Paperback ISBN: 9781319302467
- Value editions and earlier editions also work



### 2. Supplemental Materials:

- Kenneth Pomeranz and Steven Topik, *The World that Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy, 1400 to the Present*. New York: Routledge, 2018. [Recommended but not required to buy; selections used as optional readings]
- Some selected journal articles, newspaper reports, and book chapters are available in electronic format on Blackboard.



### 3. Additional Digital Resources

- World History for Us All: <https://whfua.history.ucla.edu>
- History World: <https://www.historyworld.net>

## Course Assignments & Grading

**1. Attendance (10%):** Students are required to attend all class meetings. Attendance for each class meeting is taken on a credit/non-credit basis in the formats of sign-up sheets, pop quizzes, and exit notes, among others. There is no make-up for missed attendance. Each absence results in a one-point deduction in your final grade. Exceptions can only be made with a doctor's note or other legitimate documentation for extreme conditions/causes.

**2. Class Participation (10%):** Students are required to fully engage in the class by asking and responding to questions, actively participating in discussions, carrying out group work, and performing other required class activities. The grade is based on the instructor's subjective, but very fair, evaluation of student involvement in class activities during the entire period of the course.

**3. Weekly Online Discussions and Quizzes (20%):** Students are required to follow the course schedule to complete online interactive quizzes and discussion questions, which will be posted on Blackboard each week starting Week 2. Quizzes and discussion questions for each week must be completed by the end of Friday. The total of your quiz and discussion scores will make 20% of your final grade.

**4. Primary Source Analysis Essay (20%):** An essay of 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman, standard margins, analyzing a piece of historical primary sources, which could be historical photographs, paintings, archives, documents, and video or audio recordings.

**5. Two In-Class Exams (40% total, 20% each):** In-class exam that contains identifications, multiple choices, short-answer questions, and other forms of questions. No make-up exams will be offered unless a legitimate and reasonable request, such as a medical emergency, is made BEFORE the exam. One exam will be held in the middle of the semester, and the other at the end of the semester. *Study guides* will be distributed beforehand to facilitate your exam preparation.

**\* Extra Credit Opportunities** (2 additional points towards final grade): In order to incentivize student participation in talks, lectures, or other extracurricular events on campus or in the city of San Antonio, one extra point, for each event you attend, will be given toward your final grade. Two points/events maximum for each student. Prior to attending the events, students need to consult by email and seek written approval from the professor. Upon returning from the extracurricular event, students will submit on Blackboard a 250-word report that briefly summarizes the event and shares your experience and thoughts.

**\* Final Grade Scale:**

A = 90 to 102, B = 80 to 89, C = 70 to 79, D = 60 to 69, F = 0 to 59.

\*Straight letter grades only, no plus or minus (+/-).

## Course Policies

**Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Counseling and Disability Support Services for the coordination of services. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact DSS at: (210) 784-1335.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

**Financial Aid & Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which includes class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

**Student Misconduct:** Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct. University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing

grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation. All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

**Course Writing Policy:** All assignments should be crafted originally and directly by students. In the meantime, all information/materials, created by others and then used in students' work, should be given credit to in the appropriate academic citation styles. Note that writing first in a language other than English and then having it translated into English through digital tools is prohibited.

**AI Policy** (Per University requirements, this course specifies the following rules regarding the use of generative AI tools, including but not limited to, GhatGPT, MS Bing, Google Bard): 1) Students should create original work for this course, and the use of AI can only be allowed when it serves as a *supplemental* tool for writing improvement, material/data locating, and other non-essential research processes. 2) AI-generated contents, as well as writings and sources created by others, should always be properly cited and acknowledged in your work; otherwise it is considered as plagiarism and violation of academic integrity. 3) If students do use AI tools in any process of their coursework, students must provide a detailed statement on how AI tools informed their research and writing process and the final product, including how you validated any AI-generated contents; this statement does not contribute to the word count of your assignments and does not automatically justify your use of AI tools. 4) The instructor reserves the right to request further information or reassign the assignment in the case of lack of transparency in the use of AI-generated contents in your work.

**Submission Policy.** Students need to follow the course instructions to submit all completed assignments, on time, to the correct places, online, in print, or in class, etc. *Submissions late for the first hour will be penalized for 5% deduction in grade and for 20% deduction if late between the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour and one day. Late assignments will NOT be accepted if submitted beyond 24 hours past the due time.*

**Grading.** Students wishing a reconsideration of their grades may consult the professor, and requests must be made by email within THREE days of the posting of the grades. In the case of regrading, assignments will be graded afresh. Grades may go up or down. Students should immediately inform the professor of any discrepancies between grades recorded on the course website and the grades they have received on assignments.

**Digital Device Policy or “No Screens” Policy.** On-screen distractions in class have become a besetting problem, frustrating other students and faculty alike. This course thus simply complies

with the History Department's "no screens" policy: *laptops or cellphones are NOT allowed to use during the class and must be stowed in your bags.* Students will be notified in advance if laptops will be needed during a particular session for a group activity, or to consult readings they may not have printed out.

**Communication Policy.** In-Class Communication: The physical or virtual classroom in this course also serves as an intellectual space for open and free academic conversations between class participants, which consist of the instructor and registered students. Visitors and audit/outside students can be allowed only if the instructor grants approval in advance. Recording, and spread to outside outlets of, class conversations in any way is strictly prohibited unless there is written permission from the instructor. Email Communication: E-mail me directly any questions or concerns that you might have in relation to your coursework. Please do NOT use the "send message" function on the Blackboard platform. All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have a Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at [sahelp@tamusa.edu](mailto:sahelp@tamusa.edu) or 210-784-4357

**Etiquette.** Please arrive on time. Please do not come and go during the class period. If you are unavoidably late, as a courtesy to the class, please enter quietly so as not to interfere with the concentration of other students.

## **Student Support and Resources**

**Student Academic Success Center:** The Student Academic Success Center takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. To contact the Center, call 210-784-1307.

**The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:** The center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges at Texas A&M-San Antonio. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. Email [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu) to make an appointment.

**TAMUSA Library:** Librarians from the Archives & Special Collections offer one on one research assistance by appointment for history students. Topics include brainstorming a topic, search techniques, or even citation help. Feel free to make an appointment with the librarian via the link: <https://tamusa.libcal.com/appointments?u=30503>



## Weekly Schedule

### **Week 1 (January 27) World History as An Analytical Approach**

**Review:** The syllabus is posted on Blackboard

**Watch:** David Christian's Ted Talk "[The history of our world in 18 minutes](#)"

**Optional Reading:** \* David Christian, "World History in Context" *Journal of World History* 14, no. 4 (Dec. 2003): 437-452.

### **Week 2 (February 3) The Acceleration of Global Contact, 1450-1600**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 16.

**Optional:** 1) David Christian, "World Environmental History" from *Oxford Handbook of World History*. 2) "Pearls in the Rubble: Rediscovering the Golden Age of Quanzhou, ca. 1000–1400" in *The World That Trade Created*

### **Week 3 (February 10) European Power Expansion and the Old Worlds, 1300-1750**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapters 17-18 (quickly browse ch.17)

**Optional:** 1) "hydraulic states/civilizations" <https://www.britannica.com/topic/hydraulic-civilization> 2) "When Asia Was the World Economy" in *The World That Trade Created*

### **Week 4 (February 17) New Worldviews and Ways of Life, 1540-1790**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapters 19-20 (quickly browse ch.20)

**Optional:** 1) "Empire on a Shoestring: British Adventurers and Indian Financiers in Calcutta, 1750–1850" in *The World That Trade Created*, 2) "Deals and Ordeals: World Trade and Early Modern Legal Culture" in *The World That Trade Created*

### **Week 5 (February 24) Revolutions in the Atlantic World, 1775-1825**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapters 21-22 (quickly browse ch.21)

**Optional:** "How the Other Half Traded" in *The World That Trade Created*

### **Week 6 (March 3) Exam I (taken in-class, closed book): TBD**

**Optional:** Sven Beckert's talk "[Empire of Cotton: Global Origins of Modern Capitalism](#)"

### **Week 7 - March 10 - 14: Spring Break – No Classes**

### **Week 8 (March 17) The Industrial Revolution, 1760-1850**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 23

**Optional:** "How Opium Made the World Go 'Round'" in *The World That Trade Created*

**Week 9 (March 24) Ideologies of Change in Europe, 1815-1914**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 24

**Optional:** “Sweet Industry: The First Factories” & “Why We Work So Hard: The Industrious Revolution and the Early Modern World” in *The World That Trade Created*

**Week 10 (March 31) Africa, the Ottoman Empire, and the New Imperialism, 1800-1914**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 25

**Optional:** “Clubs, Casinos, and Collapses: Sovereign Debt and Risk Management Since 1820” in *The World That Trade Created*

**Week 11 (April 7) Asia and the Pacific in the Era of Imperialism, 1800-1914**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 26

**Optional:** “From Court Bankers to Architects of the Modern World Market: The Rothschilds” in *The World That Trade Created*

**Friday, April 11, 11:59:59 pm: Assignment Primary Source Analysis - due on Blackboard**

**Week 12 (April 14) The Americas in the Age of Liberalism, 1810-1917**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 27

**Optional:** “Sideways Breakthroughs and Stalled Transitions: Crooked Paths from Coal to Oil, 1859–2012” in *The World That Trade Created*

**Week 13 (April 21) The Great World War and Revolution, 1914-1929**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapter 28

**Optional:** Watch Odd Arne Westad’s talk “[The Cold War: A New History](#)”

**Week 14 (April 28) The Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapters 29-30 (quickly browse chapter 29)

**Watch:** BBC Documentary: [History of the World in Two Hours](#)

**Week 15 (May 5) Decolonization, Revolution, and the Cold War, 1945-1991**

**Reading:** *A History of World Societies*, Chapters 31-32.

**Optional:** 1) “Epilogue: The World Economy in the Twenty-First Century” in *The World That Trade Created* 2) PBS Documentary [Trump’s Trade War](#) (2019)

**Week 16 Exam II (taken In-class, closed book): TBD**