

Grande Prairie Regional College

Dept. of Arts and Education

HII110: Introduction to Early Modern World History. **Fall 2007**

Times: Wednesdays and Fridays 1- 2:30pm. **Room:** E306A

Instructor: Dr. Duff Crerar **Office:** C404 **Office Hours:** TBA **Phone:** 539-2828 (office) **E-mail:** dcrerar@gprc.ab.ca

Introduction: The course is an introduction to global history, covering the major political, cultural, intellectual and economic development of the world from the fourteenth century through to 1815. Its goal is to provide a foundation for advanced study in history and related disciplines. Students will encounter a variety of historical documents (including original sources), identify critical issues for investigation, and practice both research and writing methods used in historical studies. The Instructor will provide assistance and mentoring as the students investigate the wide literature and diverse perspectives on our human past during the age of empires and the early colonialism. In this course, students will learn to construct and write their own critical and research essays. Keeping caught up with the readings and consistent attendance is essential for success in this course.

Texts: [GPRC Bookstore]

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, **The World: A History**, Volume B. Pearson Prentice Hall 2007. You also must buy The History Student Writer's Manual (Prentice Hall, 1998), a valuable guide to understanding both historical research and essay writing. *You will be using both texts on a regular and frequent basis.*

Note: You will not find Armesto's text in the Used Book sale but only in the bookstore. The Instructor advises all students to buy the new text rather than try to get by with used texts by other authors used in the past.

Course Outline: (Note: You need to come to class with the readings done for that class and good notes made, in order for you to do well on quizzes and when **I** ask **you** questions)

7 September: History Rules, and Rules of History

12 September: Cold Cases: Breakthroughs and Problems (**Writer's Manual, Part One**)

14 September: Hunters, Farmers, and City-States

19 September: Early World Religions and Empires (**Writer's Manual, Part Three**)

21 September: Empires and World Religions: First Contact

26 September: Medieval Crusades and Chinese Dynastic Cultures (**World, 372-407**)

28 September: The Mongolian Crisis in Eurasia (**World, 410-440**)

3 October: The Plague Years (**World, 440-479**)

5 October: A Planetary Ecological Crisis and its effects (**Writer's Manual, Part Four, Sects. 9-10**)

10 October: Technological Change: the Shipping News

NB Research Proposals Due!

12 October: Rise of the Predator: the Military Revolution and Europe (**Writer's Manual, Parts Two and Four, Sections 11-12**)

17 October: African and North American indigenous empires (**World, 480-527**)

19 October: European and Eurasian Empires ascending

24 October: **Mid-Term Test**

26 October: Empire by Sea (**World, 528-545**)

NB: Research Papers Due!

31 October: Empire by Land (**World, 546-563**)

2 November: The Great Ecological Exchange (**World, 564-581**)

7 November: The Spanish Empire and its imitators (**World, 586-597**)

9 November: The Reformation: Protestantism (**World, 598-620**)

14 November: The Catholic Reformation (**World, 621-633**)

16 November: The Revolution in Science

21 November: Absolutism and Constitutionalism (**World, 634-671**)

NB: Review Essays Due!

23 November: Alternatives and Parallels: Turkey, India, Persia and Japan (**World, 672-701**)

28 November: Problems in the East: the Asian states Falter (**World, 702-713**)

30 November: Agony in the West: The Slave Trade (**World, 714-735**)

5 December: The Atlantic Revolutions: Ideas (**World, 736-750**)

7 December: Fire in the Minds of Men: The French Revolution (**World, 751-767**)

Requirements and Grading:

Mid-term Test: written in class	20%
Historical Article Review 1,000 words	20%
Major Research Essay (approximately 2000 words)	30%
Final Exam: written in December during exam sessions	30%

Warning:

Late assignments will be penalized *heavily* for each week they are late unless there is a compelling *written* reason. I must have **all** assignments handed in on time, **or else I will**

not provide a mark. The only way to get extensions is to “buy” your extra time with the coupon system I have devised. “Spend” your time wisely!

Research Paper:

History has plenty of controversies and debates. Every scholar wants to get into the arguments with their explanations based on their own research. Your mission is to identify one of these topics of interest, briefly explain how certain scholars have approached it, and justify your own thesis, based on your own reading and thinking. The essay is to be no less than 2000 words, and have correct reference and citation documentation according to the **University of Chicago Style format**. This is all explained in the book by Marius and Page. To do this you will need to read and make good notes on **at least 5** historical authors (either in books or peer-reviewed articles), as well as other sources your professor may suggest. You will need to come up with some background on the topic, how other historians have covered it, and how your proposition (your THESIS), backed by your research, differs, agrees, or rejects their ideas for some theory of your own. You must look ahead over the course, and have your topic proposal, a sample bibliography and a “line of inquiry” ready for my approval, to be handed in on the Wednesday, 3 October. ***No essay will be accepted without my pre-approval!***

Article Review Essay:

You will find in the Library or select from an accredited on-line database a variety of historical periodicals (academic magazines or journals) filled with articles on a wide variety of topics in the history of the planet. Choose ONE of these articles (from the time period and region of the planet covered in the course) and submit a 1,000 word, double-spaced, typed critical review of the thesis, argument and use of evidence by the historian who wrote the article. Your paper should identify the historical problem, its key features, and how the historian advances our knowledge of the problem. You should also include why or why not you would recommend this article to future students for their research essays.

Attendance: I do not give specific credit for attendance and participation, however, I do have students sign in each class, and my research and experience demonstrates that students who attend over 75% of my classes with the reading done in advance do very well in assignments and examinations. If you intend to be one of those who attend less frequently, well... *you'd better be good!*

Key Dates for you to keep track of!

19 Sept. Last Day to change course registrations without financial penalty

28 September: Last Day to pay fall fees

10 October: Essay Proposals Due!

24 October: MID TERM TEST

26 October: Research Papers Due!

2 November: Last Day to drop a course or switch to audit without receiving an F in December.

21 November: Critical Essays Due!