

**History 510: Approaches to Modern World History**  
**Spring 2008**  
**Thompson Hall, 112**

Professor Joan Bristol  
Department of History and Art History  
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Office Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3 and by appointment

This course will examine various approaches to the study of world history. We will read texts that exemplify trends in world history and we will discuss their authors' methodologies, sources, theoretical underpinnings, and ways of defining the world. Readings will include theoretical work and case studies, as well as books aimed at scholarly and popular audiences.

**Assignments:**

Participation in class discussions: 25%

Blog entries: 45%

The address for the class blog is <http://history510.blogspot.com/>. You will receive an email inviting you to join the blog and you must have a Google account to join. You will post at least ten times over the course of the semester. The posts should be **at least 250 words** (approximately 1 double-spaced page). In your posts you may discuss interesting issues raised in the readings, you may ask thoughtful questions, or you may relate the week's readings to other readings that we have done. The posts should deal with issues relating to this class, however. **If you are not the first poster you must respond to or take into account at least one of the posts that were entered before yours (preferably more)**. All posts should be on the blog by **Monday at 6 pm. You must have done at least four posts by March 4**. I will then give you a cumulative grade so you know how you're doing.

Final essay: 30%

**Class policies:**

No eating in class (you may drink in class)

Turn off cell phones

Late policy: Blog entries must be posted by 6 pm Monday evening. You are free to post after that but late posts will not be counted towards the ten required posts. If, at the end of the semester, you have not posted 10 entries, you will lose 25 points off your final blog grade. The final essay must be placed in my mailbox in the Department of History and Art History, Robinson B 359, by May 12 **at noon**. If you do not hand it in then you must email me immediately to arrange handing it in. There will be a penalty for late papers.

**Books (available at the GMU bookstore and elsewhere):**

Abu-Lughod, Janet, *Before European Hegemony*

Austin Alchon, Suzanne, *A Pest in the Land*

Braudel, Fernand, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II, Vol. 1*

Crosby, Alfred, *Columbian Exchange*

Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

Frank, Andre Gunder, *Reorient*

Ho, Enseng, *The Graves of Tarim*

Kurlansky, Mark, *Salt*

Mintz, Sidney, *Sweetness and Power*  
Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*  
Thornton, John, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1600*  
Wallerstein, Immanuel, *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*  
Wolf, Eric, *Europe and People Without History*

**Part 1: World as System**

January 22: Introduction

January 29: Immanuel Maurice Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis*

February 5: Andre Gunder Frank, *Reorient*

**Part 2: Colonialism**

February 12: Eric R. Wolf, *Europe and People Without History*

**Part 3: Oceans**

February 19: Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II, Vol. 1*

February 26: Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*

March 4: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*  
*You should have posted to the class blog at least 4 times by today.*

March 11: Spring break, no class

**Part 4: Diasporas:**

March 18: John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800*

March 25: Engseng Ho, *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean*

**Part 5: Commodities:**

April 1: Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power*

April 8: Mark Kurlansky, *Salt*

**Part 6: Microbes**

April 15: Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

April 22: Suzanne Austin Alchon, *A Pest in the Land*

April 29: Alfred Crosby, *Columbian Exchange*  
*Final essay questions are handed out today.*

**FINAL ESSAYS DUE MAY 12 AT NOON IN MY MAILBOX IN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF HISTORY AND ART HISTORY, ROBINSON B 359.**