

HH4016 Topics in World History
Nanyang Technological University
Semester 1, AY2022/23
Syllabus (draft)

This syllabus remains a work in progress

Academic Year 2022-23 Semester 1
Course Coordinator: Dr Lin Qi Feng (qflin@ntu.edu.sg)
Pre-requisites: None
No of AUs: 4
Contact Hours: 52 (weekly seminars of 4 hours)
Schedule: TBC
Location: LHS-TR+55 (at level 3 of the Hive)

Course Aims

Topics in World History introduces you to the diverse range of topics examined in world history, the key scholars, the main fields of study, multiple approaches, and geographical foci of works published on the subject. This advanced level course is structured as a reading course in which students engage closely with the weekly texts at a detailed level. Having taken the course, you can identify the different schools of thought and the key scholars in these schools, what sources these scholars used, how they used their sources, what arguments they made, and evaluate and critique their theses. By participating in the critical reading and examination of the scholars and their works, you will learn the craft of designing research questions, and constructing hypotheses which they can attempt to test, and producing strong arguments for their research papers.

1 Assessment

Component	Course LO Tested	Weighting	Due
1. In-Class Participation	1, 2, 3	10%	NA
2. Reading Responses	1, 2	12%	Every week before class
3. Individual presentation of a book	1, 2, 3	23%	Scheduled accordingly

4. Annotated bibliography	1, 2, 3, 4	15%	During Recess Week
5. Research Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	40%	After teaching has ended
		100%	

1.1 In-Class Participation: 10%

In-class participation is an important component of the course. Since you would have read the readings and responded to them, discussing the readings and topics will not be difficult. Your in-class participation grades will be determined by your attendance, punctuality, and your contribution to classroom discussion. If you have to miss a class for any reason, you are to notify me in advance by email. Please note that unexcused and repeated absences will negatively affect your grade.

1.2 Eight Weekly Responses (12%, 1.5% Each)

Each week you are to submit your views on each reading in at least two sentences *each*. You will have more than eight weeks to accumulate eight weekly responses.

Work Flow for a typical teaching week

1. Read the readings
2. Submit your reading response in NTULearn, **by the day before at 1800**. The reading response consists of two parts:
 - a. Share your views *on each reading* in *at least* two to three sentences. You are welcome to write more.
 - b. Share *at least* one question which you would like the class to discuss. You are welcome to pose more questions.

Completing the readings will ensure that you get the most out of the class and put you in good stead when writing your research paper.

Here are some details:

- a. Each week's reading response will be worth 1.5 marks. To relieve your stress and facilitate my grading, you will be awarded either 1.5 marks if your response meet the requirement above or zero marks if you do not submit at all or if your responses fall short of the requirements.
- b. Late submissions will not be considered for the sake of fairness.
- c. There will be more than eight opportunities for you to submit eight responses.
- d. If I do not raise your questions in class for discussion, do not panic. It is not a reflection on the "correctness" of your questions. Refer to point a above.

1.3 Individual Presentation of a Book (23%)

Each student will deliver a **20-minute** presentation on an academic book from the list of supplementary readings. After the presentation has ended, students are also required to briefly comment on their classmates' reading responses.

Please refer to the **rubric**.

An Important Note: First, preparation for a good presentation of a book requires more time and effort than you think. Please start preparing for your presentation at least three weeks in advance. If you are scheduled to present during a particular week, make sure you are fully prepared and physically well.

If you miss your opportunity to present, you will most likely not get it again and hence will score nothing (23%). See Section 6, "Concerning the Use of Medical Certificates".

You are more than welcome to look for books to present. The suggested titles here are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

1.4 Annotated Bibliography

Each student should hand in one piece of annotated bibliography in preparation for the final research paper. This should be submitted in a word document to Turnitin by 2359pm on **during the Recess Week**.

The annotated bibliography contains a mix of secondary and primary sources.

- i. A **250-word abstract** of the project.
- ii. A list of **4 secondary sources** that you have read thus far (approximately 50 words per source). Please include 1-2 sentences on each source outlining its scope and why it is useful for your research paper.
- iii. A list of **2 primary sources with analysis** (300-400 words per source).
 - a) Contextualize: Provide an analysis of the author and audience of the text. What background does the author come from? Who does the text address? What is the viewpoint or agenda of the author?
 - b) Connect: Analyze the primary sources in light of your research question.
 - c) I would recommend against significant quotes from the source, as this will not allow you enough space to analyze it.

1.5 Research Paper

Each student is expected to hand in one piece of written work. This is a research essay of no less than 3,000 words and no more than 4,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography). This should be submitted in a word document to Turnitin by 2359pm **shortly after teaching has ended**.

The paper must

1. Use primary sources
2. Engage with theories we have covered during the course.
3. Engage with secondary sources (articles, books, including those encountered in class).

Please refer to the **rubric**.

2 Plagiarism Policy

All assignments should be original work, consistent with the university's anti-plagiarism rules. Papers will be evaluated on rigour and depth of research, clarity and concision of writing, proper footnoting, and list of works cited using Chicago referencing style.

3 Late Policy

For each day for which an assignment is late, **15%** will be deducted from the overall marks. For example, an assignment that is late by a day will be graded out of 85%, while one that is late by two days will be graded out of 70%. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please refer to the university's leave policy for undergraduates.

4 Concerning the Use of Medical Certificates

Medical Certificates (MCs) are not "get out of jail free" cards. The presentation of a medical certificate does not automatically excuse an absence or late work. Depending on circumstances, I will usually ask you to complete additional work to make up for your absence or late work.

Readings

There are two books we will read:

McNeill, John Robert, and William Hardy McNeill. 2003. *The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Wright, Ronald. 2004. *A Short History of Progress*. Toronto: Anansi.

References

Bentley, Jerry H., ed. 2011. *The Oxford Handbook of World History*: Oxford University Press.

The Cambridge World History is a series containing nine volumes:

<https://www.cambridge.org/remotexs.ntu.edu.sg/core/series/cambridge-world-history/A705EC90261EE6FE5976108DAA2A2B40>

Course Schedule

Week 1 What is World History?

McNeill, John Robert, and William Hardy McNeill. 2003. *The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Week 2 The Long 19th Century

Osterhammel, Jürgen. 2014. *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*. Translated by Patrick Camiller. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Week 3 Progress

Wright, Ronald. 2004. *A Short History of Progress*. Toronto: Anansi.

Nisbet, Robert A. 1980. *History of the Idea of Progress*. New York: Basic Books.

Bury, J. B. 1955. *The Idea of Progress: An Inquiry Into Its Origin and Growth*. New York: Dover Publications.

Week 4 Ukrainian History as World History, 1917-2017

2017 Lecture by Timothy D. Snyder, Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Glhke6e2Io&ab_channel=IWMVienna](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Glhke6e2Io&ab_channel=IWMVienna)

We will watch this video and come to class to discuss it.

Heng, Thiam Soon, Derek, and Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied, eds. 2011. *Singapore in Global History*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. Selection

Week 5 Migration

Bunnell, Tim. 2016. *From World City to the World in One City: Liverpool through Malay Lives*. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley.

Week 6 Slavery

Required

Bradley, Keith, Paul Cartledge, David Eltis, and Stanley Engerman, eds. 2011. *The Cambridge World History of Slavery*. 4 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Selection

Seijas, Tatiana. 2014. *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico: From Chinos to Indians*, Cambridge Latin American studies ; 100. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

<http://assets.cambridge.org/97811070/63129/cover/9781107063129.jpg>.

Week 7 Counter-Factual History

Tetlock, Philip E., Richard Ned Lebow, and Geoffrey Parker. 2006. *Unmaking the West: "What-If?" Scenarios that Rewrite World History*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Selection

Week 8 World Environmental History

Hughes, J. Donald. 2005. "The Greening of World History." In *Palgrave Advances in World Histories*, edited by Marnie Hughes-Warrington, 238–255. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK. doi: 10.1057/9780230523401_11.

Week 9 The Cosmic Perspective

Swimme, Brian, and Mary Evelyn Tucker. 2011. *Journey of the Universe*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Christian, David. 2011. *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Swimme, Brian, and Thomas Berry. 1992. *The Universe Story: From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era; A Celebration of the Unfolding of the Cosmos*. 1st ed, ISSR Library. San Francisco: Harper.

We will watch the documentary *Journey of the Universe* (2011)

Week 10 Southeast Asia

Alatas, Hussein Syed. (1977) 2013. *The Myth of the Lazy Native: A Study of the Image of the Malays, Filipinos and Javanese from the 16th to the 20th Century and Its Function in the Ideology of Colonial Capitalism*. London: Routledge.

Lockard, Craig A. 2009. *Southeast Asia in World History*, The new Oxford world history. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 11 TBC

Week 12 TBC

Week 13 TBC