Most history courses look at events and processes that took place within particular countries or societies. This course begins with a look at how the "Modern West" came to dominate the rest of the world. It looks at how much the "West" depended on the rest of the world for its success and suggests the temporary nature of that domination. The bulk of the course then looks at the world before "Western" domination, tracking some of the ways in which societies and cultures interacted with each other from around 1200 CE to about 1700. We look at some of their differing adaptations to physical context, the mechanisms and narratives of contact, and changing "Western" perceptions of those contacts and their outcomes. Part of the story is the larger context of "non human" factors that affected everyone, particularly geography, disease, and climate. All of these seem to accelerated after about 1200, leading to a technological and industrial revolution that gave the "West" a temporary dominance.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT BOOK STORE. CHECK ALSO AMAZON.COM FOR CHEAPER USED COPIES: (These books have also been placed on Reserve at the Geisel Library)

Available Amazon new $30.33. 40 used & new from $ 20
ISBN 0-19-507640-0

Amazon List Price: $29.95. 33 used & new available from $16.59
ISBN 0-7914-1702-6

Amazon List Price: $19.95. 28 used & new available from $8.90

Amazon List Price: $22.99, discounted: $19.82. 31 used & new available from $13.98.
ISBN 0-521-45690-8
Amazon: $29.99 27 Used & new from $19.80

Amazon: $19.77 44 Used & new from $16.00

GRADING: EACH OF THE THREE REQUIRED PAPERS WILL COUNT 30% OF THE GRADE. THE REMAINING 10% WILL BE BASED ON CLASS PARTICIPATION. In compiling the final grade I will toss out the weakest of the paper grades. To get a passing grade in the course, a student must make a good faith effort at all written assignments. You cannot omit one paper and assume that that will earn an F which will be averaged with the other two grades.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1  Jan 7-9-11
Framing the world: Challenging the idea of the modern “West”
Read: Hobson, chs. 9, 10, 11 (pp. 190-242)

Week 2  Jan 14 Martin Luther King Day/no class
Jan 16-18  AND
Week 3  Jan 21-23-25
Dynamics of the pre-modern World
Read: Hobson, chs. 1-5 (pp. 1-115)
Bentley, chs. 1-3 (pp. 3-110)

Week 4  Jan 26-30-Feb 1
First paper due Feb. 1
Nomads and Mongols
Read: Morgan, chs. 2-7 (pp. 30-173)
Bentley, ch. 4 (pp. 111-164)

Week 5  Feb 4-6  (Feb 8 no class) AND
Week 6  Feb 11-13  (Feb 15 no class)
Europe and the Age of Great Empires
Read: Brummett, all (pp. 1-182)
Morgan, ch. 8 (pp. 174-180)
Hobson, chs. 6-8 (pp. 116-189)

Week 7  Feb 18 (Presidents day/no class)-20-22
Second paper due Feb. 22
Week 8  Feb 25-27-Mar 1
Connecting America and Afro-EurAsia: Silver, Disease, Land
Read: Calloway, all (pp. 1-198)
Week 9  Mar 4-6-8
Climate, Biology, Disease – What Humans Could Not Control
Read: Crosby, all (especially chs. 4-11)

Week 10 Mar 11-13-15
Retrospective: Is the wave of Western power over?
Read: Hobson, ch. 13 (pp. 294-322)

Final Exam Date: Friday, March 17, 2008, 3-6 pm. There is no final exam, but the third paper is due by the start of the scheduled exam period.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. At the end of the 4th week, each student will submit a short paper (3-5 pages, 12-point type, and one-inch margins). The topic will be based on Hobson and/or Bentley and selected from three choices to be provided. (30%)

2. At the end of the 7th week, each student will submit a short paper (3-5 pages, 12-point type, and one-inch margins). The topic will be based on Morgan and/or Brummett and selected from three choices to be provided. (30%)

3. The final exercise will consist of a short paper (3-5 pages, 12-point type, and one-inch margins). The topic will be based on Calloway and/or Crosby and selected from three choices to be provided. (30%) This paper will be due during exam week, with the absolute last time for submission being 3 pm on Friday, March 17 (The beginning of our scheduled final exam period.)

Alternative topics may be negotiated (in advance) with the instructor.

To get a passing grade in the course, a student must make a good faith effort at all three written assignments. You cannot omit one task and assume an F will be averaged with the other two grades.