Welcome to World History. This course does not intend to cover all of the world’s history. Rather, it explores global themes and phenomena that shaped and influenced the creation of today’s world. We will examine major processes and interactions in the development of human society since the development of agriculture some 10,000 years ago. By revealing the interconnectedness of past human societies, especially by emphasizing how these connections influenced events and peoples, this course stresses the global framework of history as well as providing an awareness of the foundation of today’s world. As a survey we will focus not only on these world historical patterns, but also on critical skills: developing an argument, evaluating evidence, analyzing written and visual documents. Hopefully, the course will challenge you intellectually, provide you a solid foundation in world history, and improve your analytical skills. Ideally, you will find the course fun.

Course Structure:

**Lectures:** Lectures will provide the basic narrative and main line of argument. Questions are welcome during lecture. Since we only have 50 minutes, class must start on time. Please arrive promptly for class, prepared to begin, and with your cell phone off.

**Recitation:** Recitation provides you a period to think and analyze the information you are learning in this course. As a discussion, this requires your active participation and coming to class well prepared. During discussion, please be respectful of your classmates’ thoughts, questions, and comments. Remember, this is an academic forum designed to develop our thinking skills; rudeness, tardiness, or other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any student asked to leave discussion will be marked as absent. *More than 3 absences will significantly lower your grade.*

Course Requirements:

**Reading:** In this course, you must keep up on the readings, most of which are designed to complement rather than replace lectures. The readings are an assortment of primary sources found as PDF files on courseweb as well as several books. Some of you will find that doing the reading before lecture will offer greater context and understanding; others that you prefer the information of lecture first. Regardless, students are expected to have finished their assigned reading before their recitation period to effectively participate in any discussions. Further, read actively. As with your entire college education, the more intellectual
energy you put into the course and assignments, the more you will get out of it. Merely going through the exercises and readings perfunctorily, without thinking about the text and yourself, will be boring and offer you little. Instead, find time to think and engage with the reading and assignments.

**Essay:** You will write an essay analyzing one of the two monographs we will read this semester. All essays must be uploaded into safeassign in addition to handing in a hardcopy to your TA. A late essay will be docked one letter grade for each 24 hour period after the due date.

**Quizzes:** During the semester you will have 4 short quizzes. The quiz will take a term or quotation from a reading and you must identify it and explain its significance in the context of world history. These quizzes will be worth 5 points each of your total grade and will help prepare you for the IDs and larger essays on the exams.

**Exams:** During exams no cell phones or other electronic devices will be allowed. All exams will take place on the scheduled date, except for valid scheduling conflicts where an explicit arrangement must be made in advance (such as a family emergency, illness, or final exam scheduling conflict). In the case of a document emergency it is the student’s responsibility to provide notification as soon as possible.

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance Policy:** Regular and prompt attendance is required. More than three absences from your recitation section will result in a reduction of your final grade. Arriving late and leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

**Technology:** Laptops for taking notes are welcome. However, any technology found to be disruptive to class, either to myself or fellow students, will be prohibited. Silence your cell phones and avoid texting during class. NO cell phones or laptops will be allowed during quizzes or exams.

**Policy on “Late Withdrawals”:** In accordance with university policy, Appeals for Late Withdrawal will be approved ONLY in cases of medical emergency and similar crises.

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. *Any student found guilty will FAIL the entire course.* Students should familiarize themselves with the published policies accessible at [http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html](http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html)

**Note on Disabilities:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Blackboard:** Blackboard™ is an online software tool that facilitates interaction and communication among all members of the class. Access to the Blackboard
website for HIST 0700 will be limited to those enrolled in the course. Please familiarize yourself with Blackboard as soon as possible by visiting the following portal: http://courseweb.pitt.edu. Help with Blackboard is available 24 hours a day from the technology help desk. Call them at 412-624-4357, or visit them online at http://technology.pitt.edu/tech_help.html. In this course we will use Courseweb to:

- Post the syllabus
- Post document readings
- Announce any changes

**Grading:**
Participation 10%
Quizzes (4) 20%
Essay 20%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 30%

**Texts:** These texts are all on reserve at the library.
Beah, *A Long Way Gone*
Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange*
Brook, *Vermeer’s Hat*
Gordon, *When Asia Was the World*
Ponting, *A New Green History of the World*
Rediker, *The Slave Ship*

**Other Readings:** DOC- These are PDF files found on the courseweb site.
Week 1
Aug 30 What is History?
Sept 1 Myths as Origins
Read: “Myths” DOC
Week 2 Settlements
Sept 6 NO Class
Sept 8 First Great Transition
Read: Ponting 1-66; Manning DOC.
Week 3: Spread of Civilizations
Sept 13 Early Patterns: Spread of Writing, Technology, and Trade
Sept 15 Early Empires
Read: Bernstein, 20-76; Ponting 67-86; “Women and Empires” DOC
Week 4 Cultural Exchange
Sept 20 Silk Road
Sept 22 Islam
Read: Gordon 1-96; Whitfield DOC
Week 5 An Asian World
Sept 27: The Mongols
Sept 29: China
Read: Gordon 97-136; Bernstein 77-151; Mongol DOC
Week 6 Discoveries and Exchanges
Oct 4 Indian City States and the Portuguese
Oct 6 Columbian Exchange
Read: Gordon 137-192; Bernstein 151-197; “First Contact” DOC
Week 7 The Americas
Oct 12 Silver Flows and Empires [NOTE: Monday classes meet on Tuesday]
Oct 13 Midterm Exam
Read: Ponting 87-115; Begin Vermeer’s Hat, 1-116; “How to read a Secondary Source” DOC
Week 8 The New Global World
Oct 18 An Interconnected World?: Cultural Exchange
Oct 20 Piracy
Read: Bernstein 198-213; Vermeer’s Hat, 117-230
Week 9 Power
Oct 25 Corporations
Oct 27 Slave Trade
Read: Bernstein 214-279; Rediker, The Slave Ship, “Slave Trade and Abolition” DOC
Week 10 Revolutions and citizenship
Nov 1 Abolition
Nov 3 Rights and the Nation
Read: Finish, The Slave Ship; “Rights” DOC
Week 11 A New World Order?
Nov 8 Second Great Transition
Nov 10 Science
Read: Bernstein 280-337; Ponting 265-313
ESSAYS DUE in Recitation
Week 12 Empire and Defining Peoples
Nov 15 Imperialism
Nov 17 Resistance and remaining powers
Read: Ponting 137-264; Empire Doc
Read: An ABC for Baby Patriots http://ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?m=hd1J&i=108500
Week 13 War
Nov 22 A World at War
THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week 14 Creating the 20th Century
Nov 29 Decolonization
Dec 1 What’s a crime?: Genocide and Human Rights
Read: A Long Way Gone, Ponting 314-379; “Universal” DOC
Week 15 The New World
Dec 6 Megacities and the Environment
Dec 8 Conclusion
Read: Ponting 380-423
Final Exam: Wednesday December 15th 10-11:50am.