

**HISTORY 1050
THE MODERN WORLD**

WINTER SESSION 2020-2021 (Online)

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**

Professor: Jason R. Ambroise

Contact Info: ambroisej@wpunj.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides broad coverage of the formation of the so-called “modern world.” It traces the political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual developments and interactions among the principal regions of the world – Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas – from the early modern period to our contemporary era. In doing so, the course addresses the issue of what made the “modern world” so *modern* (i.e., unique and different) in the first place. Topics include the formation of the modern Western world-system; the voyages of Western-European expansion; the formation of Atlantic slavery; the Enlightenment era; the industrial revolution; colonialism; the anti-colonial movements; the Fifties/Sixties social movements; contemporary globalization; global warming, climate change, and global inequality; to name a few.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook on Blackboard (provided in the “Course Material” section)

Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*

Other Documents on Blackboard (provided in the “Course Material” section)

You will also have a series of short readings, mostly in PDF format. These additional readings are relevant to the topic for each Unit. Make sure you have PDF reading software on your computer to access these documents.

COURSE GRADING SCALE:

A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F<60

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PARTICIPATION in Discussion Units — 77 total points
FINAL PAPER due Sunday, January 17, 2021 — 23 points

NOTE: YOUR FINAL GRADE is the cumulative addition of all points you have earned for each assignment.

PARTICIPATION:

DISCUSSION BOARD RULES:

Discussion Unit questions can be found in the “Discussions” section of Blackboard. The amount of writing required for each Unit is approximately 1 and 1/2 pages, single-spaced, unless otherwise noted. Your Participation grade for the course is the sum total of the points you receive for each Discussion Unit. You are required to post at least two (2) responses per Discussion Unit – a 1st Post and a 2nd Post. In the Assignments section of Blackboard, you will find a “Sample 1st Post” and a “Sample 2nd Post.” Read through them. Your responses should be modeled on these examples. Each earned full credit.

1st Post Rules

The 1st Post will be graded on a scale of 0-5, with “zero” being the lowest score and “five” being the highest. Late posts will result in a 1-point deduction in your discussion unit grade for each day your post is late.

The 1st Post contains your answer to my discussion question. Your 1st Post must be at least 1 (one) page in length, single-spaced, Times font, and 12-point size. Type your response into Microsoft Word with these specifications and then cut and paste into Blackboard. You may write more than the 1-page length requirement. The 1st Post is always due by 11:59pm on the date noted in the Discussion Unit question in the “Discussions” section of Blackboard.

The 1st Post response must be based on information from the assigned readings for that Discussion Unit. Thus, you will be graded primarily on content. The readings are listed below in the “Course Timeline” section of the syllabus and can be found in the “Course Material” section of Blackboard.

In your 1st Post, you must show that you have read and interacted with the assigned readings. To do this, you are required to cite or reference the page numbers in parentheses for the information that you use from the readings to answer the Discussion Unit question. Page numbers must be cited for BOTH quoted and unquoted information taken from the readings. No outside readings can be used in answering your 1st Post.

2nd Post Rules

The 2nd Post will be graded on a scale of 0-2, with “zero” being the lowest score and “two” being the highest. Late posts will result in a 1-point deduction in your discussion unit grade for each day your post is late.

The 2nd Post contains a commentary of another student’s 1st Post. The 2nd Post must be at least ½ page in length, single-spaced, Times font, and 12-point size. Type your response into Microsoft Word with these specifications and then cut and paste into Blackboard. You may write more than the ½ page length requirement. The second post is always due the date after the 1st Post by 11:59pm, as noted in the Discussion Unit question in the “Discussions” section of Blackboard.

If you have trouble meeting the ½ page length requirement for the 2nd Post, then feel free to comment on more than one student’s 1st Post. In this case, the total amount of writing for your 2nd Posts must add up to ½ page minimum. You may include relevant outside readings in your 2nd Post commentary.

DISCUSSION BOARD GRADING:

1. Point deductions will occur when you do the following:
 - a) fail to meet the length requirement;
 - b) fail to answer all aspects of the discussion question;
 - c) fail to cite page numbers from the readings in their 1st Post;
 - d) only cite and use information from a few pages of the assigned reading, as opposed to discussing information from throughout the entire reading;
 - e) fail to draw information from all the assigned readings, when more than one reading is assigned for a specific unit;
 - f) include outside material in their 1st Post;
 - g) submit late posts. Remember, a one-point deduction will occur for each day a post is late.

2. The quality of your presentation (i.e., grammar, sentence structure, and spelling) will also be considered in the grading. Reason being, if the reader is unable to

understand your ideas because of the quality of your writing, then you have failed to convey those ideas clearly. Your writing, therefore, should be close to essay quality.

FINAL PAPER:

Due Sunday, January 17, 2021, by 11:59pm: For the Final Paper, simply take one of your discussion unit 1st Posts and turn it into a longer paper. The Final Paper should be a minimum of 4 full pages (top to bottom) in length, double-spaced, size 12-point, in Times font.

Outside Sources: You are not required to use outside sources. All the reading material can come strictly from the assigned readings. But if you do want to use outside material, you must let me know which sources you intend to use via email by Wednesday, January 13, 2021. I will then send you an email letting you know if those sources are okay to use by Thursday, January 14, 2021. **There is no guarantee that I will approve your proposed outside sources.** You cannot use Wikipedia.

References and Bibliography: For references, if you only use the assigned readings, just put the author's last name and page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence for references. For instance, for the textbook, the format will be ... (Reilly, 276). If you use outside sources, the reference format is the same. But you will also have to include at the end of your paper a "Bibliography" for the outside sources. If you use internet sources (like the nytimes.com, democracynow.org, etc.), then for references just cut and paste in parentheses at the end of the sentence the full weblink used. And for listing internet sources in the "Bibliography," cut and paste the full weblink (but not in parentheses).

UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Violations of the university's academic integrity policy – which includes copying or paraphrasing another student's ideas and work – will result in the failure of the assignment and potentially the course. See WPU's policy for other academic integrity violations and consequences on the link below.

<https://www.wpunj.edu/human-resources/faculty-and-professional-staff-handbook/academic-integrity-policy-for-students.html>

WINTER 2020-2021 CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES:

For important Winter 2020-2021 administrative dates and holidays, including withdrawal deadlines with and without refunds, see the following link.

<https://www.wpunj.edu/registrar/calendars/>

COURSE TIMELINE:

INTRODUCTION UNIT: beginning Monday, December 28, 2020:

• Introduce yourselves to your fellow students in the “Week 1: Introduction” discussion board assignment. The “Introductory Unit” has no minimum or maximum length requirement and is worth 7 free points.

UNIT 1: beginning Wednesday, December 30, 2020:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Chronological Table of a Unified World,” 124-125.
- “Preview of the Period: 1500-1800,” 3-21.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Self and Society: Individuality and Modernity,” 23-39.

UNIT 2: beginning Saturday, January 2, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Race and Racism: Color and Slavery,” 41-71.
- “Skin Color Adaptation” >> http://anthro.palomar.edu/adapt/adapt_4.htm

UNIT 3: beginning Sunday, January 3, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Politics and Morality: Secular States and Middle Classes,” 73-100.

UNIT 4: beginning Tuesday, January 5, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Work and Exchange,” Capitalism vs. Tradition,” 101-123.

UNIT 5: beginning Wednesday, January 6, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Chronological Table of the Industrial World: 1800-1914,” 263-265.

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Preview of the Period,” 127-141.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Energy and Environment: Industry and Capitalism,” 143-158.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Economics and Revolution: Socialism and Capitalism,” 159-178.

UNIT 6: beginning Friday, January 8, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Race and Class: The United States and South Africa,” 181-203.

UNIT 7: beginning Saturday, January 9, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Nationalism and Internationalism: Imperialism and Independence,” 205-242.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Chronological Table of a Divided World: 1914-1945,” 322-323.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Preview of the Period: 1914-1945,” 269-277.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Nationalism and Communism: Revolution and Independence,” 279-298.

UNIT 8: beginning Monday, January 11, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Individual and Society: Freedom and Authority,” 299-321.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Preview of the Period: 1945-Present,” 327-339.
- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Industry and Capitalism: Markets and Governments,” 341-358.

UNIT 9: beginning Tuesday, January 12, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Ecology and Resources,” 359-380.

UNIT 10: beginning Thursday, January 14, 2021:

- Kevin Reilly, *The West and the World*, “Identity and Global Culture: Nation and World,” 381-399.

FINAL PAPER: due Sunday, January 17, 2021:

- Submit in the “Final Paper Drop-Box” in the Assignments section of Blackboard by 11:59pm on January 17, 2021.