I. Course Description and Goals

Q: “What is this course about?”

At first glance, the prospect of a course about the last five centuries of world history may seem absurd. How could any class offer coverage of five hundred years? What would “coverage” even mean in this context? What or whom would the class include and exclude? Rather than brushing these questions aside, this class puts them front and center in a wide-ranging, eclectic exploration of the world's history since roughly 1500.

Students in this course will develop a more critical perspective on the different ways in which historians and scholars in other fields analyze, explain, and narrate global history. Along the way, they will bolster their literacy in world history as taught in colleges and universities in the contemporary United States. This combination of critical thinking and historical knowledge can enable students to participate more effectively in broader societal conversations not only about the past but also about the present and the future.

Q: “What are the goals of this course?”

Students who succeed in this course will gain an introductory-level grounding in the following areas of historical inquiry:

- Major events, issues, and concepts in modern world history such as the Columbian Exchange, Industrial Revolution, empire, nationalism, ecological change, contingency, and the Anthropocene.
- Debates concerning the origins of differences in power and wealth among contemporary societies.
- Global dimensions of topics in Wisconsin history.
- Analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Analysis of historical narratives and paradigms.

II. Required Work
Q: “What are the required assignments for this course and how are they weighted?”

3 Discussions
- Minimum Required: 2 Posts Per Discussion for a Total of 6 Posts.
- The first post for each discussion must contain a minimum of 300 words.
- The second post for each discussion must contain a minimum of 100 words.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Quiz:</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Multiple Choice/Short Answer Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Essay:</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-word minimum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Quiz:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Multiple Choice/Short Answer Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Essay:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-word minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Quiz:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Multiple Choice/Short Answer Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 4 Essay:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-word minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Q: “How do I learn about due dates?”

For an overview of due dates in the course, see “Schedule/Due Dates,” below.

Q: “Is this one of those online courses where I can do the work and turn it in whenever I want?”

No.

This course is not “self-paced,” and it is only partially “asynchronous.”
Unlike a regular “bricks-and-mortar” class, which requires you to join with other students in the same place at the same time, there are no specific times/dates on which you must be logged into the course website.

But there several hard-and-fast deadlines or due dates in this course, and most of them well fall before the end of the term.

I have done my best to enable flexibility by setting due dates at the end of time slots or windows of time. So, for instance, students have several days to complete each of the quizzes assigned for the course.

For a list of due dates, see “Schedule/Due Dates,” below.

Q: "How much reading is required for this course?"

Like most history courses, this class requires a substantial amount of reading. The typical unit requires students to read at least 100 pages.

III. Required Materials

Q: “What are the required materials for this course?”

Required materials consist of 1) the required textbook and 2) media that may be accessed via the course website, including additional readings, the Professor’s Blog, and videos.

Required Book:

Author: Marks, Robert
Title: Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Environmental Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century
Edition: Third (paperback)
Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield
Date: 2015
List Price: $29.00 (new)

Used or E-Book? You are welcome to purchase a used book or an e-book. But make sure that you have the correct (2015) edition. Only the 2015 edition will permit you to pass this course. A copy of the required book will also be made available for checkout (2-hour limit) at the Reserve Desk of UWM's Media and Reserve Library.

Q: "How do I gain access to the required book?"

There are three options for accessing the required book. Regardless of the option you choose, it is crucial that you secure regular access to the required book by the start of the course. A lack of access to the readings is not a valid excuse for failing to complete an assignment on time.
Option 1: Check out the required book at the UW-Milwaukee Libraries Reserve Desk.

The required book may be checked out for a 2-hour period from Reserve Desk (Course Reserve) of the UW-Milwaukee Libraries Media and Reserve Library, which is located in the Golda Meir Library Building. For more information, visit: http://uwm.edu/libraries/media/.

Option 2: Purchase a book at UW-Milwaukee’s Virtual Bookstore.

You can find the website for the virtual bookstore here: http://uwm.ecampus.com/. Look for our term and course number and follow the instructions. In some cases, it may also be possible to rent the book.

Option 3: Purchase the required book from a non-university vendor.

You may find the required book for sale online by entering the ISBN number into an Internet search engine. This procedure will produce a list of businesses that sell the book. Make sure that the seller sends you the correct edition in time for you to complete assignments in a timely manner.

Q: “What happens if I buy the wrong edition of a book?”

Be careful that you do not purchase the wrong edition of a book. Only the edition of the book identified in the syllabus will enable you to pass this class. If you purchase the wrong book, you will have no choice but to secure access to the correct book.

Q: “What is ‘Guns, Germs & Steel’? How do I gain access to it?”

During the term, students will view a three-part documentary entitled “Guns, Germs & Steel” (PBS/National Geographic) and complete a number of readings available at a website associated with the same documentary. The documentary is based on a book by the same title by Jared Diamond. I encourage you to seek out the book and read it in its entirety. For the purposes of this course, however, I require only that you view the documentary and read portions of the related website, which together provide a good synopsis of Diamond’s argument.

The website for “Guns, Germs, and Steel” can be found at the following link: http://www.pbs.org/gunsgermssteel/

You have different options for viewing the documentary. All are equally useful and convey essentially the same information. Choose the option that best fits your preferences and technological capacity:

1) The documentary is available on YouTube. You can find it by searching for “Guns, Germs, and Steel.”
2) The “Guns, Germs & Steel” website offers a transcript of each of the three episodes. Although reading a transcript is not as entertaining as watching the actual episode, the transcripts contain all the information necessary for this course.

3) If you have access to Netflix, “Guns, Germs & Steel” is available to most subscribers.

IV. Grading Scale and Assessment

Q: “What is the grading scale? Are grades curved?”

A: 93-100  C: 73-76
A-: 90-92   C-: 70-72
B+: 87-89   D+: 67-69
B: 83-86    D: 63-66
B-: 80-82   D-: 60-62
C+: 77-79   F: 0-61

I do not curve the grades for the course. I retain the right, in cases of significant improvement over time, to weight a student’s later work more heavily than the student’s earlier work.

Q: "How do you assess and grade students' written work?"

For an overview, consult “Writing for this Course: Assessment and Grading,” located on the course website under Course Materials.

V. Technology

Q: “What technology is required for this course? Where can I get help?”

This course requires use of a web-based LMS (Learning Management System) named “Canvas,” which is available to all enrolled students at UW-Milwaukee and fully supported by the UW System.

For more about Canvas, including help and information about other technical requirements, visit: https://uwm.edu/canvas/home/

Regular, daily access to a computer with a high-speed Internet connection is vital for use of Canvas and this course. Do not try to take this course using only a smartphone or a tablet.
I recommend that students take quizzes on a computer with a wired Internet connection, as any interruption in Internet service can result in loss of work. If students do not have a wired connection at home, they may use any computer in a UW-Milwaukee campus computer lab or visit a public library.

In addition, students must have access to the following:

- **Word.** (Word is available at no additional charge to all enrolled UW-Milwaukee students via Office 365.)
- **Adobe Acrobat Reader.** (Reader can be downloaded for free at the Adobe website.)
- If you wish to watch the documentary rather than read the transcript, you will need a computer with an audio speaker.

It is imperative that students have regular access to adequate, reliable, technology throughout the term. A computer glitch, lost file, interrupted wireless connection, or any other technical problem cannot serve as an excuse for failure to complete an assignment on time.

**Q: “Where do I go for help with other technology questions?”**


**Q: “What will I find on the course website?”**

The specific tools in Canvas that I use vary from course to course and may include the following: **Home, Syllabus, Announcements, Assignments, and Grades.**

**Home**

“Home” is the page that welcomes you after you have logged into Canvas and selected our course. This home page offers an overview of the entire course and access to each of the areas described below. “Home” is the by far the most useful of all the pages/tools in Canvas. When in doubt, go to “Home”!

On “Home,” you will find most of the content you need for the course organized by kind or “module,” including links to instructions for required readings and assignments.

**Syllabus**

“Syllabus” is the place where you will find the course syllabus and links to specific assignments.

“Home” offers a much better overview of the work required for this course than “Syllabus.” The “Course Summary” feature of Canvas is poorly designed, in my opinion.
**Announcements**

“Announcements” is where I put course announcements and reminders.

**Assignments**

“Assignments” is where you will find a list of graded assignments for the course, including discussions, quizzes, and essays.

“Home” offers a much better overview of the work required for this course than Assignments.

**Grades**

“Grades” is where I will post your grades for the course. You will be able to access this section to see your grades throughout the term.

**Q: “When is Canvas not available to me?”**

Canvas may occasionally be taken down for scheduled maintenance. You can find information about any upcoming "outages" at the welcome screen that greets you after you log on.

**Q: “How often do I need to log in to Canvas?”**

You should expect to check the course website at least once per day to stay informed about any announcements, additions to the course website, posts to the Professor's Blog, and the like. If religious observance prevents you from checking the website on any given day, please inform me at smia@uwm.edu.

**Q: “How should I contact the professor if I have a question? What e-mail account should I use?”**

All course-related e-mail communication should be conducted using UW-Milwaukee e-mail addresses. Your UW-Milwaukee e-mail address is your ePanther ID + @uwm.edu. Example: smia@uwm.edu.

Students who are new to UW-Milwaukee will receive an ePanther ID and a corresponding UW-Milwaukee e-mail address upon their enrollment.

Please do not use the “Conversations” (“Inbox”) tool in Canvas to communicate with the professor. (Unfortunately, there is no way to turn this function off.)

I understand that it can feel like a nuisance to have to switch to a UW-Milwaukee e-mail account if you are not accustomed to using that account, especially if you are using the
account only for the purposes of this course. Nevertheless, for technical reasons, I am only able to send messages to your UW-Milwaukee e-mail account. The good news is that you can easily forward e-mail received by your UW-Milwaukee account to your regular e-mail account if you wish. Consult the UW-Milwaukee Campus IT Support (Help Desk) for assistance: http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/help/campus/.

*Important:* Please put our course number (132, 293, 600, etc.) in the subject line of all your e-mail messages to me. I receive many messages every day. By placing the course number in the subject line, you make it easier for me to locate and respond to your message.

**VI. Course and University Policies**

**Q: “What is the course policy on late assignments?”**

This course moves very quickly. To discourage students from falling behind, the course places severe limits on the submission of late assignments.

Any assignment that is turned in one day late will be subject to a grade reduction of 20%.

Any assignment that is turned in two days late will be subject to a grade reduction of 30%.

Any assignment that is turned in three or more days late will automatically receive a "0." In other words, any assignment that is not turned in within two days of the original due date will automatically receive a "0."

**Q: "What happens if a student fails to complete one or more of the three required essays?"**

Failure to complete any of the three essays required for course will result in failure of the entire course.

**Q: “What are UW-Milwaukee’s policies regarding students with disabilities, religious observances, etc.?”**

Please consult the following link for a list of official, university-wide policies: http://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf

**Q: “What are the university and course policies regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct?”**

The University of Wisconsin System defines academic misconduct as follows:
"Academic misconduct is an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation [plagiarism], uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts."

Plagiarism is an instance of Academic Misconduct. According to the official policy of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, plagiarism includes:

1. Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; or,
2. Using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them; or,
3. Paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources.

The UWM policy concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct is available here: http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/conduct/academic-misconduct.cfm.

It is the policy of this course that academic misconduct, including plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized sharing of answers to quizzes will result in the failure not only of the assignment in which the misconduct occurs but also of the entire course.

Q. "How much time do I need to devote to this course?"

This is a 3-credit course. In conformance with a mandate from the U.S. Department of Education, students may expect to devote as many as 135 hours to this class during the term in order to achieve the learning goals of this course. Work in this context includes completing the required readings, writing discussion posts and essays, and preparing for and taking quizzes.

Q. "How do I become a history major?"

The History Department encourages you to join us as a major! The process of declaring a major in history is easy: just write an e-mail with the answers to a few simple questions to the Department's current Director of Undergraduate Studies. For complete instructions, visit: https://uwm.edu/history/undergraduate-major/.

VII. Schedule/Due Dates

Note: The information below is subject to change. Always refer to the course website for official due dates as well as specific instructions for readings, discussion posts, quizzes, and essays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prelude: History, Narrative, and the World before 1500 (1/2-1/5)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1/2-1/5 | Readings (see course website for details)

**Unit 1: Worlds Apart (1/2-1/12)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2-1/7</td>
<td>Readings and Quiz&lt;br&gt; <em>Unit 1 Quiz</em> (on readings assigned through Unit 1) will be available on 1/2 and must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2-1/7</td>
<td><em>Discussion Post 1a</em> is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8-1/9</td>
<td><em>Discussion Post 1b</em> is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10-1/12</td>
<td><em>Unit 1 Essay</em>. The question/prompt will be available on the course website by 12 p.m. on 1/10. Essay must be completed and submitted to the course website no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/12.</td>
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**Unit 2: Worlds Collide (1/5-1/16)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/5-1/11</td>
<td>Readings and Quiz&lt;br&gt; <em>Unit 2 Quiz</em> (on readings assigned through Unit 2) will be available on 1/5 and must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5-1/11</td>
<td><em>Discussion Post 2a</em> is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/11.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/12-1/13</td>
<td><em>Discussion Post 2b</em> is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/13.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/14-1/16</td>
<td><em>Unit 2 Essay</em>. The question/prompt will be available by 12 p.m. on 1/14. Essay must be completed and submitted to the course website no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/16.</td>
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**Unit 3: One World? (1/12-1/19)**

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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Unit 3 Quiz (on readings assigned through Unit 3) will be available on 1/12 and must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/15.

Discussion Post 3a is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/15.

Discussion Post 3b is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/17.

Unit 3 Essay. The question/prompt will be available on the course website by 12 p.m. on 1/17. Essay must be completed and submitted to the course website no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1/19.

Summary of Due Dates for Assignments:
(Note that units overlap!)

1/7  Due: Discussion Post 1a
1/7  Due: Unit 1 Quiz (Covers all content through Unit 1)
1/9  Due: Discussion Post 1b
1/11 Due: Discussion Post 2a
1/11 Due: Unit 2 Quiz (Covers all content through Unit 2)
1/12 Due: Unit 1 Essay
1/13 Due: Discussion Post 2b
1/15 Due: Discussion Post 3a
1/15 Due: Unit 3 Quiz (Covers all content through Unit 3)
1/16 Due: Unit 2 Essay
1/17 Due: Discussion Post 3b
1/19 Due: Unit 3 Essay