History 4488: Approaches to World History

Summer 2013
Room 2033 Social Science Building
Dr. Kay Traille
Monday/Wednesday 5.pm-7.45 pm
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday, and by appointment.
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Objectives:

1) To cultivate a thorough and functional knowledge of World History as a discipline and theoretical orientation.
2) To appreciate the construction of World Historical arguments and their critical evaluation.
3) To learn to convey such arguments in a classroom setting.

Basis for Final Grades:

You will, in this course, find yourself reading and writing quite a bit. You will take two take-home, essay examinations. Each of these will makes up a third of your grade. The final third is represented by a group project which will evaluate your ability to use world historical thinking to work relaying it to others. The course uses a conventional grading scale (detailed below.)

A=89.5 or better
B=79.5 to 89.49
C=69.5 to 79.49
D=59.5 to 69.49
F=59.49 or below

Required Texts:

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**Attendance Policy:**

I will not be taking attendance during the course of the term. Please Note, however, that examinations will draw from both the text and from lectures, and success in the class will likely entail regular attendance and note-taking.

**Course Outline:**

**Week One May 29**

Introductions, Expectations, Outline of the Course. Perspectives.

What history is and why it is important:
“History” according to the “Historians” Begin *Baudolino*

**Week One June 3-5**

Readings: Opening Chapters of *Baudolino* what can they teach us about historians?

All people like us are we, and everyone else is they” (Rudyard Kipling.) Narratives of “the Other” and World History. Lecture concerning historical fiction and history writing). Class book discussion.

**Week Two June 10-12**

Readings: Finish *Baudolino* by the end of the week

Truth, Fiction, and Historical Record.

Finish Discussion of Baudolino.
**Week Three June 17-19**

Begin Examining Marks

Readings: *The Origins of the Modern World*, Chapters 1-4

**Teaching about People, Places, Environments, and Global Connections**

Marks, Chapter 1 *The Material and Trading Worlds*, circa 1400.

Marks, Chapter 2 (China) Marks, Chapter 3 (Empire and the “New World)

Marks, Chapter 4 (Industrialization).

*Take home Mid-term Exam*

**Week Four June 24-26**

Readings: *The Origins of the Modern World Chapters* 5 to conclusion

**Teaching Emotive and Controversial Topics**

Begin planning for presentations

Begin *Atlas of the Year 1000*, John Man. The World at 1000 CE,

**Week Five July 1-3**

Presentations

**Week Six July 8-10**

Presentations

**Week Seven July 15-17**

Presentations

**Week Eight July 22-24**

*Take-home exam posted online and collected in class on 24th July.*