

DISCOVERING WORLD HISTORY

Hist 100-01, Fall 2007

Dr. Ellen Arnold

TR 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Old Main 111

We are not the first people to try to understand and change the world we live in. This introductory survey will allow us to explore how our efforts to understand the world (and our impact on the world) connect us to past societies. We will cover the themes of exploration, environment, and the development of different historical world views in a wide range of regions and time periods. By exploring the general trajectories of human explorations and cultural contacts, we will look for patterns and processes in human history. By reading individual explorers' accounts from different periods, we will learn to work with and question historical sources, and discuss how to interpret change and continuity over time.

By the end of the semester, you will have a better understanding of how and why different groups of people have:

- 1) explained and explored the world
- 2) learned how to control and transform the natural world, and
- 3) interacted with other societies, shaping their own world-views in relationship to others

CONTACTING ME:

Office Hours (Old Main 308): T 10:00-11:00, W 11:00-1:00 and by appointment

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is an introductory class, and previous knowledge of the history of the period covered here is not required. However, because of the pace of the class and the wide range of material we will need to cover, it is imperative that you prepare fully for each class meeting, and come ready to engage with the materials and your fellow classmates.

Your success in this course will rely on your participation in class discussion and activities. Your attendance and participation in class activities is required, and will compose 20 percent of your final grade. Failure to complete any of assignments will result in failure of the course.

COURSE GRADE:

Component	% of Final Grade	Due Date
Participation	20%	Weekly
Quizzes	10%	Periodic, unannounced
Paper One	20%	30 October
Paper Two	20%	13 December
Comparative Source Exercise	10%	12 November
Comparative Essay (Final)	20%	Wed., Dec. 19

GRADE SCHEME:

A	100-93	C+	79-77
A-	92-90	C	76-73
B+	89-87	C-	73-70
B	86-83	D	69-65
B-	83-80	NC	65 and below

LATE WORK AND ABSENCES:

You can miss two class sessions before your grade will be adversely affected. Absences due to university-sponsored events, hospitalization, death in the family, or other emergencies must be documented. In such cases, I will allow late work. If you have a planned excused absence, papers are still due on time—plan your time accordingly! Otherwise, you will be penalized a letter-grade degree for every day your paper is late. For example, if a paper earns a B, and it is a day late, it will receive a B-.

QUIZZES:

You must come to each class prepared; there will be periodic and unannounced quizzes in class (these are intended not to punish negligence but to encourage diligence!). There will be a total of eight quizzes (or activities in class that count as quizzes). You will be expected to be familiar with the readings and with how they are related to the other materials or topics we are discussing at that point. Your lowest grade will be dropped. There will be no make-up quizzes (except for emergencies as outlined above).

PAPERS:

There are **two formal papers** for this course. Each paper will evaluate one of the book-length primary sources that we have read. The goals of these papers are to demonstrate an awareness of the broader context and importance of these primary sources while also evaluating a smaller segment of the source more carefully. The papers should be 5 pages long; each paper should include an argument about how the work fits in the broader

context of the course—specifically either the methods and objectives of exploration, intercultural contact, or environmental world views. Within each paper, you will also need to choose a smaller section (generally one chapter) of each source and explicate on how this particular passage can be interpreted and analyzed to support your broader argument.

The **Comparative Source Exercise** is a shorter exercise of 3 pages that will allow you to take multiple perspectives on James Cook's famous *Endeavor* voyage from 1768-1771. Fortunately, we have more than one record of the events of this, including journals by Cook himself and by two other people from the voyage, Joseph Banks and Sydney Parkinson. Finally, an official report of the voyage was written by John Hawkesworth in 1773. You will be assigned one period of time from this lengthy voyage. Using the records from all relevant journals, you will then compare the versions, and make an argument about the voyage, the journals, or the course themes based on this comparison. This activity is intended to prepare you for both the final essay and your second paper.

The **Comparative Essay** (your final assignment) will be a take-home project due on Dec. 19 at noon. This essay will ask you to answer a question about one of the themes of the course (the methods and objectives of exploration, intercultural contact, or environmental world views) in 7-8 pages. Using the book length primary sources that we have worked with over the course of the semester, you will write a concise and well-structured essay that answers the question and shows your awareness of both historical change and the continuity of human experience.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available at Macalester Bookstore):

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration* (W.W. Norton, and Company, 2006).

Ibn Battuta, *The Travels of Ibn Battuta: in the Near East, Asia and Africa, 1325-1354*, trans. Samuel Lee (Dover Publications, 2004).

Antonio Pigafetta, *Magellan's Voyage: A Narrative Account of the First Circumnavigation* (Dover Publications, 1994).

Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the Beagle: Charles Darwin's Journal of Researches*, ed. Janet Browne (Penguin: 1989).

Josephine Peary, *My Arctic Journal: A Year Among Ice-Fields and Eskimos* (Cooper Square Press, 2002).

David Scott and Alexie Leonov, *Two Sides of the Moon: Our Story of the Cold War Space Race* (St. Martin's Griffin, 2004).

*The instructor reserves the right to emend this syllabus during the semester to enhance student learning.

CLASS SCHEDULE

EXPLAINING THE WORLD

- R 6 Sept Introductions
- T 11 Sept Themes: Environment, Exploration, and Cultural Contacts
**Pathfinders*, pp. 1-25
- R 13 Sept Connecting Environments: the Effects of Early Exploration
**Pathfinders*, pp. 26-38
- T 18 Sept By Land or By Sea? Major Routes of Cultural Contact
**Pathfinders*, pp. 41-70
- R 20 Sept Working with Sources: *The Seafarer* and *The Grand Historian*
(Online course pack)
- T 25 Sept Representing Knowledge: Early Maps and Political Power
(in-class map activity)

DISCOVERING THE WORLD

- R 28 Sept The Creation of Eurasia
**Pathfinders*, pp. 72-108
- T 2 Oct Cultural Contacts: Medieval travelers on the Silk Roads
- R 4 Oct Working with Sources: Ibn Battuta
*Ibn Battuta, *The Travels of Ibn Battuta*
- T 12 Oct Discovering New Worlds
**Pathfinders*, pp. 109-92
- R 13 Oct Working with Sources: Columbus
*Excerpts from Columbus letters and Journals (online coursepack)
- T 18 Oct Ecological Imperialism
**Pathfinders*, "Connecting" pp. 245-288
- R 20 Oct The World Encompassed
**Pathfinders*, 193-244
- T 25 October Working with Sources: Magellan's Voyage
*Pigafetta *Magellan's Voyage*
PAPER ONE DUE AFTER BREAK!

EXPLORATION AND EMPIRE

- T 30 Oct Early Modern Exploration **Paper One due at start of class**
**Pathfinders*, 246-286
- R 1 Nov No Class—Trip to the James Ford Bell Library (Time TBA)
- T 6 Nov James Cook’s Endeavor Voyage: 1768-1771
*Cook accounts, http://southseas.nla.gov.au/index_voyaging.html
- R 8 Nov Environment and Empiricism: Creating New Knowledge
**Pathfinders*, 290-307
- T 12 Nov New Places and New Cultures **Comparative Source Exercise due**
**Pathfinders*, 308-346
- R 15 Nov Naturalists, Science, and Empire
- T 20 Nov Working with Sources: Darwin
*Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*

EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS

- T 27 Nov The Narrowing Horizon
**Pathfinders*, 349-377
- R 29 Nov Arctic Exploration (1891-2)
**Pathfinders*, 378-400
*Peary, *My Arctic Journal*
- T 4 Dec Underwater Exploration
*Robert Ballard, *Explorations*, pp. 77-99 (online coursepack)
- R 6 Dec The Space Race
- T 11 Dec Working with Source: Cold War Exploration
**Two Sides of the Moon*
- R 13 Dec Explaining the World (again): Ecological Sciences **Paper Two Due**
*Denis Cosgrove, “Contested Global Visions: One-World, Whole-Earth, and the Apollo Space Photographs” (online coursepack)

Final Paper due Wed., 19 Dec by noon