

## Course Syllabus History of Trade

Professor: Dr. Warren Riess Three credits Online

### Course Description

An introduction to the history of trade, beginning with local exchange in prehistoric societies around the world and following the development of local, continental, and intercontinental trade as civilization and commerce has progressed to the modern systems. The course will include geographical and cultural backgrounds, historical and archaeological evidence, and basic theories.

If you need technical help, please call the UMainOnline Technical Service's toll free number, 1-877-947-HELP, from UMaine: 581-4591. Or email: [umaineonline@maine.edu](mailto:umaineonline@maine.edu) The wizards at UMainOnline Technical Service can solve technical problems you may have during this course. I cannot solve technical problems, I call them.

### *Methods*

This course will be taught on the Internet with a few text lectures, video lectures, documentaries, and more student reading assignments than in a live classroom. However, the course is designed so that the student will spend approximately the same amount of time working on the course as they would attending, and working for, a live class. The course will include short online text or video "lectures," almost-weekly online discussions, readings of printed and online material, and exam assignments.

The course is divided into weekly units that include readings, lectures, and discussion assignments. Students will be required to participate in a weekly online discussion within the class about a topic chosen by the professor, and are encouraged to participate in other discussions about the course material.

### *Required Reading:*

I have found no good textbook for this course. Therefore there is no textbook to purchase. I will post required reading material on the course site or direct you to the proper online source.

## Week

- 1 Introduction & Administration  
Basics of trade  
Assignments:  
video lecture, Introduction  
map searches  
list of trade terms to learn
- 2 Basics of trade  
Early trade routes  
Assignments:  
three video lectures, Basics of Trade  
article pdf, Prehistoric Exchange
- 3 China and its neighbors  
Assignments:  
two video lectures, Ancient Chinese & South Asia Trade  
website, The Silk Road  
three article pdf's, specific trades
- 4 Mediterranean and Indian Ocean  
Assignments:  
Mediterranean Sea maps  
NOVA documentary on ancient Med. trade  
two video lectures, Trade in the Indian Ocean and Med.
- 5 The African Trade Networks  
Assignments:  
two article pdf's, North and South African trade  
online research of two African river hinterlands  
video lecture, Early Arabian Trade  
article pdf, Frankincense
- 6 Development in the West  
Assignments:  
video lecture, Early Europe  
two written lectures, development of European trade

7 Western exploration and empires

Assignments:

two article pdf's, Silk Road (II) and Norse Traders in Eastern Europe  
video lecture, Three Regional Examples

8 World trade systems in the early colonial period

Assignments:

written lecture, European Global Empires  
article pdf, European Trade Colonies in the East  
video lecture, Wine Trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

9 Eighteenth and Nineteenth-century developments

Assignments:

two article pdf's, Western Slavery and Two Slave Princess  
video lecture, Warfare at Sea

10 Nineteenth-century developments II

Assignments

video lecture, nineteenth-century trade developments  
chapter pdf, changes in global trade

11 Twentieth-century system I

Assignments:

video lecture, Early Twentieth Century  
video documentary, Around Cape Horn

12 Twentieth-century system II

Assignments:

video lecture, Late Twentieth Century  
two written lectures, Karl Marx on Trade and Currency Balances  
TED lecture, Modern Slave Trade

13 Trade Today

Assignments:

video interview: Container Ship Master Today  
Internet research about the EU, NAFTA, and WTO

14 Course Review

**Assignments:**

article pdf, Trade and the Global Economy  
 TED lecture, Some Positive Effects of Global Trade  
 video lecture, Review of the Course

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Grading: Your final course grade will be based on your best 10 of 12 weekly discussions and on your best 4 of 6 exam grades. Exams = 80%; class discussions = 20%. Balancing the ability to drop two exam and two discussion grades, there is a hard deadline rule: no excuses are accepted for late or missing assignments.

To Reach Me: email by First Class. Do not use my other email address as your message may be misfiled. If you want to talk to me, my office is at the University's Darling Marine Center: 207- 563-8177. I am generally here Monday-Friday, 10 AM-1 PM.

**Academic honesty** is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

**Students with disabilities statement**

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

**Sexual Discrimination Reporting**

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of **sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual**

**misconduct or any form of gender discrimination** involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For *confidential resources on campus*: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392** or **Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000**.

For *confidential resources off campus*: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000** or **Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909**.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For *support services on campus*: **Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406**, **Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409**, **University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040** or **911**. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>

### **Course Etiquette**

Essentially, you are expected to act as you would in any University course. All communication between students and from students to the professor should exemplify the same courtesy and respect you would extend in a classroom setting. While we may never meet face to face, this does not mean that we are at liberty to communicate with one another in any manner that deviates from proper in-person conversation. Please be respectful of one another, keep in mind that a living and breathing human being exists behind the words and the name. Any discussion posting, email, etc., in which a student demonstrates disrespect for another student or the professor will be viewed as a serious matter. Students who habitually exhibit improper course etiquette will face disciplinary action.

Also, do not jump to a negative conclusion about the tone of a message from another student or me. Emailing has made communications faster and shorter so that a message meant to be friendly can appear to be rudely negative. Please remain friendly and assume any perceived slight was not meant to be one.