

History 140 The World since 1945
Fall 2008, MWF 11:00 am, MU 116
Prof. M. Fletcher; Contact Information:
Tele: 962-5577; email: wmfletch@email.unc.edu
Teaching Assistants:

**Please Note: This syllabus was created for the fall semester 2008.
Topics, readings, and written assignments are subject to change for the fall semester 2009.**

Discussion Leader _____
Office Hours _____
Email _____

Discussion Day & Time _____
Office _____

Purpose: This course examines important events and developments in world history since 1945. We will cover significant trends within nations, in international relations, and in transnational interactions. Although a semester permits coverage of only a few topics, we can gain an understanding of some major forces that have shaped the post-1945 world and that continue to influence our lives today.

The topics include World War II; the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli Conflict, the Islamic Revolution in Iran, conflict in the Middle East, terrorism, decolonization, the struggles of developing nations to attain stability and prosperity, the "rise" of Asia, trends in Europe, and the impact of "globalization." Some important themes that pertain to many of the topics that we will study are the significance of competing ideological ideals, the sources of international conflicts and their resolution, the challenges of nation-building, and the complex impact of transnational forces.

The course also aims at enhancing students' ability to analyze complex historical issues, assess historical sources, and to construct lucid and cogent interpretations based on evidence. The discussions, papers, and examinations are designed with this goal in mind.

Reading: There are eight scheduled discussion sessions as indicated on the syllabus. Six books are available in paperback editions in the textbook department of the Student Stores, and copies have also been placed on reserve. In addition, part of the reading assignments for the first and second discussions and the entire reading assignments for the third and fifth discussions will be placed on the course website on Blackboard. The assigned books are, in order of assignment:

Hersey, John, *Hiroshima*.
Kennedy, Robert F., *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*
Tolan, Sandy, *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*
Drakulic, Slavenka, *They Would Never Hurt a Fly: War Criminals on Trial in the Hague*
Ye, Seng, *China Candid: The People on the People's Republic*
Bales, Kevin, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*

If students wish to consult a textbook to learn more about events covered in the class, they may refer to Daniel J. Brower, *The World since 1945: A Brief History* or Michael H. Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the Present*, which are on reserve.

Requirements: There will be two short papers (each five pages in length), a mid-term examination, and a final examination. The first paper will be due on Friday, September 19, and the second one on Friday, Oct. 31. The mid-term examination will be on Friday, October 3. The final examination will be on Monday, December 8, at 12:00 pm.

Grading: The first paper will count for 15 percent, the mid-term examination 20 percent, the second paper 20 percent, the final examination 35 percent, and discussion 10 percent.

If a student has a good reason for not taking the mid-term examination on time or not submitting a paper on time, the student must notify the instructor before the date of the mid-term examination or the deadline for the paper. Otherwise the student's grade will be penalized.

Honor Code: The Honor Code of the University states: "It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at the University of North Carolina to support the principles of academic integrity and to refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty." The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance outlines the types of actions that are prohibited. The website for the Instrument is <http://instrument.unc.edu/instrument/text.html>(.) Students must sign the honor code on all tests and papers. The instructor will not officially record a grade unless the honor code is signed.

If a student has any questions about what constitutes a violation of the honor code, please contact the instructor. One violation is plagiarism—to take or pass off as one's own the ideas or writings of another; to copy the exact words or to use key phrases from another author; to steal key ideas, even if you put them in your own words. If a student does any of these things, without indicating his/her source, the student is guilty of plagiarism. The exact words of another author must be put in quotation marks. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be submitted to the Honor Court. Another violation is cheating—students may not have open and visible any material related to the course during a mid-term or final examination. If any such material is open and visible to a student, that circumstance will be viewed as evidence of cheating by the student, and the matter will be referred to the Honor Court.

The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance also sets guidelines for conduct within the classroom: "It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at the University of North Carolina to refrain from conduct that impairs or may impair the right of all members of the University community to learn and thrive in a safe and respectful environment." Please take care not to come to class late or leave before it is over, because such behavior impairs the learning environment by distracting the attention of other students and the instructor. The instructor, in turn, has the responsibility to start and end the class on time. If a student is unavoidably late, the student should take a seat near the door at the back of the room. If a student must leave early, the student should notify the instructor at the start of class.

Office hours: Professor Fletcher will hold office hours on Monday 2:00-3:00 pm and on Friday 1:00 – 2:00 pm and by appointment. Fletcher's office is 453 Hamilton Hall. If the above office hours are inconvenient times for you, please make an appointment for another mutually convenient time. The Teaching Assistants will announce their office hours and contact information soon to their respective discussion sections.

Course website: All class materials will be posted on the course website on Blackboard. As mentioned above, some of the reading assignments will be placed on Blackboard. To enter Blackboard, go to <http://blackboard.unc.edu>, enter your onyen and password, and the website for

History 140, Section 007, should be listed on the screen that appears.

Course Schedule

Wed. Aug. 20 Introduction

I. THE COLD WAR

Fri. Aug. 22 Imperialism/The Origins of World War II

Mon. Aug. 25 The End of World War II and the Use of the Atomic Bomb against Japan

Wed. Aug. 27 Discussion (Read Hersey, *Hiroshima*, and, on the course website, "Documents on the Atomic Bombings in August 1945.")

Fri. Sept. 29 The Cold War, I

Mon. Sept. 1 Holiday

Wed. Sept. 3 The Cold War, II

Fri. Sept. 5 The Cuban Missile Crisis

Mon. Sept. 8 The Vietnam War, I

Wed. Sept. 10 Discussion (Read Robert F. Kennedy, *Thirteen Days*, pp. 19-98, and on the course website read two items: Cuban Missile Crisis Ia and Ib. For more details, see the first paper assignment)

Fri. Sept. 12 The Vietnam War, II

Mon. Sept. 15 The End of the Cold War: The Collapse of the Soviet Union

Wed. Sept. 17 Discussion (On the course website, read five items: Cuban Missile Crisis IIa, IIb, IIc, IId, and IIe. For more details, see the first paper assignment.)

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Fri. Sept. 19 The Development of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (First Paper Due)

Mon. Sept. 22 The Peace Process

Wed. Sept. 24 The Islamic Revolution in Iran, 1979

Fri. Sept. 26 Tensions in the Persian Gulf

Mon. Sept. 29 Recent Trends in the Middle East

Wed. Oct. 1 Discussion (Read Sandy Tolan, *The Lemon Tree*.)

Fri. Oct. 3 Mid-Term Exam

III. THE CHALLENGES OF NATION BUILDING

Mon. Oct. 6 India: An Emerging Superpower?

Wed. Oct. 8 Afghanistan: A Failed State?

Fri. Oct. 10 South Africa: From Apartheid to Democracy

- Mon. Oct. 13 The Sudan: Intractable Problems?
 Wed. Oct. 15 Discussion (On the course website, read Martin Meredith, *Coming to Terms: South Africa's Search for Truth*, pp. 3-26, 76-112, 168-177, 181-191, 203-219, 273-283, 287-307, 311-323, and listen to the 3-minute interviews by John Staley Abrahams, Obed Bapela, Maria MacDiarmid (Mary) Burton, and Colin De Souza at <http://www.overcomingapartheid.msu.edu/>)
 Fri. Oct. 17 Fall Break
 Mon. Oct. 20 Mexico: Change and Continuity

IV. TOWARD TRANSNATIONAL INTEGRATION?: EUROPE AND ASIA

- Wed. Oct. 22 The Rise of the European Union
 Fri. Oct. 24 The Fate of Bosnia
 Mon. Oct. 27 The Odd Journey of International War Crimes Trials
 Wed. Oct. 29 Discussion (Read Slavenka Drakulic, *They Would Never Hurt a Fly.*)
 Fri. Oct. 31 The Chinese Revolution, 1949 Second Paper Due
 Mon. Nov. 3 China under Chairman Mao (Second Paper Due)
 Wed. Nov. 5 China: The Next Superpower?
 Fri. Nov. 7 Japan since 1945: A Miracle?
 Mon. Nov. 10 The Balance of Power in Asia
 Wed. Nov. 12 Discussion (Read Ye, *China Candid*, pp. 1-58, 87-134, 137-144, 157-180, 183-194, 206-220, 223-243, 252-285.)

V. THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION

- Fri. Nov. 14 Economic Globalization: Is the World Becoming Flat?
 Mon. Nov. 17 Globalization, Immigration, and Supply Chains
 Wed. Nov. 19 Discussion (Read Bales, *Disposable People*, and Mark Derewicz (UNC, '08), "Wide Tangled Net: Slavers Prey on Ghana's Children" at http://research.unc.edu/endeavors/spr2008/child_slavery.php)
 Fri. Nov. 21 Globalization and Women
 Mon. Nov. 24 Globalization and the Environment
 Wed. Nov. 26 Holiday
 Fri. Nov. 28 Holiday
 Mon. Dec. 1 A Comparative Perspective on International Interventions in Crises
 Wed. Dec. 3 Summary and Conclusion