

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
2008-2009**

**HISTORY 4320 STUDIES IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY SINCE 1945  
HISTORY 7910 STUDIES IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY  
Friday 9:30-12:30 AM, Room 300 Tier**

Instructor: Professor M. A. Gabbert, 400 Fletcher Argue  
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Office Hours: Friday, 2:00-3:00 pm, and by appointment.

This is a reading course for students interested in twentieth century global history. In general, the assigned readings focus on the economic, social and political processes that have shaped the contemporary world.

Class Discussion and Seminars

Since the usefulness of seminars depends upon the level of class discussion, 20% of the final mark will be based on class participation. Seminar attendance is required. Satisfactory seminar participation requires that students complete the reading for each seminar, attend class, and make a serious effort to discuss the issues and problems raised by the reading.

The aim of a reading seminar is not to promote the memorization of every fact and detail, but to develop the capacity to uncover the arguments, assumptions, and perspectives of an author and to evaluate them critically. Seminars provide the opportunity to discuss such issues, to clear up confusions arising from the material, and to attempt in a collective way to go beyond the limitations of existing literature.

Special Requirements for HIST 7910

In the course outline that follows, titles marked with an asterisk (\*) are additional assignments to be prepared by students in HIST 7910 only.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

## Fall Term, 2008

### **Week 1: 5 September**

#### **Introduction.**

### **Week 2: 12 September**

#### **Modern and Pre-Modern**

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, The Communist Manifesto (International Publishers).

L. S. Stavrianos, Lifelines From Our Past (M. E. Sharpe).

### **Week 3: 19 September**

#### **The Age of Catastrophe**

V. I. Lenin, Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism (International Publishers).

Eric Hobsbawm, Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914-1991 (Vintage), pp. vii-20 and Part One, chapters 1-5, 7.

Paul Kennedy, The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers (Vintage) Introduction and chapters 5-7.

\*Gabriel Kolko, Century of War (New Press), Part One and Conclusion.

### **Week 4: 26 September—Essay I Due**

### **Week 5: 3 October**

#### **Golden Age?**

Eric Hobsbawm, Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914-1991 (Vintage), Part Two.

T. E. Vadney, The World Since 1945 (Third Edition; Penguin), chapters 1-8.

### **Week 6: 10 October**

#### **Third World Revolution(I)**

James Petras, "Socialist Revolutions and Their Class Components," New Left Review, 111 (September/October 1978) 37-74.

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (Third Edition), Part 1.

\*Kolko, Century of War Chapter 12.

### **Week 7: 17 October**

#### **Essay II Due**

### **Week 8: 24 October**

#### **Third World Revolution (II)**

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (Third Edition), Parts 2 – 5.

### **Week 9: 31 October**

#### **Landslide?**

Hobsbawm, Part Three.  
Vadney, chapters 9-12 and Epilogue

**Week 10. 7 November**

**The Crisis of Stalinism**

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (3<sup>rd</sup>. edition), Part 6.  
Other materials to be provided

**Week 11: 14 November**

**New World Order?**

Noam Chomsky, World Orders Old and New (second edition; Columbia).  
Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" Foreign Affairs, volume 72  
(Summer 1993), 22-49.

**Week 12: 21 November**

**Preparation**

**Week 13: 28 November**

**Globalization (I)**

Gary Teeple, Globalization and the Decline of Social Reform (Humanities/Garamond).  
Giovanni Arrighi, "World Income Inequalities and the Future of Socialism," New Left Review, 189, (September/October 1991), 39-66.  
\*Eric Helleiner, States and the Reemergence of Global Finance: From Bretton Woods to the 1990s (Cornell).

**ESSAY III DUE DECEMBER 3, 2008.**

**Winter Term, 2009**

**Week 14: 9 January**

**Globalization (II)**

Peter Gowan, The Global Gamble: Washington's Bid for World Dominance (Verso),  
chapters 1-7.  
Giovanni Arrighi, "Hegemony Unravelling II," New Left Review, 33, (May/June 2005),  
83-116.  
\*Peter Gowan, "Triumphing Toward Disaster: The Impasse in American Grand  
Strategy," Critical Asian Studies 31.6 (2004), 3-36.

**Week 15: 16 January**

**Globalization (III)**

Giovanni Arrighi, "Hegemony Unravelling I," New Left Review, 32, (March/April 2005), 23-80.

David Harvey, "The "New Imperialism": Accumulation by Dispossession" in The Socialist Register, 2004, pp. 63-87

David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism (Oxford)

**Week 16: 23 January**

**Globalization (IV)**

Kim Moody, Workers In a Lean World (Verso)

**Week 17: 30 January**

**Third World Cities**

Mike Davis, Planet of Slums (Verso)

**Week 18: 6 February--ESSAY IV DUE**

**South Africa Under Apartheid**

Mark Mathabane, Kaffir Boy (Penguin)

**Week 19: 13 February**

**Post-apartheid South Africa**

Martin J. Murray, The Revolution Deferred: The Painful Birth of Post-Apartheid South Africa (Verso).

**FEBRUARY 16-20, 2009 MID-TERM BREAK**

**Week 20: 27 February**

**Central America (I)**

Rigoberto Menchu, I, Rigoberto Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala (Verso).

**Week 21: 6 March**

**Central America (II)**

Daniel Faber, Environment Under Fire: Imperialism and the Ecological Crisis in Central America (Monthly Review).

**Week 22: 13 March**

**PAPERS**

**Week 23: 20 March**

**PAPERS**

**Week 24: 27 March**

**PAPERS**

**Week 25: 3 April**

## **PAPERS**

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at seminars is required and failure to attend will lead to a lowering of the mark for seminar participation. University regulations stipulate that students failing to attend class may be required to withdraw. While every effort will be made to follow the course outline as stipulated above, changes may nevertheless have to be made. The above meeting schedule notwithstanding, students are required to be available for the Friday morning seminar slot if rescheduling of meetings takes place. **No laptops, cell phones, recording devices or other electronic equipment are permitted in the seminar room.**

#### **WRITTEN WORK**

All essays must be typed, must be written in correct English, and must be correctly and thoroughly footnoted. Students should consult Kate Turabian's Manual for Writers (5th Edition; Chicago) which includes comprehensive instructions on correct footnoting and bibliography entries. A useful introduction to correct English usage is Strunk and White, The Elements of Style. Papers must also adhere to the limitations on length stipulated in the Course Outline. Failure to do so may mean the return of the work in question without a mark.

#### **Late Papers**

Papers are due on the dates indicated above unless an extension has been granted by the instructor. Extensions will be granted only on acceptable compassionate or medical grounds. Late papers are ineligible for rewrites. Since it is impossible to ensure absolutely against the loss of work handed in, students are responsible for retaining a copy of all work submitted.

#### **Rewrites**

All students may rewrite Essays I, II, III, and IV for an improved mark, provided that the original versions were handed in on time and that the rewrites be handed in no later than April 9, 2009. With respect to Essay V, it is assumed that students will take advantage of the comments made in class to revise their papers prior to handing them in on or before April 9, 2009.

#### **Incompletes**

No incompletes will be given in this course unless there is acceptable evidence to demonstrate sufficient medical or compassionate grounds for an extension to be granted.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to hand in work that they have produced themselves and that has been written specifically for this course and no other. For example, it is not acceptable to submit papers that have been submitted as work in other courses, that cover essentially the same topics as work submitted in other courses, or that use the same sources used for work in other courses. In such cases, the paper in question will be given an F.

I am obliged to draw your attention to the statements relating to academic dishonesty at page 28 of the 2008-09 University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar and page 20 of the 2008-09 Graduate Calendar. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is an F on the paper and an F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

### **Provision of Evaluation**

Marked copies of Essays I, II, III, and IV will be returned prior to March 19, 2009, that being the last date to withdraw from full courses without academic penalty.

## **ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS**

The purpose of these essays is to provide an opportunity for students to come to terms on their own with the assigned reading. Consequently, students must not use commentaries, reviews or other secondary sources when preparing essays.

### **Essay I, five typed pages (1,250 words). Due September 26, 2008 (10% of final mark):**

Discuss Marx's account of modern historical development as outlined in The Communist Manifesto. To what extent is Lifelines From Our Past informed by Marxian assumptions?

### **Essay II, five typed pages (1,250 words). Due October 17, 2008 (10% of final mark):**

Discuss Lenin's explanation for the onset of the Age of Catastrophe. To what extent is Lenin's approach relevant to the analyses of Kennedy and Hobsbawm?

\*(Students in 11:791 must also discuss the assigned sections of Kolko's Century of War and will have a limit of 1,750 words.)

**Essay III, twelve typed pages (3,000 words). Due December 3, 2008 (20% of final mark):**

In reply to critics of a recent piece he wrote on American global policy, Peter Gowan wrote the following:

In "Beyond Grand Strategy? Critical Analysis and World Politics," Mark Berger and Heloise Weber make the most fundamental criticisms of my original article. One is that I "exogenize" lived experience and thus produce an undialectical analysis in which the creative human subjectivity of those below to reshape social relations is missing. As a criticism of an absence in my article this observation is correct—the focus of the article was on objective conditions and on the subjectivity of elites. But I consider this absence defensible. As someone once said, people make their own history but they do not make it in conditions of own choosing. My article was focused on those unchosen conditions. So, in a way I do exogenize the subjectivity of the fight-back. But surely trying to clarify the objective conditions is still helpful for a human subjectivity seeking to remake them. (*Critical Asian Studies*, 37:3,420)

To what extent is this criticism of Gowan's approach applicable to the reading assigned for seminars 2-11? To what extent would Gowan's response mitigate this criticism in any particular work you have read for those seminars?

**Essay IV, (six typed pages, 1500 words). Due February 6, 2009 (10% of final mark):**

HIST 4320: Give an account of Gary Teeple's explanation of the origins and nature of globalization. To what extent would Arrighi, Gowan, Harvey and Moody agree with Teeple's analysis?

**\*HIST 7910 (eight typed pages, 2000 words):**

Give an account of Gary Teeple's explanation of the origins and nature of globalization. To what extent would Arrighi, Gowan, Harvey, Helleiner and Moody agree with Teeple's analysis?

**Essay V, (twelve typed pages, 3,000 words). Due April 9, 2009 (20% of final mark).**

Discuss critically three books (MA students will select four books and PhD students will select five, with an appropriate extension of the page limit) relating to any problem or topic in modern world history arising from the material assigned for this course. Topics selected must

have global historical significance. Reading lists for Essay V must be approved in advance by the instructor. In selecting reading for this essay, students may choose no more than one title assigned in this course outline.

**Note: Students wishing to prepare their required honours paper in this course must write a more extensive version of Essay V consistent with departmental regulations. Those wishing to write an honours essay should consult with the instructor early in the academic year.**

### **CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

Each student will present Essay V in class. Copies of the essay must be available by the Monday before the Friday on which the paper is to be presented, so that all members of the seminar have an opportunity to read the paper and prepare comments. Unexcused failure to meet deadlines relating to the class presentation will result in the loss of an entire grade from the student's grade for class participation. In other words, if, for example, a student would ordinarily have received an A for class participation that grade would be reduced to B.

As noted in the Course Outline, class presentations of Essay V will begin on March 13, 2009. Those who present their papers early will, of course, be under particular pressure to finish their work on time. On the other hand, they will also enjoy the advantage of having more time to make use of comments from their seminar colleagues when preparing the final versions of their essays.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final examination will be three hours in length, will cover the materials assigned in the Course Outline, and will constitute 10% of the final mark. The examination will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office for the regular final examination period in April (April 13-29, 2009). University regulations require that all students be present for the examination on the date stipulated; travel and employment must be arranged accordingly.

### **FINAL STANDING**

67-74 B 0-47 F

Essay I	10%
Essay II	10%
Essay III	20%
Essay IV	10%
Essay V	20%
Final Examination	10%
Class Participation	20%

### **MARKING SCALE**

85-100	A+	61-66	C+
80-84	A	55-60	C
75-79	B+	48-54	D