



Pablo Picasso, "Guernica," 1937

A Violent Century

World History Since 1900
Fall Term - 1900-1950

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Lectures are on Tuesday evenings, 1700-1900 in TH 247

Course Overview

This full-year course surveys the history of the world during the twentieth century, an era characterised by wars and revolutions of unprecedented violence as well as sweeping political, social and cultural change.

The fall term covers the years from the "Belle Epoque," the twilight of European primacy and peace at the turn of the twentieth century, to the beginnings of decolonisation and the Cold War in the late 1940's. During this semester the course concentrates on events in Europe, although we will also consider their impact on the other continents. Special attention will be paid to imperialism and its discontents, the two world wars, and the rise of totalitarian ideologies, such as fascism and communism.

This course will also provide an introduction to basic historical skills, including library research, evaluating sources and writing research essays.

Although some background in world history would be helpful, it is not mandatory.

Requirements & Grading

- **Reading Assignment – 5% of grade**
A brief paper (no more than 2 pages) analysing two interpretations of an historical event. **Due** at the start of seminar in the **week of September 28**
- **Primary Source Assignment – 5% of grade**
A brief paper (no more than 2 pages) analysing two primary sources. **Due** at the start of seminar in the **week of October 26**
- **Book Review – 10% of grade**
A five to seven page review of a book relevant to this course. The title must be cleared with your TA ahead of time. **Due** at the start of seminar in the **week of November 23**.
- **Essay Consultation – 5% of grade**
Meet with your TA early in the Winter term to discuss your essay. Before the meeting, you must provide a list of five relevant sources, at least three of which are books and at least one is a scholarly article. Details TBA.
- **Essay – 15% of grade**
A ten-page research paper on a topic relevant to the course to be written during the winter term. Due date TBA.
- **Seminar Participation – 20% of grade**
Attendance at the weekly seminars is **mandatory**. You are required to read the assigned texts before your seminar meeting and to participate in the discussions.
- **Fall Exam – 20% of grade**
A 2-hour exam at the end of the fall term based on the lectures and the textbook.
- **Winter Exam – 20% of grade**
A 3-hour exam at the end of the winter term.



Housekeeping

- Instructors will consider extensions for medical or personal emergencies, but they must be substantiated by the **appropriate documentation** and will be granted entirely at the instructor's discretion. Emergencies do not include ill-tempered computers, nor the exigencies of other courses, jobs or your love life.
- Please note the university's official medical exemption policy: The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician **prior** to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, seminar, assignment, etc. Student Health Services will provide medical documentation only if:
 1. Medically warranted (ie. a simple cold is not medically warranted).
 2. The student presents themselves to Health Services **before** the exam.
 3. The student is seen in Health Services the day of the exam, lab, etc.

If your medical condition requires special consideration for academic activity (e.g. missed seminars or labs, assignment extensions or examination/test rescheduling) and is on a day or at **a time** when Health Services is not open, then you must go to another medical facility to obtain the necessary written medical documentation, which is the completion of Brock University's Medical Certificate.

- Late work handed in without the instructor's permission will be penalised by **10%** of that assignment's grade for **every 24 hours** after the time it is due.
- Instructors will provide more details about the assignments during seminars.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be subject to **severe penalties**. All written work will be screened by plagiarism detection software (Turnitin.com). Students may choose not to use the software, but in this case they will be required to hand in their assignments earlier. The book review would be due at the start of lecture on October 6, while the term paper must be submitted on November 24.
- To pass the course you must get a passing average grade **and** complete all assigned work, including both exams.
- Two or more unexcused absences from seminars will jeopardise your chances for a passing grade.
- Students will maintain **proper decorum** during lectures and seminars. This means refraining from conversations or any other behaviour that may distract others.
- As in all classes at Brock, **cellphones** must always be turned **off** during lectures and seminars.
- Emails to myself or your TA must be written like proper, polite letters. Please use the appropriate salutation, e.g., "Dear Professor," etc., rather than "Hello," "Hey", "Yo!", or other casual forms address. While we read our emails, we may not reply immediately. Don't be concerned if it takes up to three days to get an answer. We will **not** respond to emails that are overly familiar.

Lectures and Seminars

Sep 15 1. Overview

Lecture Reading: Goff Chapter 1

No Seminar this week

Sep 22 2. Belle Epoque

3. Imperialism

Lecture Reading: Goff Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6.

Seminar Technology – Blessing or Curse?

Seminar Reading: Moss Chapter 1, Goff Ch. 1, 2

Questions to ponder:

1. What were some of the main scientific and technological breakthroughs at the beginning of the twentieth century?
2. How did “progress” in science and technology affect society and the economy (consider Henry Ford especially), as well as intellectual developments?
3. Why did Leo Tolstoy object to modernisation?
4. Why had Europe achieved global dominance by 1914?

Sep 29 4. The Origins of World War I

5. The Great War

Lecture Reading Goff Ch. 7, 8

Seminar The Scramble for Empire

Seminar Reading: Moss Ch. 3, Goff Ch. 3, 4, 6

Questions to ponder

1. Why were European powers acquiring colonies at the turn of the 20th century?
2. Why was Japan an exception to the rule that the Europeans were the colonisers?
3. How did colonisation affect local communities in Africa and Asia?
4. How and why did nationalist resistance to colonisation arise in the Sudan and Korea?



Reading Assignment due at start of seminar this week

Lectures and Seminars, cont'd.

Oct 6 6. Reform and Resistance

7. Versailles

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 6, 9, 11

Seminar The Great War

Seminar Reading: Moss Ch. 4; Goff Ch. 7, 8

Questions to ponder

1. What triggered World War I?
2. Why did it become a global war?
3. What is “militarism”?
4. How did participants (such as Hitler) react to the experience of war?
5. How did Helena Swanwick view the war?



Oct 13 8. The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty

9. The Bolshevik Coup

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 3, pp. 38-40; Ch. 10, pp. 139-145

Seminar The Russian Revolution

Seminar Reading: Moss Ch. 7, Reading 7:1, Leon Trotskii, “The Revolution Betrayed” (on reserve at Library), Goff Ch. 3, pp. 38-40; Ch. 10, pp. 139-145.

Questions to ponder

1. Did World War I cause the Revolution or would it have happened anyway?
2. What were Lenin’s tactics for seizing power?
3. What was the mood in Petrograd on November 9, 1917?
4. According to Leon Trotsky, how did Joseph Stalin “betray” the Revolution?

Lectures and Seminars, cont'd.

Oct 20 10. The Wilsonian Moment

11. The Crash

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 5, pp. 55-59; Ch. 11,12, pp. 173-179; Ch. 14, 15.

Seminar The Peace of Versailles

Seminar Reading: Moss Ch. 6, Reading 6.1A and 6.1B; the Treaty of Versailles (on reserve at library or <http://history.sandiego.edu/gen/text/versaillestreaty/vercontents.htm>), Goff Ch 11.

Questions to ponder:

1. What were the aims of the Allied leaders (esp. Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Wilson) at the Paris Peace Conference?
2. What were the obstacles to self-determination among Eastern Europe's nationalities?
3. What was Wilson's blueprint for a war-free world?
4. Why did he encounter resistance from the other allies?
5. How and why was the "war guilt" clause imposed on Germany?
6. Can the origins of World War II be traced to the Treaty of Versailles?

Oct 27 12. Modernism

13. Stalin

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 10, pp. 146-end; 16, 234-237.

Seminar Stalinism

Seminar Reading: Moss 7.2, 12.1; Bernice Rosenthal, "Love on the Tractor: Women in the Stalin Period" (on reserve at library), Goff Ch. 10, 16.

Questions to ponder:

1. What was a kulak?
2. Why did Stalin target them? Who participated in persecuting them?
3. How did Soviet peasants respond to farm collectivisation?
4. Why was Ukraine particularly ravaged by the process?
5. Who were the victims of the Great Terror?
6. What were the "legal proceedings" against them?
7. What was the effect of the Stalinism on women?

Lectures and Seminars, cont'd.

Nov 3 14. From Caudillo to Corporatism

15. Hitler

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 5, 59-end; Ch. 12, 179-end; Ch. 16.

Seminar Fascism and Nazism

Seminar Reading: Moss Ch. 12, Readings 12.2 A, B, C, D; David Large Clay, "The Night of the Long Knives" (library reserve), Goff Ch. 16 (focus on Italy & Germany)

Questions to ponder:

1. What did Nazis and Italian fascists have in common? How did they differ?
2. What was the social basis of Hitler's support?
3. What was the significance of "The Night of the Long Knives"?
4. What was the basis and character of Nazi racism?
5. Why did Hitler single out Jews?



Reading Assignment due at start of seminar this week

Nov 10 16. Challenges to the Peace

17. World War II in Asia

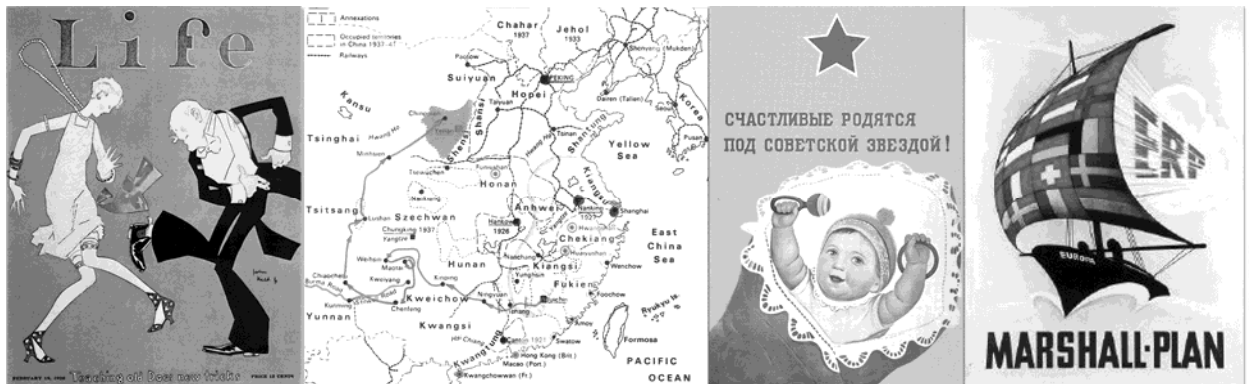
Lecture Reading: Goff, Ch. 13; 16, pp. 233-234;17; 18, pp. 262-end.

Seminar Appeasement

Seminar Reading: Moss 13.1 A & B; David Clay Large, "Peace in Our Time: Appeasement and the Munich Conference" (library reserve); Goff Ch. 17.

Questions to ponder:

1. Why did Munich become the basis for appeasement?
2. How did Neville Chamberlain try to justify the Munich Agreement?
3. How did Edouard Benes respond to the Munich Agreement?
4. Is it possible to defend appeasement?
5. What is the "Munich syndrome"?



Lectures and Seminars, cont'd.

Nov 17 18. World War II in Europe

19. The Holocaust

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 18

Seminar Pearl Harbour

Seminar Reading: "Pearl Harbor"; Thomas Patterson, "Toward Pearl Harbor: Japanese-American Relations 1939-1941" (library reserve), Goff Ch 17, 18.

Questions to ponder:

1. Why did so many Americans want to stay out of the war until December 7, 1941?
2. What was Roosevelt's attitude to the global conflict?
3. Did he "trick" the American people into the war?
4. Was the attack on Pearl Harbour anticipated?



Nov 24 20. Life under Occupation

Guest Lecture by Sander Schimmelpenninck van der Oye

Lecture Reading: Goff Chapter 22.

Seminar The Final Solution

Seminar Reading: Elie Wiesel, *Night*



Book Review due at start of seminar this week.

Lectures and Seminars, cont'd.



Dec 1 21. The East is Red

22. Iron Curtain

Lecture Reading: Goff Ch. 19, 20.

Required Texts

On sale at the Brock University Bookstore. These will be the basic texts for both terms.
- *Feel free to buy a used copy of earlier versions, or, in the case of the novels, other editions. However, please ensure that you read the proper sections, since chapter numbers and pagination may be different.*

Richard Goff et al, *The Twentieth Century. A Brief Global History*. Seventh Edition
Boston: McGraw Hill, 2007.

Walter Moss et al, *The Twentieth Century. Readings in Global History*. Boston: McGraw
Hill College, 1999.

Elie Wiesel, *Night*. New York: Bantam Books, 1960.

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*. Fifth Edition. Boston:
Bedford/St Martin's, 2007.

- *This is the History Department's authority for writing essays.*

Supplementary Seminar Readings

On reserve at the Gibson Library

1. The Scramble for Empire

- W.G. Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987)
 Lewis Gann, *Burden of Empire* (New York: F.A. Praeger, 1967)
 Isaak Dinesen, *Out of Africa* (New York: Modern Library, 1983)
 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1987)
 J.A. Hobson, *Imperialism: A Study* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1961)
 W.L. Langer, *The Diplomacy of Imperialism* (New York: Knopf, 1960)
 V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (Moscow: Foreign Languages Pub. House, 1947).
 W.J. Mommsen, *Imperialism and After* (London: German Historical Institute, 1986)
 Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1978)
 D. Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, *Toward the Rising Sun* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2001)
 R.W. Winks, ed., *The Age of Imperialism* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1969).

2. The Great War

- Horace Buckshaw, *The Diaries of Private Horace Buckshaw, 1915-1915*, ed. Martin Middlebrook (Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1980)
 Marc Ferro, *The Great War, 1914-1918* (London, Routledge & K. Paul, 1973)
 Alistair Horne, *The Price of Glory* (Harmondsworth, Mddx.: Penguin Books, 1986)
 Joe Kirchberger, *The First World War: An Eyewitness History* (New York: Facts on File, 1992)
 D.H. Lee, *Outbreak of the First World War* (Lexington: Heath, 1975)
 Steven E. Miller, ed., *Military Strategy and the Origins of the First World War* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985)
 Erich Maria Remarque, trans. A. W. Wheen, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (London : Putnam, 1960)
 Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* (London: Faber & Faber, 1966)
 A.J. P. Taylor, *War by Timetable: How the First World War Began* (London: Macdonald, 1969)
 B. Tierney, et al, *The Outbreak of the First World War – Who Was Responsible?* (New York: Random House, 1967)
 Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (New York: Macmillan, 1964)
 Claire Tylee, *The Great War and Women's Consciousness: Images of Militarism and Womanhood in Women's Writings, 1914-64* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1990)
 John Ellis, *Eye-Deep in Hell. Trench Warfare in World War I* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989)

3. The Russian Revolution

- A. E. Adams, ed., *The Russian Revolution and Bolshevik Victory* (Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath, 1972).
 E.H. Carr, *The Bolshevik Revolution* (London: Macmillan, 1960-1963)
 Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994)
 Elisabeth Heresch, *Blood on the Snow. Eyewitness Accounts of the Russian Revolution* (New York: Paragon House, 1990)
 Alexander Kerensky, *The Kerensky Memoirs: Russia and History's Turning Point* (London: Cassell, 1963)
 V.I. Lenin, *The Lenin Anthology*, ed. Robert C. Tucker (New York: Norton, 1975)
 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1955)
 Robert K. Massie, *Nicholas and Alexandra* (New York, Atheneum, 1967)
 Richard Pipes, *The Russian Revolution* (New York: Vintage Books, 1991)
 John Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World* (New York: Vintage Books, 1960)
 Leon Trotsky, *History of the Russian Revolution*, trans. Max Eastman (London: Gollancz, 1965)

Supplementary Seminar Readings, cont'd.

4. The Peace of Versailles

- A. De Jonge, *The Weimar Chronicle* (New York: New American Library, 1978)
 Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, trans. Ralph Manheim (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1943)
 Richard Hunt, *The Creation of the Weimar Republic: Still-Born Democracy?* (Lexington: Heath, 1969)
 J.M. Keynes, *Economic Consequences of the Peace* (London: Macmillan, 1920)
 Walter Lacqueur, *Weimar: A Cultural History* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1974)
 Ivo Lederer, ed., *The Versailles Settlement* (Boston: Heath, 1960)
 Margaret Macmillan, *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*
 (New York: Random House, 2002)
 Arno Mayer, *Politics and Diplomacy of Peacemaking: Containment and Counterrevolution at Versailles*
 (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1968)
 Harold Nicholson, *Peacemaking 1919* (London: Methuen, 1964)

5. Fascism & Nazism

- Armando Borghi, *Mussolini Red and Black*, trans. Dorothy Daudley (New York, Haskell House Publishers, 1974)
 Allan Bullock, *Hitler. A Study in Tyranny* (New York: Harper & Row, 1964)
 F.L. Carsten, *The Rise of Fascism* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967)
 Galeazzo conte Ciano, *The Ciano Diaries, 1939-1943*, ed. Hugh Gibson (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1946)
 Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*
 Christopher Isherwood, *The Berlin Stories* (New York: Laughlin, 1954)
 Werned Maser, ed., *Hitler's Letters and Notes*, trans. Arnold Pomerans (New York: Harper & Row, 1974)
 J. Noakes & G. Pridham, eds., *Nazism, 1919-1945: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts*, 2 vols. (New York: Schocken Books, 1990)
 Dennis Mack Smith, *Mussolini* (New York: Knopf, 1982)
 J. P. Stern, *Hitler: The Führer and People* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988)

6. Stalinism

- Robert Conquest, *Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization and the Terror-Famine* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1986)
 Robert Conquest, *The Great Terror* (New York: Macmillan, 1968)
 Robert Daniels, *The Stalin Revolution* (Lexington: Heath, 1972)
 Isaac Deutscher, *Stalin: A Political Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1961)
 Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Stalin's Peasants* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994)
 Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*, trans. Daphne Hardy (London: J. Cape, 1965)
 Nadezhda Mandelstam, *Hope against Hope: A Memoir* (New York: Atheneum, 1974)
 Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, trans. Max Hayward and Ronald Hingley
 (New York: Bantam Books, 1981)

7. Appeasement

- Martin Gilbert, *The Roots of Appeasement* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1966)
 D. Lee, *Munich: Blunder, Plot or Tragic Necessity?* (Lexington: Heath, 1970)
 F.L. Loewenheim, *Peace or Appeasement* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1965)
 A.J.P. Taylor, *The Origins of the Second World War* (London: Hamilton, 1961)
 J. Weeler-Bennett, *Munich: Prologue to Tragedy* (London: Macmillan, 1963)

Supplementary Seminar Readings, cont'd.

8. Pearl Harbor

- Robert Butow, *Tojo and the Coming of War* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961)
Churchill and Roosevelt: The Complete Correspondence, ed. Warren Kimball (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1984)
 B. Collier, *A Short History of the Second World War* (London: Collins, 1967)
 H. Feis, *The Road to Pearl Harbor: The Coming of the War between the United States and Japan* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1964)
 Akira Iriye, *Japan and the Wider World* (London: New York: Longman, 1997)
 G.W. Prange, *At Dawn We Slept* (New York: Penguin Books, 1982)
 G.W. Prange, *God's Samurai: Lead Pilot at Pearl Harbor* (Washington: Brassey's, 1990)
 G. Waller, ed., *Pearl Harbor: Roosevelt and the Coming of the War* (Boston: Heath, 1976)
 D. Shannon, "The Road to Pearl Harbor"

9. The Final Solution

- L. Dawidowicz, *The Holocaust and the Historians* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981)
 Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1952)
 Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*, part one trans. Ilse Lasch (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1984)
 Daniel Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (New York: Vintage Books, 1997)
 Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews* (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1961)
 Berel Lang, *Act and Idea in the Nazi Genocide* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990)
 R.G. Lewin, *Witnesses to the Holocaust: An Oral History* (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990)
 P. Levi, *If this is a Man*, tr. Stuart Woolf (London: The Bodley Head, 1966)
 Michael Marrus, *Vichy France and the Jews* (New York: Basic Books, 1981)
 Bernd Naumann, *Auschwitz: A Report on the Proceedings against Robert Karl Ludwig Mulka and Others before the Court at Frankfurt* (New York: Praeger, 1966)
 Gerald Schwab, *The Day the Holocaust Began: The Odyssey of Herschel Grynszpan* (New York: Praeger Publishing, 1990)
 Avraham Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust: The Kovno Ghetto Diary*, tr. Jerzy Michalowicz (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1990)

