

World History since 1945

History 140-1

Dr. Maximilian Owre

owre@email.unc.edu

Class Time Mon-Wed 3:00PM-4:15pm

Office Hours: 4:30-5:30 M-W

105 Caldwell Hall

407 Hamilton Hall

Class Materials:

Required Books (available at UNC Student Stores):

- Michael H. Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the Present*. New York : Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004. (ISBN 978-0-312-24583-2) (Hereafter referred to as "HUNT")
- Aimé Césaire, *A Discourse on Colonialism*. New York : Monthly Review Press, 2000 (originally published in 1950). (ISBN 978-1-58367-025-5)

The remainder of our **required readings and source materials** are listed under "Course Documents" and "External Links" on Blackboard. These are of three types: readings from the Web, pdf's scanned and posted to Blackboard, and Audio-Visual sources from the Web. These will also be listed on the Class Schedule by the day on which they are assigned.

You should read a newspaper with good international reporting or watch/listen to an international news broadcast (e.g. BBC World News, CNN International, Reuters International) every day—it is critical in this course to stay engaged with world news. You should also have access to an atlas and consider purchasing an inexpensive historical atlas like *Hammond's Historical Atlas of the World*.

Overview:

Just what does "globalization" mean? Whatever its definition, this word permeates our culture. Many bandy the word around to describe an ongoing—but vague—process or set of processes in the world today, but not everyone agrees on its meaning. What does it look like? What are its effects? How did/does it happen?

The purpose of this course is to learn about international historical developments in the post World War II era and investigate the roots of contemporary global political, economic, social, and cultural issues. This class is also a forum for sharpening our skills as thinkers and communicators—both essential attributes for being informed citizens in this complex world.

Some might question whether or not a course on World History is even possible considering the Earth's vast geographical scope and the diversity of its human cultures. *It is a fair question!* The events of the last six decades, however, have fundamentally altered the human condition. Air travel, electronic communications, and consumer trends have led to the development of the first truly global community. In this course, we will have the opportunity to debate the impact of these developments and the extent of this global community, and see what has remained of the "local" or has been lost to international forces. When we are finished with this course, we should all have some sense of what globalization means to us as individuals and its importance for understanding the communities in which we live.

Course Themes:

The scope of our subject obviously prevents us from addressing every country and every event since 1945. To make things more manageable, this course will focus on the interplay of three key themes:

- Political ideologies and the paradoxes of their implementation
- The growth of nation-states, nationalism, supranationalism, and internationalism
- Tensions between individual rights and societal claims

The first theme will guide our investigation of the Cold War and the spread of communism and capitalism throughout the world. We will consider how Cold War ideologies and political practices interacted in a variety of settings from powerful democratic regimes to impoverished societies.

The second theme will inform our study of the evolution of classic European nation-states after World War Two, the creation of new nations following decolonization and the end of the Cold War, and the development of economic and political treaties and organizations that have contributed to greater international stability.

The third theme is perhaps the most important. We will explore the many claims of individuals in an age in which human rights have risen to the top of international political priorities. This theme emerges in discussions of religious identity, women's rights, environmentalism, ethnic and racial discrimination, and touches on the fundamental quandary of modernity—the limited scope of “universal” virtues and values.

Core Topics:

In addition to our themes, we will focus on the following broad topics while investigating specific case studies.

- The Cold War and its international ramifications
- Decolonization and the trials and triumphs of the developing world
- The development of the global capitalist market
- The effects of consumerism on individuals, cultures, and the environment
- Twentieth-Century conceptions of human rights
- Religious, Cultural, or social resistance to global trends

You should keep our **themes** and **topics** in mind when reading all our materials including the textbook. Together they will inform exam essay prompts and our final paper. You will be challenged to combine themes and topics to develop original and critical analyses of our material.

Assignments and Assessments:

This is a reading intensive course. This does not mean that you will have to read more than you would in your average history class, but rather that the readings play a central role in the course lectures, discussions, and assignments. It is strongly suggested that you print out all assigned readings and bring them to class the day for which they are assigned.

You will be assessed on the following assignments:

- **Eight quizzes** of which six will be averaged together for your final quiz grade.
- A **mid-term** comprised of term identifications and an essay.
- A **4-5 page** semester essay.
- A **2 page film review**
- And a **final exam** comprised of term identifications and two essays.

Attendance will be taken every day and will help determine your **participation grade**. There will be opportunities to boost this grade through participation in discussion forums.

Exams questions will be drawn from lectures, readings, and other materials reviewed in class.

Grading Rubric

93-100 = A+/A (Superior)
90-92 = A- (Excellent)
87-89 = B+ (Very good)
83-86 = B (Good)
80-82 = B- (Competent)
77-79 = C+ (Fair)
73-76 = C (Flawed)
70-72 = C- (Deficient)
60-69 = D (Very Deficient)
<60 = F (Failing)

Final Grade Breakdown

Quizzes 10 %
Mid-Term 20 %
Semester Essay 30 %
Participation 10 %
Final 25 %
Film Review 5 %

Communication:

Further details on assignments and requirements will be provided in class and/or through Blackboard. You should contact me if there is any confusion over class requirements, assignments, or assessments. I urge all students to come to me with any other problems, questions, or insights regarding course materials or procedures. I will be available in my office twice a week for consultations and by appointment. I can be reached at my email anytime but I ask for a 24 hour window in which to respond, unless I explicitly make myself available for online consultation ahead of time. In cases of real emergency I can be reached on my home phone (370-9384). Please come see me or send me an email; good communication can overcome all problems.

UNC Honor Code:

This course follows the guidelines set out by the UNC Honor Code, the full text of which (and description of the Honor Court's procedures) is available online at <http://honor.unc.edu>. All cases of plagiarism, cheating, unapproved group work, and other violations will be prosecuted. Students must sign all work with a statement that it was completed in accordance with the rules set forth in the Honor Code. The instructor pledges to inform all students of citation guidelines and procedures to follow to avoid accusations of plagiarism.

THE HONOR CODE: It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student, or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.

Class Schedule

August 26

Course introduction

August 31

Lecture/Discussion—The Legacy of Imperialism

Hunt, Introduction, pp. 1-26

[Jules Ferry, 1884 "civilizing mission" speech](#)

Vladimir Lenin, *Imperialism (excerpts)*, on Blackboard.

[British Policy on Burma 1945](#)

September 2

Lecture/Discussion—Onset of the Cold War (International)

Hunt, Chapter One, pp. 27-59

[Churchill's "Iron Curtain Speech"](#)

[Stalin's Response](#)

[The Truman Doctrine](#)

[Gromyko on Korea, 1951](#)

September 7—LABOR DAY, NO CLASS

September 9

Lecture/Discussion—Cold War (Domestic ramifications)

Hunt, Chapter One, pp. 59-75

In-Class Videos

["He may be a communist"](#)

[Responsibility of the American Citizen](#)

September 14

Lecture/Discussion—America and Post-War Capitalist Recovery

Hunt, Chapter Two, pp. 77-109

September 16

Lecture/Discussion—Capitalism and the Cold War

Bernadette Whelan, "[Ireland, the Marshall Plan, and U.S. Cold War Concerns](#)"

In-Class Videos

[Pro-Capitalist Propaganda Film](#)

September 21

Lecture—Decolonization in Asia

Hunt, Chapter 3, pp. 111-22, 129-45.

[Mao's Little Red Book](#)

[Jawaharlal Nehru, Speech On the Granting of Indian Independence](#)

Mina Roces, "[Kinship Politics in Post-War Philippines: The Lopez Family, 1945-1989](#)"

September 23

Film and Discussion—Asian Decolonization and Communism: The Case of Vietnam
Hunt, Chapter 3, 122-29
In-Class Video
Biography of Ho Chi Minh

September 28

Lecture—Decolonization and Politics in the Third World
Hunt, pp. 147-49, Part Chapter 6, pp. 251-96

September 30

Lecture/Discussion—Césaire, Fanon, and the 121
Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*. Read the whole Césaire text pp. 29-78)
Frantz Fanon, Preface to *A Dying Colonialism*. pp. 23-33.
[Manifesto of the 121](#)

October 5

Lecture/Discussion—USSR/USA Cold War 1953 to 1970
Hunt, Chapter Four, pp. 153-70
[Khrushchev's Speech to the Twentieth Party Congress](#)
[John F. Kennedy Speech on Peace, 1963](#)
In-Class Video
[Duck and Cover](#)

October 7

Lecture/Discussion—China's Great Leap, Cultural Revolution, and Split with USSR
Hunt, Chapter Six, pp. 239-47
[Mao and the Cultural Revolution](#)
[Romanian Workers' Party on Sino-Soviet Split](#)
[Pravda editorial on Sino-Soviet Split](#)
[Chinese Communist Party on Soviet Communist Party](#)

October 12

Lecture/Discussion—Establishing international Consumer Societies
Hunt, Chapter 5, pp. 191-217, 229-37.
[De Gaulle's argument against Britain in the EEC](#)
[Alliance for Progress Policy Report on Latin American Economy](#)
[Allende Speech to the UN](#)
In-Class Videos
[Kitchen Debate](#)

October 14

Mid-Term Exam

October 19

Lecture/Discussion—The Sixties in America

Hunt, Chapter 4, 170-75; Chapter 6, 247-51; Chapter 4, 175-82.

[Robert McNamara on Vietnam](#)

[GI's protest the Vietnam War](#)

[Abbie Hoffman Speech](#)

In-Class Videos

[MLK--I Have a Dream](#)

[Malcolm X on Black Nationalism](#)

October 21

Lecture/Discussion—The International Sixties

Hunt, Chapter 4, 182-90, 225-29

[Images of Mexico 1968](#)

[Radio Documentary of Mexico 1968](#)

[Images of mai '68](#)

[Documentary on Paris 1968](#)

October 26

Lecture/Discussion—Post-Colonial States

Hunt, 147-49 (through second paragraph); Chapter 9, 416-24;

October 28

Lecture/Discussion—Cold War Détente and Alternatives

Hunt, Chapter 7, 297-319.

[De Gaulle on Europe's Role in the World](#)

[France's Withdrawal from NATO](#)

[Brezhnev Doctrine](#)

[Helsinki Accords](#)

November 2

Lecture/Discussion—The End of the Cold War

Hunt, Chapter 7, 319-35.

[Reagan's Evil Empire Speech](#)

[Gorbachev's Farewell to the USSR, December 1991](#)

[An unusual interview of Lech Walesa by Eddy Grant](#)

[Footage from Berlin 1989](#)

November 4

Lecture/Discussion—Free Market Triumphant

Hunt, Chapter 8, 337-75

[Thatcher Speech on Religion and Wealth](#)

[Milton Friedman Speech 1991](#)

[Polish Policy Paper Assessing Eastern European Economies](#)

In-Class Video

[Mini-Documentary on Private Wealth in China](#)

November 9

Lecture/Discussion—Environmentalism, Activism, and Identity Politics
Hunt, Chapter 5, 218-29; Chapter 9, 424-32; Conclusion, 435-49

[EU Pamphlet on Consumerism and the Environment](#)

[Interview with D. Seligman from the Sierra Club about the WTO protests](#)

[Aids Statistics for Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

[Women are the Face of AIDS in Africa](#)

In-Class Videos

[Betty Friedan Interview](#)

[1960's Folgers commercial](#)

["Crying Indian" PSA](#)

November 11

Lecture/Discussion—Genocide and Atrocities

Hunt, Chapter 8, 375-79; Chapter 9, 383-88

Selected Documents of the Khmer Rouge (pdf on Blackboard in documents)

[Tribunal's Findings on Srebrenica](#)

We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will be Killed with Our Families
(pdf on Blackboard)

[Perpetrator Account--Rwanda](#)

[Victim Account--Rwanda](#)

November 16

Lecture/Discussion—Apartheid and Human Rights in the Developing World

Hunt, Chapter 9, 395-403, 412-16.

[Case for Apartheid, 1953](#)

[Mandela on release from prison](#)

[Mandela inauguration address](#)

[Truth and Reconciliation Transcripts—Victim Hearings](#)

November 18

Lecture/Discussion—Islam and the West from the Iranian Revolution to Al Qaeda

Hunt, Chapter 9, 388-95; Conclusion, 464-65.

[Khomeini Speech](#)

[Iranian Commentary on 2009 events](#)

[Osama bin Laden's "Letter to America," 2002](#)

In-Class Video

[Daily Show Interview with Reza Aslan](#)

November 23

Lecture/Discussion—The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

Hunt, Chapter 9, 403-11

[Israel's Declaration of Independence](#)

[Hamas Covenant 1988](#)

[Edward Said on Arab-Israeli Reconciliation](#)

In-Class Video

[Interview with Jewish Settler in West Bank](#)

November 25—THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS

November 30

Film Discussion (Film Reviews Due)

December 2

Lecture/Discussion—“The Clash of Civilizations”

Hunt, Conclusion, 450-53, 461-69

[Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order \(excerpt\)](#)

[Veil Controversy in France](#)

[Joan Scott--Politics and the Veil](#)

[Sarkozy vs. the Burqa](#)

[The Debate on the Burqa](#)

December 7

Lecture/Discussion—America and the Contemporary World

Hunt, Conclusion, 453-461

[End of American Power--Commentary from UK](#)

[End of American Exceptionalism](#)

[Kagan in Defense of American Hegemony](#)

December 9

Last Class—Review Session

December 18

Final Exam, 4pm