

HI 233, sec. 2 & 3
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The World since 1750
Course Syllabus
Spring 2010

Gerald Surh
Office: 468 Withers
Hrs: MW 3:00-4:00
& by appointment

Final Version

Course Aims:

- To develop an understanding of the modern world since 1750 to be better informed citizens.
- To develop and practice methods of evaluating and discussing historical materials.
- To discuss & write about affairs beyond the personal and beyond US national experience.

History 233 is an introduction to global history since 1750 designed for students in the first two years of study. It satisfies the History II requirement of the GEP.

1750 witnessed the beginning of the rise of Europe and the U.S. The 20th Century witnessed the efflorescence and sharp decline of Europe as the center of world power and the growing power and influence of the United States and other former colonial countries, especially after 1945. Because the 20th Century (+10) includes more history than can possibly be covered in one semester, the course is necessarily selective in what is treated and what is neglected.

More important than covering every last corner of the world is the opportunity to develop an understanding of the larger trends and forces that shape nations and people: how wars, revolutions, migrations, economic ideas & catastrophes, technologies, political movements, and political systems condition the growth and decline of countries and individuals.

The key historical method in learning this is to link bigger facts (the Industrial Revolution, the origins of the Second World War) to smaller facts and situations (the invention of steam power, the Japanese invasion of Manchuria). Hence, learning some facts have a larger purpose because without the key names and dates, history would be a series of separate, incomprehensible events in which human agency has no role.

Course Requirements:

Final Examination	30%
Midterm Examinations	20
Discussion & Focus Group Participation	25
Quizzes	15
Attendance	10

Final Exam will be held in class on the day scheduled by the University (Wed, May 5 and Mon, May 10 for secs. 3 & 2, respectively). The final exam and midterm will consist of a combination of essay questions that will emphasize the weekly reading, factual identification, and short-answer questions. A review session will be held for the final on the last day of class.

Required Reading:

Robert B. Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World*, 2d ed. (2007).

William R. Polk, *Violent Politics. A History of Insurgency, Terrorism & Guerilla War* (2008).

J. M. Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century* (1999) [cited below as Roberts, 20th Century].

These books are available for purchase at the NCSU Bookstore and elsewhere. ADDITIONAL required READING is available on Vista, E-Reserve, or JStor (see below).

Quizzes aimed at testing the assigned reading may be given at any time, but especially when a "Discussion" or "Debate" is announced in the syllabus.

Focus Group & Individual Discussion: Each student will be asked to join and participate in one of several Focus Groups, which will be formed on January 20 (TRY TO BE PRESENT THAT DAY]. Each FG will choose a facilitator, whose job it will be to convene a meetings of the group, including one right away, at which the FG will select three ranked dates/topics from among those marked with an asterisk* (see below) to present the reading assigned for that day and direct a class-wide discussion. I will sort out the choices and announce dates/topics on January 25. The FG will collectively decide how to organize the presentation, and will be expected to meet with the instructor on the Sunday prior to the presentation. A single group grade will be assigned to each member of the group. (The class as a whole will also grade each group's performance, which the instructor will take into consideration in grading the group.) That grade will form part of each student's participation grade.

The other part of the participation grade will be an individual grade, formed by each student's participation in the weekly discussions. Each student will also have the opportunity to enhance his/her participation grade by formulating questions and guiding a discussion on weeks not already covered by a FG.

Attendance and Grading: After the first three absences, each unexcused absence will drop 3 (three) points from a student's course grade (of the 100 points for the whole course). This includes attendance at film showings, where roll will be taken. Letter grades correspond to numerical grades at 5-point intervals, using pluses & minuses: 100 = A+; 95 = A; 80 = B; 65 = C; 50 = D; 45 & below = F.

Definition of a 'Page': "Page" as used here means one typed, double-spaced 8 1/2 X 11 inch sheet with **1.25** inch margins, in 10 or 12 point type, about 250-300 words; hence, '4-6 pages' = 1,000 to 1800 words.

Course Work, by the Week

Week I: The World before 1750

READING: Marks, *Origins of Modern World*, chaps. 3 (pp. 67-94).

Jan 11: Introduction: syllabus & ground rules.

Jan 13: Discussion of assigned reading.

Week II: The World, 1750-1800

READING: Marks, *Origins*, ch. 4 (pp. 95-121).

Jan 18: M.L. King Holiday, No class

Jan 20, Discussion: The Industrial Revolution in Britain

Week III: The World around 1800

READING: Polk, *Violent Politics*, pp. 54-58, then chs. 1 & 2 (1-34).

Jan 25: The French and American Revolutions: Old Regimes & new insurgencies.

*Jan 27: **Discussion** of insurgencies in colonial America and Spain.

Week IV, Europe at Home: Democratic Revolution.

READING: Selections from K. Marx & German socialists, J.S. Mill, G. Mazzini, A. Gobineau. Vista

Feb 1: Democratic development in Britain, France, & the U.S.

*Feb 3: **Discussion:** European Liberalism, Socialism, Nationalism, Racism

Week V, Europe Abroad: European & U.S. Imperialism

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, pp. 36-38, 82-110, 210-219; Marks, *Origins*, ch. 5 (123-154); Polk, *Violent Politics*, ch. 3 (35-53).

*Feb 08: **Discussion**: Imperialism, Euro-centrism, & Marks's "Gap"

Feb 10: **First Midterm Exam**

Week VI: Seeds of the 20th Century: World Industrial War I

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, chs. 5 & 7 (141-174, 238-267).

Feb 15: Imperialism, War, and the End of European Supremacy.

Feb 17: Prosperity & dissatisfaction at home; Rivalry abroad. The new face of war & European reactions (pessimism, escape, search for new world views & ideas).

Week VII: Interwar Nationalism & Revolution

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, ch. 9 (271-303) + pp. 312-318, 339-345, 378-384, 387-396); Polk, *Violent Politics*, pp. 58-65 (on the IRA).

Feb 22: Russian Empire Communism: From Lenin to Stalin.

Feb 24: German Nazism.

Week VIII: Seeds of the Present Day: World Industrial War II

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, 396-432; Naimark, *Fires of Hatred*, 57-84 + G.J. DeGroot, *The Bomb*, chs. 5 & 6 (p. 66-105) Vista; Polk, *Violent Politics*, chs. 5 & 6 (72-106).

Mar 1: Industrial Technology advances; value of life cheapens

*Mar 3: **Discussion** of Holocaust & Strategic Bombing; political consequences of the war in Greece and Yugoslavia. [could be two topics & expand into Mar. 1]

Week IX: Cold War in Europe

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, 445-465; George Kennan ("X"), "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," (see Library's online catalog or: *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947).

Mar 08: Discuss Cold War and Kennan's view of the USSR.

Mar 10: **2nd Midterm Exam**

Week X: Spring Break

Mar 15 B 17: Spring Break, No class

Week XI: Palestine and Israel

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, 465-486, 521-549; "Islam & the Remaking of the Near East," (from: Roberts, *The New [Penguin] History of the World*, 317-344) Vista; "Israel's Rebirth & the Rise of Arab Nationalism," (from A. Goldschmidt & L. Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, 293-325). Vista

Mar 22: Decolonization: The British in the Middle East.

*Mar 24: **Discussion** of the Arab-Israeli conflict in context of the Cold War and rising need for petroleum.

Week XII: Cold War in Asia

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, 221-2, 385-6, 480-82, 672-680, Polk, *Violent Politics*, chs. 8 & 9 (124-162) on Vietnam.

Mar 29: Decolonization: France in and out of Indochina

*Mar 31: **Discussion** of French decolonization.

Week XIII: The U.S. and Vietnam

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, , 672-680, Polk, *Violent Politics*, chs.8 & 9 (163-180).

The Film “ Hearts & Minds” (1974 Academy Award as best documentary) will be shown, Tues., Apr 6 and Wed. Apr. 7, 7:00-9:00 pm each night in the Erdahl-Cloyd big theater (Library west wing, 2d floor). In place of class attendance this week, students will be expected to attend one of these screenings. Roll will be taken and absences recorded. There will be a quiz on the film and reading Apr 12.

Week XIV: Crossroad: The End of the USSR & the Iranian Revolution

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, 679-691, 765-772; Polk, *Violent Politics*, ch. 11;

F. Gerges, *Journey of the Jihadist*, selections, E-Reserve (in three parts).

Apr 12: Quiz on U.S. in Vietnam; Lecture.

*Apr 14: **Discussion** of Jihadism and Afghan resistance to occupation.

Week XV: Hubris of Empire: Iraq & Afghanistan

READING: Roberts, *20th Century*, 679-691, 765-772; Polk, *Violent Politics*,

"Conclusion," pp. 202-228.

Apr 19: Lecture

*Apr 21: **Discussion** on the U.S. in Iraq & Afghanistan

Week XVI: Dead Week: Final Discussions and Summing Up.

Apr. 26: Dead Week. Film

Apr. 28: Review for Final Exam.

FINAL EXAM for Sec. 2 (MW, 4:30-5:45), Mon., May 10, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

FINAL EXAM for Sec. 3 (MW, 6:00-7:15), Wed., May 05, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

University-Required Information:

1) This Course satisfies the GER History II requirement.

2) Learning outcomes: Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- a) Identify the the major developments in world history since 1750 in chronological order;
- b) identify the economic powers in 1800 & explain their sources of strength;
- c) identify the reasons why the industrial revolution began and took root in Great Britain;
- d) distinguish reality from myth in the rise of European world hegemony in the 19th century;
- e) explain the role of late-19th/20th century European imperialism & colonialism in shaping the gap between the developed and developing world;
- f) explain the main factors leading to the First and Second World Wars, the Holocaust & atomic bombing of Japan, the Cold War, the fall of Soviet Communism; the liberation of former European colonies, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and conflicts with Afghanistan, Iran, & Iraq;
- g) identify and explain the aims of the American Empire and Pax Americana.

3) Grading: Grades will be calculated on a 100 point scale, ranging in 5-point increments from A+ (=100) to D- (=45); but note: F = 0. Pluses and minuses will be used and assigned to final grades.

4) Attendance: Each student will be allowed three (3) absences, no questions asked, no excuses necessary. **Each** absence over three will deduct five (3) points from the final (=100 points) grade.

University Attendance Policies:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REGo2.20.3.php

5) Late work is normally not accepted. The burden of proof as to why late work should be accepted shall rest with the student. Incomplete and Late grades will be assigned only in keeping with University regulations governing such grades.

6) Academic Integrity: I expect every student to do his/her own work, that is, not to purchase, copy, or otherwise pass off someone else's work as his/her own. Any student violating this expectation will be instantly dismissed from the course and assigned an F grade, as will any student aiding or abetting such cheating. When students sign their names to identify a piece of their work, it will be understood that they are also signing the University's Honor Pledge, which states: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment."

Student Code of Conduct:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php

7) Students with disabilities should call the instructor's attention to their condition at the beginning of the semester.

University Disability Policies:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REGo2.20.1.php