

20th Century World History

Mondays & Thursdays

11:30 – 12:55pm

KUPF 205

Instructor: Deborah Morrison-Santana

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Office: 321 Cullimore Hall

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm or available upon request

Prerequisite: HUM 101 and HUM 102 with a grade of C or better

Course Description:

This course will cover the major ideologies of the 20th century, the cultures in which they occurred, and their connections to themes such as deep nationalism, conflict, and revenge. Looking at the history of the century through an interdisciplinary lens using cases across four continents and focusing on the cultures of those affected, students will gain a better understanding of where we, as humans, are in relation to where we've historically been. Sources will include government documents, memoirs, literature, plays, and film clips to understand the culture of the 20th century through the eyes of those who experienced it. This course satisfies three credits of the GUR in Cultural History.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of the course is to provide background knowledge to students of the world in which they live through readings, lectures, and class discussions of an array of historical topics. Knowledge of history is of the greatest importance due to the fact that the world we live in today is the direct result of various historical developments. The students of the course will analyze historical events and movements of the 20th century and assess their subsequent significance. Students will use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to analyze information and develop their writing skills by producing a historically themed analysis paper. Through interactions with the course materials, instructor, and peers, students will learn how to analyze these events on an individual level in order to apply such critical thinking to the larger themes of the course. Students will be assessed through class participation, one writing assignment, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Course Outcome Goals:

Upon completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the fundamental concepts and historical events and ideas related to the 20th century world.
2. Evaluate global exchanges and perspectives in context of social, religious, and intellectual traditions.
3. Read, analyze, organize, and synthesize evidence, historical problems, and interpretations connected to the history of the 20th century world.
4. Connect historical events with contemporary global affairs.

Required Texts:

- There are no required purchases for this course.
- All readings are available on Moodle. Please make sure you have access to the course online as soon as possible.

Pop Quizzes:

There will be 4 pop quizzes randomly during the semester. The quizzes will be on the readings due that day to make sure that students are doing the required readings as they are designed to supplement class lectures. They will be given at the beginning of class. Students cannot make up a missed pop quiz for any reason. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

*** If you get 50/50 on all four quizzes, the 4th quiz will count as extra credit ***

News Article Paper:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to issues and/or events from 20th century history that we will cover in this class. For this assignment, you must find a recent article (within the past year, at least 2 pages long, and from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of whether a source is acceptable) and write a paper relating the article to a past event that we studied in class. You are expected to tie course readings and lectures into your analysis. A full rubric for the paper is on page 4 of this syllabus.

***** NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED *****

Midterm/Final Exams: There are no make-ups of either exam unless there is a dire emergency, which requires proper documentation. The format of the exams will be fill in the blank (identifiers) and short answer essay questions (3-5 sentences each).

Grading:

Participation – 25% (250 points)

Pop Quizzes – 15% (50 points each/150 total points)

News Article Paper – 15% (150 points)

Midterm Exam – 20% (200 points)

Final Exam – 25% (250 points)

100% - 1000 points

A = 930 – 1000

B+ = 890 – 929

B = 850 - 889

C+ = 800 - 849

C = 750 - 799

D = 700 - 749

F = 699 – Below

COURSE POLICIES:

- 1. Attendance** is mandatory for this course and will be taken each class. Missing classes without proper documentation (i.e. a doctor's note) will affect your participation grade. You are only allowed 5 absences (excused or unexcused), and any more will result in a failing grade for the course. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a fellow student on what you missed (do not email me asking what you missed). Excessive lateness will also affect this grade.
- 2. No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies will result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day.
- 3. Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an "F" for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code.

For more information, please consult NJIT Academic Integrity Policy available through the NJIT website.

- 4.** Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
- 5. Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
- 6. Your grade** is your responsibility and is non-negotiable. If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester asking/begging for a better grade.

Newspaper Article Assignment:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to historical events or eras we've discussed in this class. For this assignment, you must find a recent news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) about a current event and write a paper about how the article relates to an event or era discussed in this class. This is not an informative paper, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event is related to the history we've discussed and how it differs. Compare and contrast the present with the past using course readings, lectures, and outside sources if necessary to supplement your paper. The supplemental sources should not be the main focus of your paper; your analysis of the newspaper article chosen is.

Cite everything with **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them).

*** Your answer must be about 5 pages (no more, no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, this is 15% of your final grade; it should be a well thought out response with a beginning, middle, and end. ***

**This paper is due on Monday, November 20th (by the beginning of class)
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason.**

Guidelines:

- Be specific. I want you to really think about this article and your response to it and how it fits into our course.
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS. Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, MAXIMUM.
- **IF YOU DO NOT CITE, EVEN WHEN YOU PARAPHRASE, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.**
- PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY. No title. No other information.
- The paper is to be 5 pages long. No more, no less. (No cover page).

*** **SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON MOODLE** ***
(I will not accept it any other way)

Course Schedule (Subject to change):

	TOPIC	READINGS DUE
TH 9/7	Introduction	
M 9/11	Fin de Siècle & The Dreyfus Affair	"J'Accuse" (Emile Zola's letter)
TH 9/14	Antecedents to the Great War	"The Origins of World War I" article
M 9/18	World War I	"The Night the Angels Sang" essay
TH 9/21	The Armenian Genocide	Excerpt from <i>Forgotten Fire</i>
M 9/25	The Bolshevik Revolution & Ukraine Famine	<i>Anthem</i> by Ayn Rand
TH 9/28	The Origins of the Nazi Party	Excerpt from <i>The Hitler Myth</i>
M 10/2	The Rise of the Nazis & Suppression of the Jews	Excerpt from <i>Between Dignity and Despair</i>
TH 10/5	The Rape of Nanking	Excerpt from <i>The Rape of Nanking</i>
M 10/9	The Politics of World War II	USHMM doc
TH 10/12	The Psychological Aspects of World War II	Excerpt from <i>This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen</i>
M 10/16	End of the War	Mazower chapter
TH 10/19	Reconstruction & Responsibility	<i>The Arsonists</i> (play)
M 10/23	The Aftermath of WWII & Midterm Review	The UN Genocide Convention
TH 10/26	MIDTERM EXAM	
M 10/30	Origins of the Cold War	Winston Churchill Speech
TH 11/2	Proxy Wars	"America and Vietnam" article
M 11/6	Cambodian Genocide	Kiernan Chapter
TH 11/9	The Fall of the Soviet Union (<i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i>)	
M 11/13	<i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i> (continued)	
TH 11/16	Iraq 1990s and 2000s	"The Unipolar Moment" article
M 11/20	The Breakdown of Yugoslavia	Excerpt from <i>Love Thy Neighbor</i> ***Newspaper Essay Due***
T 11/21	Decolonization in Africa & the U.S. Intervention in Somalia	"Operation Restore Hope" chapter
TH 11/23	THANKSGIVING	NO CLASS
M 11/27	Rwandan Genocide	Romeo Dallaire's chapter in <i>Hard Choices</i>
TH 11/30	End of the 20th Century	Kofi Annan's Sovereignty essay
M 12/4	The Turn of the Century	Chapter 1 from <i>Blowback</i>
TH 12/7	The Beginning of the 21st Century & Prospects for the Future	"Responsibility to Protect" excerpt
M 12/11	Last Day of Class/Review for the Final Exam	