**Twentieth Century World**

Svanur Pétursson History 213 – Section 001

svanur.petursson@gmail.com Mondays/Thursdays 1.00-2.25

Office: Conklin Hall 337 (Rutgers) CKB 219

Office Hours: Mondays 4-5pm and by appt. Fall 2017

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to some of the major, political, economic, cultural, and social developments that have shaped the history of our contemporary world. The course offers an interdisciplinary and comparative view of twentieth century world history. As the history of the world is too broad to do justice to over one semester we will look at a variety of case studies that we will use to illuminate the major events, processes, and developments of the twentieth century; from two world wars and economic troubles to the Cold War and globalization.

**General Education Goals:**

*History 213* is affirmed in the following General University Requirement Category:

200 level Cultural History. The corresponding General Goal is as follows:

Students will understand historical events and movements in the world, both

Western and non-Western, and assess their subsequent significance.

**Course Objectives:**

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 research paper. Additionally students will learn

how to synthesize historical and geographical information acquired through the

understanding of maps and primary source information.

**Course Goals:**

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

following:

* Demonstrate knowledge of some of the fundamental concepts and theories of historical events and ideas related to the 20th Century World.
* Evaluate global exchanges and perspectives in context of social, political, religious, and intellectual traditions.
* Read, analyze, organize and synthesize, evidence, historical problems, and interpretations connected to the history of the 20th Century World.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs):**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to

do the following:

* Demonstrate knowledge of some of the fundamental concepts and theories of historical events and ideas related to human societies, including but not limited to Africa, India, China, Latin America, Europe, and the United States.
  + Identify and describe key terms, names and places of major events of the 20th Century World.
  + Evaluate the validity of various interpretations of historical events and institutions.
* Clarify and summarize information pertaining to historical events and ideas in a Research Paper.
  + Read, Analyze, organize, and synthesize evidence, historical problems, and interpretations connected to the history of the 20th Century World
  + Use primary and secondary sources to show how historical problems are confronted.
  + Conduct research and explore reliable resources on the history of the 20th Century World

**Required Textbook:**

Findley, Carter and Rothney, John Alexander. Twentieth Century World Sixth 0r

Seventh Edition.

The book is available through the NJIT bookstore, online retailers, or through the publisher (http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/3712872/9780547218502?\_\_hdv=6.8)

**Grading;**

In-class participation 10%

Midterm Exam 25%

Pop Quizzes (5% each) 15%

Research Paper 25%

Final Exam 25%

Grade scale is as follows:

A: 90 points and higher

B+: 85-89.99

B: 80-84.99

C+: 75-79.99

C: 70-74.99

D: 60-69.99

F: 59.99 and lower

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required and attendance will be taken at the start of every class.

If you plan to claim a religious holiday as an excused absence, you must inform me of this fact within the first two weeks of class.

After four unexcused absences, your overall course grade will be lowered by a partial grade (from B+ to B, for example) for every further unexcused absence. With eight absences, the stakes change: Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.

Unexcused lateness counts as ½ of an absence. Leaving class early also counts as ½ of an absence.

**Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism is passing off someone else’s work as your own and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to write their own original work and to give credit in the form of footnotes (i.e. citations) for any material that is not their own. Plagiarized papers will be given an automatic “0” with no possibility of a rewrite. This will most likely result in a failing grade for the entire course. Violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students and adjudicated in accordance with the NJIT Honor Code.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**:

**Week 1**

September 7th: Introduction

**Week 2**

September 11th: Overview of the Twentieth Century

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 1 (skim)

September 14th: Origins of the Twentieth Century - Imperialism

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 2

Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden”

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Kipling.asp>

Edward D. Morel, “The Black Man’s Burden”

<http://www.csun.edu/~jaa7021/hist434/Morel.pdf>

**Week 3**

September 18th: Path to War

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 3

September 21st: World War I

In class Viewing:

Film: The Grand Illusion (part one)

**Week 4**

September 25th: World War I

In class Viewing:

Film: The Grand Illusion (part two)

September 28th: The Russian Revolution and the NEP Era

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 4

Lenin, “April Theses”

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/apr/04.htm>

**Week 5**

October 2nd: Stalinism

Stalin: “Economic Planning” (Moodle)

October 5th: Economic and Cultural Difficulties after WWI

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 5

The Great Depression

Viewing: The Crash of 1929

**Week 6**

October 9th: The Rise of Fascism

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 6

Mussolini, “What is Fascism?”

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/mussolini-fascism.html>

October 12th: The Weimar Republic and the Rise of the Nazis

Readings: Adolf Hitler. “Mein Kampf” (Moodle)

Eric Hobsbawm, “Interesting Times” (Moodle)

**Week 7**

October 16th: Latin America and European Influence

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 7

Eva Peron, “History of Peronism”

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1951evaperon.html>

October 19th: Sub-Saharan Africa under European Sway

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 8

**Midterm Review Guide is Distributed**

**Week 8**

October 23rd: Asian Struggles for Independence

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 9

Mohandas K. Gandhi, “Letter to Lord Irwin”

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpregion/asia/india/indianindependence/indiannat/source3/>

October 26th: **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 9**

October 30th: Research Session I

This class will be held at the Rutgers University Library. We will meet outside CKB promptly at 1pm and walk together to the library where the history librarian will give a demonstration on how to do effective academic research

November 2nd: Research Session II

Again we will meet at the Rutgers library but this time you will have a chance to spend the class session doing research for your research paper.

**Week 10**

November 6th: World War II

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 10

November 9th: The Holocaust and the Impact of World War II

Readings: The Nanking Massacre

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/nanking.asp>

Viewing: *Night and Fog*

**Week 11**

November 13th: The Beginning of the Cold War

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 11

Harry S. Truman, “The Truman Doctrine”

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp>

November 16th: Early Decolonization

Readings: Ho Chi Minh: Vietnam Declares Independence (Moodle)

Frantz Fanon “Excerpt from *The Wretched of the Earth*”

<http://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/fanon/conclusion.htm>

In class film viewing: The Battle of Algiers (part I)

**RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT DUE (optional)**

**Week 12**

November 20th: Early Decolonization (cont.)

In class film viewing: The Battle of Algiers (part II)

November 21st: The Cold War Continues

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 12

**Week 13**

November 27th: Post Colonialism – Latin America

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 13

Fidel Castro, “On the Export of Revolution” <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/castro-revolution.asp>

November 30th: Post Colonialism - Africa

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 14

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**Week 14**

December 4th: The Middle East Since World War II

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 15

Ayatollah Khomeini, “The Uprising of Khurdad”

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1979khom1.asp>

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December 7th: Asian Resurgence

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 16

**Final Exam Review Guide Distributed**

**Week 15**

December 11th: End of the Cold War and the World Since 1990

Readings: *Twentieth-Century World:* Chapter 17

Ronald Reagan. “Evil Empire Speech”

<http://millercenter.org/president/speeches/speech-3409>

**FINAL Exam:** Exam date to be decided based on final exam schedule