

New Jersey Institute of Technology

HIST 213  
The 20th Century World  
Fall Session 2017  
KUPF 106  
TR:1000AM - 1125AM

Instructor: Professor Elektra Kostopoulou

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Office: Room #321 Cullimore Hall

Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00 PM\*

\*additional hours by appointment

**Brief Course Description:**

This course is built to introduce students to the manifold stories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century world. It is organized in chronological order, incorporating different regions of the world and various methodologies of world history into a coherent narrative. We will examine the ways political, economic, and social processes have informed one another by reference to both long-term phenomena and specific human experiences on the ground. A main goal of this approach is to shift focus from the West to the rest of the world, inviting students to think in comparative, integrative terms. Prominent themes include revolutionary nationalisms and enduring empires; notions of modernity, peace, and war; technology in the context global interactions; economic and political formations of globalization.

**General University Requirement Category (200 level Cultural History):**

The goal of this course is for students to understand historical events and movements in the world, both Western and non-Western, and to assess their subsequent significance. It uses case studies to provide an interdisciplinary view of the 20th-century world. It satisfies three credits of the GUR in Cultural History.

**Course Requirements:**

A) Students are expected to attend all classes prepared for a critical discussion and to do the weekly readings.

B) Students have to complete a research paper on the topic of their choice in connection to the course themes and scopes. Indicative topics:

1) individuals: Albert Einstein, Nikolai Tesla, Frida Carlo, Fidel Castro, Kemal Atatruk, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Indira Gandhi, Pablo Picasso, Diego Riviera, Nelson Mandela, Mao Zedong, Raicho Hiratsuka etc.

2) inventions: telegraph, telephone, televised networks, computers, airplanes, washing machines, typewriter, radiation, military technology, nuclear power etc.

3) artistic movements: Art Nouveau, Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, Suprematism, Peking Spring etc.

4) urban history: the evolution of a specific region/town/city/rural or urban territory in the 20<sup>th</sup> century etc.

5) specific events and their global implications: Great Depression, WWI or WWII, the Cuban Revolution, De-colonization of Africa, the Spanish Civil War, the Soviet Revolution, Indian Independence, the Chinese Revolution, the Mexican Revolution etc.

or any other topic of relevance.

**The paper should be at least 5 pages in length (not including a cover page or references). It should consist of at least 3 peer-reviewed publications, written in APA style for review articles. Papers should be submitted online on the last day of the semester (Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>).**

C) Students have to give a very short oral presentation of their paper in class (5 min-long). The presentation days will be assigned by the instructor according to the theme of each presentation.

D) Students have to complete two short take home assignments/ pop-quizzes.

E) At the end of the semester students will take a take-home final exam.

**Required Textbook:**

Tignor, Robert et al. *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart. A History of the World: 1750 to the Present. Vol. C.* New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 2013, ISBN: 978-0-393-92212-7, Chapter 17-epilogue. \*

*\* All other additional material used in this class will be provided by the instructor (primary/ secondary sources, maps, power points, films etc.)*

**Grading:**

- A) Attendance/Class participation: 35%\*
- B) Oral presentation: 20%
- C) Research paper: 20%
- D) Final Exam: 15%
- E) Pop-quizzes/assignments: 10%

90-100%: Excellent Work (A)

85-89%: Very Good (B+)

80-84%: Good (B)

75-79%: Satisfactory Plus (C+)

70-74%: Satisfactory (C)

60-69%: Marginal (D) Below 60%: Failure (F)

*\* Attendance will be taken at the start of every meeting. Each student is permitted two (2) absences per semester. Any students with more than (5) absences will automatically fail the class.*

**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 "F" with no possibility of a rewrite. This may 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. A copy of the Honor Code is available at [www.njit.edu/academics/honorcode.php](http://www.njit.edu/academics/honorcode.php)

**Week One (September 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>): An Introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> Century World History**

Introduction to the course: what is World History?

Explaining the syllabus and course requirements

**Discussion Theme: Between Global and World Histories**

- Questions of focus and methodology
- The 20<sup>th</sup> century through 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes

**Suggested Readings:**

World History Association, 'What is World History?' Source:

[http://www.thewha.org/world\\_history.php](http://www.thewha.org/world_history.php)

Douglas Northrop, "Introduction: The Challenge of World History", in *A Companion to World History*, Douglas Northrop (ed), (Chickester: Blackwell Publishing, 2012), 1-11.

**Week Two (September 12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>): The Long Nineteenth Century**

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Research papers

20th century World History: the elusive task of periodization

**Discussion Theme: Nations and Empires, 1850-1914**

- Consolidating Nations and Constructing Empires
- The Americas and Europe
- From empire to colonialism

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 628-642.

**Primary Sources:**

"Manifest Destiny" (1845), John L. O'Sullivan (17.1); *Address to the Indian National Congress* (1907), Bal Gangadhar Tilak (17.3).

**Week Three (September 19<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>): Innovation, Industry, Technology**

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**Discussion Theme: Nations, Empires and Their Industry**

- Industry, Science and Technology
- Expansionism, Imperialism, Colonialism
- Japan, Russia, and China

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 642-665.

**Primary Sources:**

*On the Origin of Species* (1859) Charles Darwin (17.2); "The Olympic Games of 1896" (1896), Pierre de Coubertin.

**Week Four (September 26<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>): Turn of the Century, A World in Motion**

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Reading maps

Global networks and connections

**Discussion theme: The Unsettled World (1890-1914)/Mobility**

- Progress, Upheaval, and Movement
- Unrest in Colonized Africa and China

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 667-679.

**Primary Sources:**

*Transport Worker's Strike* (1911) (18.6); *Proclamation for the Ottoman Empire* (1908), the Young Turks.

**Week Five (October 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>): Movie Assignment/ Discussion**

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**Week Six (October 10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>): The Age of Electricity and Women's Rights, A Divided World**

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World History and gender

**Discussion theme: Worldwide Insecurities**

- Imperial rivalries
- The "Woman" Question in the West and the Rest
- Electricity and Special Relativity

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 679-688.

**Primary Sources:**

"A'n't I A Woman" (1851), Sojourner Truth (18.1); *Industrialization and Women's Freedom in Egypt* (1909), Bahidhat al-Badiya (18.5).

### Week Seven (October 17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>): The Young Ladies of Avignon

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Art History

**Discussion theme: Worldwide Insecurities and Cultural Modernism**

- The emergence of popular culture
- European and other modernism(s)
- Race and nationalism
- Change and Tradition in China, India and the Ottoman Empire

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 688-701.

**Primary Sources:**

*Lecture on Teaching and Learning* (1845), Sayyid Jamal al-din al-Afgani (18.2); *The Young Ladies of Avignon* (1907), Pablo Picasso.

### Week Eight (October 24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>): The Great War (1914-1918)

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Military History and the world of science

**Discussion theme: Of Masses and Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939**

- The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and the Great War (1914-1918)
- The Russian Revolution (1917)
- The Treaty of Versailles (1919) and the League of Nations

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 705-715.

**Primary Sources:**

*To Heinrich Zangger* (1915), Albert Einstein; *The Fourteen Points* (1918), USA President Wilson; *The Speech* (1919), Kemal Ataturk; *The Great Gatsby* (1925), F. Scott Fitzgerald.

### Week Nine (October 31<sup>st</sup>/ November 2<sup>nd</sup>): The Tumultuous Peace (1920s-1940s)

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### Discussion theme: Of Masses and Visions of the Modern, Society and Culture

- Mass Culture, production and consumption
- Economic crisis and mass politics
- The American New Deal and the Soviet Union
- Fascism and Nazism, Europe and Japan

#### Required Reading:

Tignor, 715-730.

#### Primary Sources:

*The End of Laissez-Faire*, John Maynard Keynes (19.4); *The New Deal* (1932), President Franklin D. Roosevelt; *To the Red Army* (1941), Joseph Stalin.

### Week Ten (November 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>): Consumption, Waste, Environmental Change

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#### Discussion theme: Of Masses and Visions of the Modern in Latin America

- Brazil and corporatist politics
- Anti-colonialism in Africa and India
- China, Turkey, and Egypt between the two World Wars

#### Required Reading:

Tignor, 730-739.

#### Primary Sources:

*Detroit Industry* (1932), Diego Rivera (19.05); "What is Fascism?" (1935), Benito Mussolini (19.06); Excerpt from *Hind Swaraj* (1909), Mohandas Gandhi (19.1).

### Week Eleven (November 14<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup>): In the Age of the Atomic Bomb

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#### Discussion theme: The Three World-Order and World War II

- The main theaters of war and its aftermath
- The war in Europe and beyond
- The foundation of the United Nations

#### Required Reading:

Tignor, 743-751.

**Primary Sources:**

"New Democracy" (1940), Mao Zedong; "A Note to the Members of the National Planning Committee (1940)", Jawaharlal Nehru; "Only God Can Send the Rain: Letter to the Prime Minister J Curtin" (1944)

**Week Twelve (November 21<sup>st</sup>): Centers and Peripheries**

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**Discussion theme: The Three World-Order and the Cold War**

- American expansion and the rebuilding of Europe
- Decolonization
- The Chinese Revolution
- India and Africa: Negotiated Independence
- Baby-boomers

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 751-767.

**Primary Sources:**

"World Population in the 1950s," U.S Census Bureau; *I Love Luci* (1951); "The Cultural Revolution and Freedom of Speech," (2013) Hu Ping.

**NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Recess)**

**Week Thirteen (November 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>): Space Exploration and the Three Worlds**

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**Discussion theme: Tensions in the Three-World Order**

- The civil rights movement and the Japanese "miracle"
- The Soviet Model and its followers
- The Third World: looking for a "Third Way"

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 767-781.

**Primary Sources:**

The Stonewall Inn; *On Negritude* (1959), Léopold Sédar Senghor; Family Law Codes (1956), Tunisian State; *The Working Woman Maternity Law* (1974), Fidel Castro Ruz; *On*



*Revolutionary Medicine* (1960), Che Guevara.

### Week Fourteen (December 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>): From the 1970s to the 1990s: A Clockwork World

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**Discussion theme: The End of the Cold War and Globalization**

- The gradual collapse of the Soviet Bloc: The case of Poland
- Last phase of white rule in Africa and Nelson Mandela
- The International Monetary Fund

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 785-798.

**Primary Sources:**

*Sociological Record* (1978), Zofia Rydet; *Salvador* (1986), Oliver Stone; "Democracy as a Universal Value" (1999), Amartya Sen (21.2); *I Want to Make the World Turn Around* (1986), The Steve Miller Band.

### Week Fifteenth (December 12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>) : The New Global Order

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**Conclusion**

**Required Reading:**

Tignor, 798-821.

