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HIST 202: Contemporary World History, 1900-present

CUNY School of Professional Studies

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CUNY School of Professional Studies

HIST 202: Contemporary World History, 1900-present

3 Credits

General Education

Required Core A World Cultures & Global Issues

No pre- or co-requisites

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines social, cultural, political, and economic changes, events, and concepts that defined and shaped the contemporary world. Particular emphasis includes height of European imperialism, First World War, rise of totalitarian regimes, Second World War, Cold War, decolonization and the rise of nation-states, genocides and civil wars, revolutions in Asia, Africa and Latin America, Middle East conflict, fall of the Soviet bloc, social and intellectual movements, scientific and technological breakthroughs, and economic globalization. Assesses the impact of these and other subjects upon today's world.

REQUIRED CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
2. Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
3. Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
4. Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring world cultures or global issues, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, economics, ethnic studies, foreign languages (building upon previous language acquisition), geography, history, political science, sociology, and world literature.
5. Analyze culture, globalization, or global cultural diversity, and describe an event or process from more than one point of view.
6. Analyze the historical development of one or more non-U.S. societies.
7. Analyze the significance of one or more major movements that have shaped the world's societies.
8. Analyze and discuss the role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, belief, or other forms of social differentiation play in world cultures or societies.
9. Speak, read, and write a language other than English, and use that language to respond to cultures other than one's own.

This course will address Learning Outcomes A 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Analyze the development of political, social, economic and cultural history of the contemporary world since 1900;
- Improve Information and Quantitative Literacy skills by retrieving, evaluating, and interpreting written and numeric information from a variety of sources and points of view;
- Apply skills in historical interpretation, research, and writing in the creation of a semester research project;
- Evaluate decisions and ethical choices in the context of the contemporary world;
- Identify and discuss the role that the historical attitudes toward race, ethnicity, class, gender, and religious belief have played in shaping the present day.

REQUIRED READINGS

This is a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course. There is no required textbook, and all required readings will be provided free of charge through the course site.

Each week we read primary sources - documents and media produced by people who experienced the events we discuss - from various online websites. We will also view weekly online video lectures to give you the larger context of the period we cover. All sources will be linked in the week's topic page.

GRADING

Assignment	Grade Percentage	Grade Breakdown
Primary Source Analysis Discussion	33%	30 points or 3% each (11 total)
Reflective Essay	35%	25 points or 2.5% each (14 total)
Research Project	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Proposal (20 points or 2%)• Bibliography (30 points or 3%)• First Draft (50 points or 5%)• Final Paper (200 points or 20%)
Research Project Reflection	2%	20 points or 2%
Total		1000 points

Required assignments will address LOs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

YOUR WEEKLY ROUTINE

Since we will not meet in a "regular" classroom each week, you will be responsible for completing almost all your work online. To complete online work, you must follow these steps on a weekly basis:

- Check the Weekly Topics section for reading assignments for the topic we are discussing that week.
- Watch the week's online lecture. While you are watching the video, take notes on the main themes for the topic.
- Read the assigned online primary documents. Visit the "Primary Source Analysis" page for a list of questions you should ask when reading a document.
- Contribute to the weekly Primary Source Analysis discussion. As you read the primary source, choose two sentences or phrases you consider important and comment on why you consider them relevant. You then will read other students' posts, chose at least two to which you want to post a response.
- Submit your Weekly Reflective Essay after you have done the readings and thought about the question (minimum of three paragraphs).
- Once we get to the second half of the semester, you will also be responsible for contributing to the different steps of the Research Project and, at the end of the semester, the Final Reflection.

COMMUNICATION

Apart from our work in the weekly Primary Source Analysis discussion, we will be able to communicate using the Open Questions forum in the Blackboard Discussion Board. This is public to the class and is designed for discussions of non-assignment related topics. Please feel free to share your thoughts related to contemporary world history or its connection to our world today. If you have any questions about the course or the assignments, please reach out to your instructor. If you have a personal crisis, please contact your SPS advisor.

If you have technical problems, please contact the SPS helpdesk at 212-652-2888 or helpdesk@sps.cuny.edu. SPS also has a great [website](#) with tutorials.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATIONS

The CUNY School of Professional Studies is firmly committed to making higher education accessible to students with disabilities by removing architectural barriers and providing programs and support services necessary for them to benefit from the instruction and resources of the University. Early planning is essential for many of the resources and accommodations provided. For more information, please see:

[Disability Services on the CUNY SPS Website.](#)

ONLINE ETIQUETTE AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The University strictly prohibits the use of University online resources or facilities, including Blackboard, for the purpose of harassment of any individual or for the posting of any material that is scandalous, libelous, offensive or otherwise against the University's policies. Please see: ["Netiquette in an Online Academic Setting: A Guide for CUNY School of Professional Studies Students."](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the educational mission of the City University of New York and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Please see:

[Academic Integrity on the CUNY SPS Website.](#)

TUTORING

CUNY SPS offers all students a variety of tutoring services, free of charge, both online and in person. Please see: [Tutoring.](#)

HELP DESK

For assistance with access to CUNY SPS and CUNY computing resources, please see the [Help Desk](#) website for contact details and semester hours.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need any additional help, please visit [Student Support Services.](#)

WEEK	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Introduction: Global Trends in History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Basic notions of modern history and historical thoughts • Globalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Ice-Breaker • Week 1 Reflective Essay
2	The Legacy of the Nineteenth Century: Nation, Race and Empire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of imperialism • How to read primary historical sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Cecil Rhodes Primary Source Analysis • Week 2 Reflective Essay
3	Modern Mass Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic, scientific, social and cultural foundations of the 20th century 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Emmeline Pankhurst Primary Source Analysis • Week 3 Reflective Essay
4	The Great War and Mutual Butchery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Heinrich von Treitske Primary Source Analysis • Week 4 Reflective Essay
5	An Age of Anxiety: Social and Political Revolutions in the Wake of the Great War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican Revolution (1910-1917) • Russian Revolutions (1917-1921) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: José Ortega y Gasset Primary Source Analysis • Week 5 Reflective Essay
6	The Challenge of Totalitarianism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totalitarianism in the 1930s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Adolf Hitler Primary Source Analysis • Week 6 Reflective Essay
7	World War II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWII ("The Great War") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Heinrich Himmler Primary Source Analysis • Week 7 Reflective Essay
8	The Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cold War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Winston Churchill Primary Source Analysis • Week 8 Reflective Essay
9	Globalization of Cold War Confrontations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold War in Asia and Latin America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Fidel Castro Primary Source Analysis • Week 9 Reflective Essay • Research Project: Identify the Question and Primary Source(s)
10	Cultural Shifts in Cold War Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of the Cold War on Society from the red scare to the 1960s civil rights and 1970s women's rights movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Martin Luther King Primary Source Analysis • Week 10 Reflective Essay

WEEK	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
11	Decolonization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decolonization in the Cold War period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Mahatma Gandhi Primary Source Analysis • Week 11 Reflective Essay • Research Project: Annotated Bibliography with Primary and Secondary Sources
12	The End of the Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events that contributed to the Cold War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Mikhail Gorbachev Primary Source Discussion • Week 12 Reflective Essay
13	A Brave New World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces and motivations contributing to 9/11 attacks and its historical context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 13 Reflective Essay • Research Project: First Draft
14	Globalization in the 21st Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments for and against a globalized cosmopolitan culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 14 Reflective Essay
15	Research Project and Reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summation of research project with submission of final paper • Reflection on course and project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Project: Final Paper • DB: Research Project Reflection