THE WORLD SINCE 1945
History 205

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students a historical perspective on the major events, trends and issues that have shaped the contemporary world. Since it is not possible to cover everything that happened in the world since 1945, it will concentrate on topics such as the Cold War, the end of the European empires, the emergence of the ‘third world,’ and the origins of current conflicts, especially those relating to religion and ethnicity. It will also look at the major changes in the world economy since 1945, and address the issue of globalization, both as an economic as well as a cultural concept. This course does not include material on United States history, other than that necessary for understanding world history. During the semester, considerable attention will be paid to the non-Western world.

Required Readings:

Michael H. Hunt, *The World Transformed, 1945 to the Present*
Michael H. Hunt, *The World Transformed, A Documentary Reader*
Liang Heng, *Son of the Revolution*
Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve*
V.S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River*

Additional readings are to be found in the following:

a. my faculty folder on the Acad_Dept_Pgm server
b. through the JSTOR database

Course Requirements:

There will be a total of three exams, two mid-terms and a final. They will consist of an essay component, and a short identification component. The exams will count for 20%, 20%, and 30% of your grade respectively. Additionally, students will be asked to two short papers, 4-6 pages in length each. These papers will focus on the last three books on the reading list above. These will count for an additional 20% of your grade. The last 10% of the grade will go towards class discussion and participation. Although this course will include lectures, there will be considerable emphasis on discussion and
classroom interaction, not in a random way, but based on assigned readings. Students are expected to read assigned material before they come to class and have a general overview of the historical background of a particular topic. The primary documents assigned will be the focus of class discussion. Obviously, class attendance is required for class participation, and roll will be taken. I will also call on individual students so that they might contribute to the discussion. It is recommended that students bring a list of questions or comments so that they can actively participate in the discussion.

**Class attendance is not an option.** You are expected to come to every class session. Medical leave that is officially approved by the College administration is the only exception to this rule. It is, of course, understood that emergencies may occur. Therefore, you are allowed to miss three (3) class periods for any reason. Additional absences will adversely affect your grade. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You are still responsible for all material covered in the class whether or not you attended it.

**Honor Code:** You are bound by the Honor Code of the Student Handbook. Please review the Honor Code section if you are unfamiliar with it, especially the definition of what constitutes “plagiarism”. On every assignment, you should reaffirm the Honor Code by writing the entire honor pledge and signing your name. No written work will be accepted without an Honor Code pledge. While team studying is allowed, and discussion among students encouraged, your written work should be your own.

**Other Considerations:** I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus during the semester, but will give you advanced warning so that you can make the necessary readjustments in your schedule without excessive difficulty. This means that I can change the readings assigned, give additional handouts, or give short assignments for the next class period. Finally, all assignments must be turned in order to get a passing grade for this course. Essay assignments must be turned in to me on the date due in class. I will accept a hard copy only.

**CLASS SCHEDULE – Fall 2007**

**INTRODUCTION**

W 22 Aug.  Course procedures and goals
        How to read primary documents.

F 24 Aug.  What is contemporary history? Why start in 1945?
        *The World Transformed* (hereafter *TWT*), 1-25

**SEEING RED**

M 27 Aug.  Cold War Overview
        *TWT*, 27-29
        Hiroshima Documents (*TWT Reader*, 53-58)
W 29 Aug.  The Origins of Soviet-American Rivalry
*TWT*, 33-59
Stalin, “Lectures” (*Reader*, 14-17)
Alperovitz “A Theory of Cold War Dynamics” (The History Teacher, May, 1996, JSTOR)

F 31 Aug.  The Origins of Soviet-American Rivalry
“NSC 68” (*Reader*, 36-39)

M 3 Sep.  Labor Day Holiday

W 5 Sep.  The Cold War: Thaw
*TWT*, 153-166
Khrushchev, “On Peaceful Coexistence”

F 7 Sep.  The Cold War: Meltdown
*TWT*, 166-170
In-class excerpts from film *The Fog of War*

*Start reading* *Son of the Revolution* *over the weekend*

M 10 Sep.  Revolution in China: Road to Victory
*TWT*, 240-247

W 12 Sep.  Revolution in China: “Not a Dinner Party”
*TWT*, 303-19

F 14 Sep.  Discussion, *Son of the Revolution*

M 17 Sep.  Out of the Ashes of War: The Golden Age of Capitalism (Part I)
*TWT*, 77-94; 99-210
Keynes, “Collected Writings” (*Reader*, 70-73)
Djilas, “The New Class” (folder)

W 19 Sep.  The Golden Age of Capitalism (Part II)
*TWT*, 99-210
Start reading Nectar in a Sieve

     TWT, 176-188
     Paris Upheaval Documents (Reader, 171-174)

M  24 Sep   FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION

THE THIRD WORLD

W  26 Sep.  Where Did the Third World Come From?
     TWT, 15-24
     Discussion: Nectar in a Sieve

F  28 Sep.  Decolonization: Overview (Part I)
     TWT, 129-138
     Nehru, “Towards Freedom”; Nehru Gandhi Letters (Reader, 119-123)

M  1 Oct.  Decolonization: Overview (Part II)
     Thiong’o, “Decolonizing the Mind” (folder)
     Fanon, From The Wretched of the Earth (Reader, 262-268)

W  3 Oct.  Decolonization with Partition: India
     TWT, 130-138
     Butalia, “An Archive with a Difference: Partition Letters” (folder)

F  5 Oct.  Decolonization with Partition: Palestine (Part I)
     TWT, 403-411
     “Statement of Arab Views”; Israeli “Declaration of Independence”
     (Reader, 387-390)

M  8 Oct.  Palestine (Part II)
     Thomas Friedman, “The Fault Line” (folder)

W 10 Oct.  Colonial Crisis in Algeria
     TWT, 290-293

View “Battle of Algiers” over the Fall Break

(Fall Break)

W  17 Oct.  Colonial Crisis in Algeria
**FIRST PAPER DUE**

- **F 19 Oct.** Discussion of *The Battle of Algiers*

- **M 22 Oct.** The Challenges of Independence: Development (Part I)
  
  *TWT*, 229-235

  Topik, “Historical Perspectives on Latin American Underdevelopment” (The History Teacher, August, 1987, JSTOR)

- **Start reading *A Bend in the River***

- **W 24 Oct.** The Challenges of Independence: Development (Part II)
  
  Nkrumah Speeches (*Reader*, 243-249)

- **F 26 Oct.** The Challenges of Independence: Crisis of the Nation State (Pt. I)
  
  *TWT*, 266-273

  Bill Berkeley, From *The Graves Are Not Yet Full* (folder)

- **M 29 Oct.** The Challenges of Independence: Crisis of the Nation State (Pt. II)
  
  The Economist, “The Global Menace of Local Strife” (folder)

- **W 31 Oct.** *Bula Matari*: The Congo
  
  Bill Berkeley, From *The Graves Are Not Yet Full* (folder)

- **F 2 Nov.** Discussion: *A Bend in the River*

- **M 5 Nov.** **SECOND MIDTERM EXAM**

**ONE WORLD, DIVISIBLE**

- **W 7 Nov.** The Cold War Comes to an End
  
  *TWT*, 319-34

  Gorbachev Report; Cohen and Heuvel Interviews (*Reader*, 288-300)

- **F 9 Nov.** Capitalism, Asian Style
  
  *TWT*, 354-366

  Deng Xiaoping Speeches and Interviews (*Reader*, 351-356)

  Shambaugh, “Assessing Deng Xiaoping’s Legacy” (China Quarterly, Sep. 1993, pp. 409-11, JSTOR)

- **M 12 Nov.** What is globalization?
  
  *TWT*, 81 – 84; 435-437; 450-453
Marber, “Globalization and its Contents” (folder)

W 14 Nov.  The Upside of Globalization
Kaushik Basu, “Jakotra Village” (folder)

F 16 Nov.  Clash of Civilizations?
Samuel P. Huntington, From *Clash of Civilizations* (*AS*)
Edward Said on Clash Thesis (*Reader*, 412-414)

M 19 Nov.  The Downside of Globalization (Part I)
Amy Chua, “Globalization and Ethnic Hatred” (folder)

**SECOND PAPER DUE**

Thanksgiving Break

M 26 Nov.  The Downside of Globalization (Part II)
*TWT*, 442-449
“On Inequality” (*Reader*, 405)
Marglin, “Development as Poison” (folder)

*TWT*, 297-302
Watson, “China’s Big Mac Attack” (folder)

F 30 Nov.  God Strikes Back: Revolution in Iran
*TWT*, 388-393
Alam “Diary”; Khomeini “Sermon”; Friedl, “Deh Koh”
*Reader*, 365-375

M 1 Dec.  Deconstructing Bin Laden
*TWT*, 464-465
Bin Laden “Interview”; (*Reader*, 410-411

W 3 Dec.  Course wrap-up

**Final Exam**