

20th Century World History

HIST 213

Online – asynchronous (no scheduled class meetings)

Instructor: Dr. Morrison-Santana

Contact Information: dmorriso@njit.edu

Office Hours: Virtual appointments available upon request

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 issues.

Required Texts:

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

Weekly Expectations:

The way I design this course is to make it as use friendly as possible. The course is broken down into 15 modules (for the 15 weeks of class that we have). When you click on our class in Canvas, click on Home on the left side, and you will see all of these modules, which include our readings, videos, discussions, and any assignments for that week. I labeled all of the modules by the dates. I also begin each module with a Pages link, where I outline the week's topics and give some general information about the week's materials. **YOU SHOULD READ THIS FIRST EVERY WEEK.**

If you have been simply clicking on Assignments or Discussions to see what is due, you are not seeing everything needed for the course or the week. Please make things easier for yourself and look at the weekly modules, which include all of the necessary work each week.

- Each week, the week's content will appear at 12:00am on Monday mornings (late Sunday nights) so that you can begin that week's assignments. To avoid confusion in course discussions and quizzes, I prefer not to make the entire course's contents available at once to avoid confusion.
 - Example: Week 1 – Monday 12:00am – Sunday 11:59pm

*****ALL PAPERS, DISCUSSION CONTRIBUTIONS, AND TESTS FOR EACH WEEK ARE DUE BY SUNDAY AT 11:59pm AT THE END OF THAT WEEK on CANVAS*****

***** LATE POLICY --** Any late assignments will only be worth half of their original points (and only for the week after the assignment is due. After that, it is not possible to get any points for an assignment.) **PLEASE DON'T APPROACH ME AT THE END OF THE SESSION ASKING TO DO ALL OF THE 15 WEEKS' WORTH OF WORK THE LAST WEEK.** This class is designed to be done over the course of 15 weeks, and it is not possible to do everything in a day or two. Having something come up on the weekend and not being able to submit your work on time is not a valid excuse, as you've had all week to do the assignments. I will only allow late work with a valid excuse (i.e. a medical emergency) with proper documentation. **DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS TO ME*****

Assignments:

Discussion Thread Contributions

Each week, I will post discussion questions that you are expected to respond to that are based on the lectures, readings, links, and topics of the week. Many of the discussion posts are asking **YOUR** opinion about the topic, so do not just give a summary or overview of the topic – I'm expecting you to have gone through the course material and responding with your now-educated view. Answer the questions asked. Your contributions must be more than just agreeing with someone else or simple reactions to what others say ("Wow," "I didn't know this," etc.). I purposefully make other students' discussion posts hidden until you make your own post so that you create original work. There also should be no direct quotes from any other source in your discussion posts. In addition to your own response to the original post, you must respond to at least one other student's posts each week for full credit. You cannot make up discussion posts (or responses) late.

News Threads:

Politics and history don't live in a bubble. There are many events that occur that can be compared to current events. Each week, you must find a relevant news story **FROM THE WEEK THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE** and relate it to the course material **FROM THE SAME WEEK** in your post. Do not just give a summary of the news event that you found. Your post should be at least 200 words in length. Don't just google the topic and find some article written that week and use it. It should be something that specifically happens during the week it's due. **Do not use any blogs, opinion pieces, or any 24-hour news channel sources – i.e. CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC, etc.).** Please include the link of your news article. **NO DIRECT QUOTES.** You must also respond to another student's news thread for full credit. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you have worked through the week's material and can apply it to current issues in the news.

- example -- if we're covering the American Revolution one week, find something that happened in the news that week (the week the assignment is due) and explain how the recent event relates to what we covered that week. You should not just google the week's topic and find something going on in the news that reminds you of our course material (in the above example - do not find a news article from the week of the assignment about the American Revolution – That is not the assignment. Instead, is there a revolution going on elsewhere in the world right now? How is it similar/different?)

The purpose of these assignment is twofold: One, it's to get you to think about what we covered and how other things going on in the world can be similar to history; and two, it's to get you to start readings the news more regularly and being aware of the world in which you live.

Again, please use credible news sources (no blogs, opinion pieces, or 24-hour news networks -- i.e. no CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC, etc.). If you are unsure of your source, please email me

Reading Response Essays:

Throughout the semester, you must write four reading responses to four of our course readings. These are to be analytical papers (NOT a summary of the readings). It should be at least two (FULL – double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins) pages long (per reading) and include insights gained, any questions you may have, and topics for class discussion. Only put your name and which reading you are analyzing at the top of the paper. No other information or title is needed. No direct quotes – this is your analysis. You should submit two of readings before the midterm is due (about readings from the first half of the semester and should be based on readings from the first section and section second) and two in the second half of the semester (about two readings from the third section and fourth section). I recommend doing these throughout the semester rather than writing them right before they're due, because the readings supplement the lectures.

***** LATE POLICY:** Any late assignments will only be worth half of their original points after the due date (and only for the week after the assignment is due. After that, it is not possible to get any points for an assignment.) PLEASE DON'T APPROACH ME AT THE END OF THE SESSION ASKING TO DO ALL OF THE 15 WEEKS' WORTH OF WORK THE LAST WEEK. This class is designed to be done over the course of fifteen weeks, and it is not possible to do everything in a day or two***

Formatting Guidelines for ALL written assignments:

- Be specific. I want you to really think about your assignments and your responses to them and how they fit into our overall 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...
- PROOFREAD YOUR WORK. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY (no date, title, etc.)
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- Double-spaced
- 1-inch margins all around
- All papers must be written specifically for THIS CLASS. Any papers submitted from previous courses will automatically receive an F.

***** SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENTS ON CANVAS *****

(I will not accept them any other way)

Grading:
Discussion Posts – 200 points total
News Threads – 25 points each/375 total
Reading Responses – 50 points each/200 total points
Final Essay – 100 points

800 points total

COURSE POLICIES:

1. 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.
 2. **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. Additionally, it is inappropriate for any parents to contact any professor about your grade, and there are laws that prohibit such communication.
 3. **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.
 4. DO NOT HAND IN WORK YOU'VE SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER CLASS. Even if you wrote it, it would still be considered plagiarism because you didn't write it specifically for this class.
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1. Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be warned one time. Any subsequent disrespect will be reported to the university.
 2. As this is an asynchronous online course and all of the week's work is available on Mondays (and due Sunday nights), you have ample time to complete your work each week. I will therefore not entertain any extensions on your coursework. I understand that many things can happen during the week that may hinder you from doing work on one specific day, which is why I designed the course the way that I did – to give you the flexibility to complete your assignments each week at your own pace. You cannot complete all the work for the course in the last week(s) of the semester.
 3. If you enroll in the course late, you are still responsible to complete the work from the week(s) you missed in a timely matter.
 4. DO NOT HAND IN WORK YOU'VE SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER CLASS. Even if you wrote it, it would still be considered plagiarism because you didn't write it specifically for this class. Also do not copy and paste discussion posts or parts of one assignment into another assignment.
 5. **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. Please see Rutgers' Academic Integrity Policy. All students are required to sign the **Rutgers Honor Code Pledge**. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment"... **Using AI for your assignments – including ChatGPT and Grammarly -- is a form of plagiarism.** Additionally, you cannot hand in any assignments that you have completed for a different course. 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.