

**New Jersey Institute of Technology**

**HIST 213-103  
The Twentieth Century World**

**Fall 2024  
CKB 314  
W: 6:00-8:50 am**

**Professor Elektra Kostopoulou  
Email [ik74@njit.edu](mailto:ik74@njit.edu)**

*Please email me via Canvas if you have any questions directly relevant to this class. I will be answering your class-related emails before each meeting.*

**Office**

#323 Cullimore Hall

**Office Hours**

TR 1:15-2:45 pm

**Zoom**

For zoom meetings we will be using the link provided via Canvas.

**Academic Calendar**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>: First Day of Classes  
November 28<sup>th</sup>-December 1<sup>st</sup>: Thanksgiving Recess  
December 11<sup>th</sup>: Last day of Classes

**Brief Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the manifold histories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is organized in chronological order, incorporating different regions of the world and various methodologies of world history into a coherent narrative. Together, we will examine the ways political, economic, and social processes have informed one another on the macro and micro level. The course shifts 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 of global interactions; economic and political expressions of globalization.

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

*The goal of this course is to empower 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 20<sup>th</sup>-century world. It satisfies three credits of the GUR in Cultural History.*

### Course Goals:

- Identify and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Learn key political, economic, and cultural concepts.
- Establish comparisons between past and present issues.
- Discover connections among different parts of the world.
- Understand and implement interdisciplinary approaches.
- Exercise analytical thought, orally and in writing.
- Develop out-of-the-box thinking skills.

### Course Requirements:

1. Attend all classes prepared for a critical discussion and do the weekly readings.
2. Complete the weekly assignments.
3. Complete the take-home midterm assignment—which is connected to the final paper.
4. Complete the final research paper on the topic of your choice in connection to the course themes and scopes.

### Indicative Topics

*The following topics are merely suggestions. You do not have to limit yourselves to them. You can write about anything you want, provided you manage to demonstrate a good understanding of a) 20<sup>th</sup> century world history b) historical methodology.*

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 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced (not including a cover page or references). You should use at least 2 peer-reviewed publications and 1 primary source (Chicago style for review articles).**

**\*Papers should be submitted online through *Turnitin* (deadline to be announced).**

**You don't need to purchase a textbook for this class. All required readings/sources will be provided online by the instructor.**

**Main Additional Online References:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/Links to an external site.> and <https://www.encyclopedia.com/Links to an external site.>

## Grading:

1. Class participation/In-Class assignments: 30%
2. Weekly assignments: 30%
3. Primary Source Analysis: 10%
4. Research Paper: 30%

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)

Bellow 60%: Failure (F)

## Academic Integrity:

*"Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:*

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>*Links to an external site..*

*Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)*"

## Course Schedule

### Week One (September 4th)

#### Required Reading:

Loloum, T. (2020), Containing the Future Shock. Soc Anthropol, 28: 306-307. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1469-8676.12872>*Links to an external site.*

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

What is World History?

Explaining the syllabus and course requirements.

### **Suggested Readings:**

Toffler, *Future Shock* (1970).

World History Association, 'What is World History?'

Source: [http://www.thewha.org/world\\_history.php](http://www.thewha.org/world_history.php))[Links to an external site.](#)

### **Week Two (September 11<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Required Reading:**

"NOW WE HAVE ONLY PEOPLES' WARS" ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) (pp. 16-29) in Lukacs, John. *A Short History of the Twentieth Century, 183-205*. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press, 2013.

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wpmch.4?refreqid=excelsior%3A23bbe56847c3cbfb1b94d69d973c347b&seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wpmch.4?refreqid=excelsior%3A23bbe56847c3cbfb1b94d69d973c347b&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

#### **Discussion Themes:**

- Consolidating Nations and Constructing Empires
- Expansion and Nation Building in the Americas
- Consolidation of Nation States in Europe
- Industry, Science and Technology
- Global Expansionism and an Age of Imperialism
- Pressures of Expansion in Japan, Russia, and China

#### **Indicative Primary Sources:**

"Manifest Destiny" (1845), John L. O'Sullivan (17.1); *On the Origin of Species* (1859) Charles Darwin.

### **Week Three (September 18<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Required Readings:**

Kil, Sang Hea. "Fearing Yellow, Imagining White: Media Analysis of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882." *Social identities* 18, no. 6 (2012): 663–677.

#### **Discussion themes:**

- Progress, Upheaval, and Movement
- The Age of Mass Movement
- Worldwide Insecurities

#### **Primary Sources:**

*Transport Worker's Strike* (1911); <https://www.europeana.eu/en/blog/voices-from-the-past-20th-century-migration-in-audio-and-video>[Links to an external site.](#); <https://www.phillipscollection.org/event/2019-06-21-warmth-other-suns-stories-global-displacement>[Links to an external site.](#).

## Week Four (September 25<sup>th</sup>)

### Required Readings:

Chorba, Terence, and Byron Breedlove. "Concurrent Conflicts—the Great War and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic." *Emerging infectious diseases* 24, no. 10 (2018): 1968–1969.

Seker, Nesim. "Demographic Engineering in the Late Ottoman Empire and the Armenians." *Middle Eastern studies* 43, no. 3 (2007): 461–474.

**Additional Source:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/whp-origins/era-7-the-great-convergence-and-divergence-1880-ce-to-the-future/71-world-war-1-beta/a/read-what-caused-the-first-world-war-beta>Links to an external site.

### Discussion themes:

- The Quest for the Modern.
- The Great War.

### Primary Sources:

BBC Archive on WWI; UPI Archive on the Russian Revolution; *To Heinrich Zangger* (1915), Albert Einstein; *The Fourteen Points* (1918), USA President Wilson; *The Speech* (1919), Kemal Ataturk.

## Week Five (October 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### Required Readings:

Bhattacharyya, Sambit. "Expansionism, Russian Revolution, and the Two World Wars." In *A History of Global Capitalism: Feuding Elites and Imperial Expansion*, edited by Sambit Bhattacharyya, 81–100. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2020.

### Discussion themes:

- The Russian Revolution (1917)
- The Soviet Union and WWII

**Additional Source:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/whp-origins/era-7-the-great-convergence-and-divergence-1880-ce-to-the-future/71-world-war-1-beta/a/read-the-power-of-one-the-russian-revolution-beta>Links to an external site.

### Primary Sources:

*Bourgeois democracy and the dictatorship of the proletariat* (1919), Lenin;

*To the Red Army* (1941), Joseph Stalin.

## Week Six (October 9<sup>th</sup>)

### Required Readings:

Sennett, Alan. "Film Propaganda: Triumph of the Will as a Case Study." *Framework* 55, no. 1 (2014): 45–65.

Zimmerman, Andrew. "Reviews of Books: From Darwin to Hitler: Evolutionary Ethics, Eugenics, and Racism in Germany Richard Weikart." *The American historical review* 110, no. 2 (2005): 566–567.

**Additional Source:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/rise-to-world-power/us-wwii/a/american-women-and-world-war-ii>[Links to an external site.](#)

### Discussion themes:

- World War II and its aftermath.
- The Beginning of the Cold War.

### Primary Sources:

*Letter to Hitler* (1940), Mohandas Gandhi; *The New Deal* (1932), President Franklin D. Roosevelt; *To the Red Army* (1941), Joseph Stalin; *Triumph of the Will* (1935), Leni Riefenstahl.

## Week Seven (October 16<sup>th</sup>) | Primary Source Analysis

## Week Eight (October 22<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>)

### Required Reading:

Ndlovu-Gatsheni C.. *Coloniality of Power in Postcolonial Africa: Myths of Decolonization*. African Books Collective; 2013

**Additional Source:** <https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/imperialism-colonialism-and-decolonization>[Links to an external site.](#)

### Discussion themes:

- Decolonization
- Three Worlds.

### 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 Nine (October 30<sup>th</sup>)

### Required Readings:

Paidipaty P. "Tortoises all the way down": Geertz, cybernetics and "culture" at the end of the Cold War. *Anthropological theory*. 2020;20(1):97-129. doi:10.1177/1463499619899747

**Additional Source:** <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/united-states-and-canada/us-history/cold-war>  
[Links to an external site.](#)

**Discussion themes:**

- The creation of the European Union.
- The Cold War.

**Primary Sources:**

*Sociological Record* (1978), Zofia Rydet; *I Want to Make the World Turn Around* (1986), The Steve Miller Band.

**Week Ten (November 6<sup>th</sup>)**

**Required Readings:**

Manning K. The Gendered Politics of Woman-Work: Rethinking Radicalism in the Great Leap Forward. *Modern China*. 2006;32(3):349-384.

**Additional Sources:** <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/asia-and-africa/chinese-and-taiwanese-history/great-leap-forward>  
[Links to an external site.](#)

**Discussion themes:**

- Last phase of white rule in Africa and Nelson Mandela.
- The rise of China.
- The International Monetary Fund.

**Primary Sources:**

*Serve the People* (1944), Mao Zedong; *Mao Zedong Meets Richard Nixon* (1972) <https://china.usc.edu/mao-zedong-meets-richard-nixon-february-21-1972>  
[Links to an external site.](#)

**Week Eleven (November 13<sup>th</sup>)**

**Required reading:**

McLarney E. Soundscapes of the Iranian Revolution. *Journal of Middle East women's studies*. 2020;16(2):227-234. doi:10.1215/15525864-8238258

**Additional Sources:** <https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/sociology-and-social-reform/sociology-general-terms-and-concepts/iranian>  
[Links to an external site.](#)

**Discussion themes:**

- The Middle East and Other Misunderstandings.
- The International Monetary Fund.

**Week Twelve (November 20<sup>th</sup>)****Required reading:**

Fluri, Jennifer. "'Foreign Passports Only': Geographies of (Post)Conflict Work in Kabul, Afghanistan." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 99, no. 5 (2009): 986–994.

**Additional Sources:** <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/asia-and-africa/chinese-and-taiwanese-history/great-leap-forward>[Links to an external site.](#)

**Discussion themes:**

- 9/11 and the End of the 20<sup>th</sup>
- From the Cold War to the War on Terror back to the Cold War.

**Week Thirteen (November 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Final Paper Review

**Week Fourteen (December 4<sup>th</sup>)**

Final Paper Review

**Week Fifteen (December 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Conclusion/ Summary