

20th Century World History

HIST 213

Monday Evenings - 6:00-8:50pm

CKB 114

Instructor: Dr. Morrison-Santana

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Office Hours: Thursdays 5:00-6:00pm in Cullimore 321 (or available virtually by appointment)

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.

Participation – you are expected to attend every class, pay attention, and actively participate in the course discussions – this means being present, not talking, not being on any device during class.

Newspaper Article Essays:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to issues and/or events from 20th century history that we will cover in this class. For this assignment, you must find a recent article (within the past year, at least 5 full pages long, and from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of whether a source is acceptable) and write a paper relating the article to a past event that we studied in class. You are expected to tie course readings and lectures into your analysis. A full rubric for the paper is on page 4 of this syllabus.

Pop-Quizzes:

These are to verify that you are doing the readings each week. The quizzes will happen at random throughout the semester and consist of 5 short, easy questions about the reading(s) due that day. They will be held at the beginning of class. If you are late and miss a pop quiz, you cannot make it up.

Midterm/Final Exams: There are no make-ups of either exam unless there is a dire emergency, which requires proper documentation through the Dean of Students. The format of the exams will be short answer essay questions (4-5 sentences each) and one longer essay (10-12 sentences).

***** 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 COURSE'S WORTH OF WORK THE LAST WEEK. This class is designed to be done over the course of 14 weeks, and it is not possible to successfully do everything in a day or two***

Grading:

- Participation – 200 points
- Pop Quizzes – 100 total points
- Newspaper Article 100 points each/200 total points
- Midterm Exam – 150 points
- Final Exam – 100 points

750 points total

COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Attendance** is mandatory and will be taken at each class session. Please plan to attend every class so that you can get all the information of the course needed. If you miss class due to illness, please contact the Dean of Students and submit your doctor's note through them. You will not be able to pass this class without regularly attending it. As this class is only once per week, if you have more than 2 absences, it will affect your participation grade. Repeated lateness will also affect participation grade.
2. **No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). These devices are distracting not only to you, but to the rest of the class as well. If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies may result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day. If

you are caught using any personal technology during an exam, you will receive a zero for the exam, and the matter will be handed over to the Office of Academic Integrity.

3. 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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. 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.
8. I cannot predict the future, and as we all know from these past few years, things can change overnight – this includes modality of courses taught, requirements for in person classes, etc. I will do my best to be as honest and upfront with you about what I know and to help ease whatever transitions we may need to make throughout the semester. We should all be prepared for everything.
9. Do not plan a mid-semester vacation that would cause you to miss an exam or leave campus before the end of the university's final exam end date, requiring a different exam date. This will not be accommodated. (Final exam dates will be available sometime mid-semester, so please plan accordingly).
10. **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>.** 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

Newspaper Article Essay:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to political issues and historical events we discuss in this class. For these essays, you must find a recent news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) about a current event (from 2025) that is UNRELATED to our course material and write a paper about how the article relates to the topics discussed each week. These are not informative papers, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event you choose is related to the topics we've discussed that week and how it differs using course readings and lectures to supplement your paper. This is also not meant for you to find a 2025 article about our topic. Again, your news event should be UNRELATED to our course material in any way, and YOU make the connection. **You must use course material in your paper (and cite it) - including lectures, readings, links, etc.**

- example -- if we're covering the American Revolution one week, find something that happened in the news and explain how the recent event relates to something we've covered in class. Do not find a news article from 2025 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?)

Cite everything with **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them).

*** Your answer must be at least 5 full pages long (no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, these essays make up a large portion of your grade, so it is important that you do them; failure to do so may result in failing the course. They should be well thought-out responses with a beginning, middle, and end.

*** **SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON CANVAS ONLY** ***

Guidelines:

- Find an article from a credible source – avoid 24-hour news channels (NO Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.) If you are unsure of your source, please email me. Also, do not use op-eds (opinion pieces) or blogs, as they are not investigative journalism.
- Be specific. I want you to really think about your articles and your responses to them and how they fit into our 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... DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS. Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, MAXIMUM.
- ***If you do not cite, even when you paraphrase, it will be considered plagiarism. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.***
- PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization... Read through it out loud before turning it in, which can help highlight errors.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY – no title, date, course name, etc.
- 1-inch margins all around

- SINGLE SPACE FOOTNOTES
- The paper is to be 5 full pages long. Not less... (No cover page).
- Do not use Grammerly, ChatGPT, or any other AI technology to write or edit your paper. This is considered plagiarism.
- **CITE EVERYTHING**

GRADING RUBRIC FOR THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ASSIGNMENTS:

Essay Criteria (70 points total):

- Credible article chosen (____/10 points)
- Article comparison to course material (____/20 points)
- Critical Analysis/Original thought (____/20 points)
- Well-organized essay – beginning/middle/end – (____/20 points)

Paper Guidelines – following directions (30 points total):

- Handed in on time (freebie) – 2 points
- Brief name (no more than one line) – 4 points
- Required length (5 full pages) – 4 points
- Required font (Times New Roman 12-point) – 4 points
- Proofread – 4 points
- Double Spaced (no extra spaces between paragraphs) – 4 points
- Proper Margins (1-inch) – 4 points
- Footnotes (4 points total)
 - * Full Bibliographic info (including URL)
 - * Single-spaced

GRADE (out of 100 points) _____

20th Century World History (subject to change)	
WEEK	TOPIC
Week 1	Introduction - Fin de Siècle & the Dreyfus Affair
Week 2	World War I
Week 3	The Armenian Genocide & The Bolshevik Revolution
Week 4	Ukraine Famine and the 1920s in the U.S.
Week 5	The Origins of the Nazi Party & The Rape of Nanking (** trigger warning **)
Week 6	The Psychological and Political Aspects of World War II in Europe and War in the Pacific
Week 7	The Aftermath of WWII & Origins of the Cold War
Week 8	Korean War & Cuban Missile Crisis
Week 9	Midterm Exam
Week 10	Vietnam & Cambodian Genocide
Week 11	Soviet-Afghan War (vs. War in Afghanistan - 2000s)
Week 12	End of the Cold War & Iraq I (1991) vs. Iraq II (2003) & Somalia
Week 13	Break-up of the Former Yugoslavia (Bosnian Genocide)
Week 14	Rwandan Genocide pt. 1
Week 15	Rwandan Genocide pt. 2 & R2P and the late 1990s