

History 217 – The World in the Twentieth Century – 1900-1945

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Office Hours: 9:00-9:30 and 2:10-3:00, MWF; 2:00-3:00, TR; or by appointment.

Course focus: This course covers a wide range of world-influencing events and people during the first half of the twentieth century. The results of their activities helped to shape the framework for significant world events in the second half of the twentieth and the first decade of the twenty-first century. In this course I will focus on one of the most important forces behind these events - national power in its political, economic, military, and informational aspects. I intend to explore the following questions: What is national power? How does it emerge? What assumptions lie behind the notion of national power? How was power expressed in the early twentieth century? What impact did competing nationalist forces have on the course of history in the early twentieth century? Were there forces competing for the right to establish national power? What outcomes were there as a result of the competition for power? Pursuing all of these questions will help us to understand the nature of the world in the first half of the twentieth century and its impact on the second half of the century.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to explain the concept of national power and describe specific examples of it. They will be able to accurately identify relevant geographic, political, and social/cultural information on historical maps.
- Students will acquire and improve on their abilities to think and read critically, to recognize arguments and evidence in a range of primary and secondary sources, to reconstruct the literal and contextual meaning of a historical passage, and to differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations.
- Students will be able to communicate historical reasoning effectively in oral discussion and examinations by organizing evidence from course materials to support an oral or written argument.

Course Requirements:

- To pass this course, a student must complete all four exams. Failure to complete any of these, barring specific circumstances, will result in a grade of 'F' for the course.

- Communication. I will use the UNCG email system and Blackboard as my sole means to contact you outside of regular classroom hours. Be sure to check your UNCG email account on a regular basis. If I need to modify some aspect of an upcoming class, I will send this to you by email. If you need to inform me of reasons why you will miss class (illness or some other personal crisis), then I expect you to use the UNCG email system. I will post on Blackboard additional reading materials from time to time. Be sure to download and read these because they will be included in the testable materials for the course.

- Classroom Courtesy. As a courtesy to both the instructor and your fellow students, please be on time and turn off all cell phones before class starts. Students observed texting, using the

phone, or using their laptop computers for purposes other than course-related activities will be asked to shut those devices off and put them away. During class, keep side-chatter to a minimum to avoid disrupting other students.

- Attendance is required, not optional. Attendance is both a measure of one's self-discipline and a necessary process for acquiring information that furthers understanding of course content. Material from each day will be testable. All unexcused absences will affect your grade. It is your responsibility each day in lecture to sign in with me. Your attendance grade will be based on the following chart:

<u>Absences from Lecture</u>	<u># of Points (out of a maximum of 10)</u>
0	12 (i.e., +2 points)
1-2	10
3-4	9
5-6	7
7-8	5
9 or more	0

You will note that if you have 100% attendance, you will actually help your final grade. I will use 12 points, rather than 10, when calculating your final grade.

-Religious Observance. The University allows for a limited number of excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of the student. Students must notify instructors of absences in advance of the date of the religious observance. Instructors have authority to specify, via written notice to students, the amount of lead time required and may require that the nature of the religious observance be specified and the student's participation be confirmed in writing by an official of the religious organization.

When appropriate notice is provided by a student, the student must be granted at least two excused absences under this policy and must be allowed to make up or waive work and tests missed due to these particular absences. With regard to any test or other assignment that a student would miss due to notice of a required religious observance, faculty members may require the student to complete the test or assignment in advance of the originally scheduled date of the test or assignment. Beyond the minimum terms and limits of this policy, instructors maintain authority to establish and enforce the attendance policy for the courses they are teaching. The requirement for students to make such requests for excused absences applies only to days when the University is holding class.

- Examinations. There will be four in-class exams. The first two will be worth 20% of the final grade. The final two will be worth 25% of the final grade. Each exam will address only the material in the readings, orally presented in lecture, and discussed in class during that section of the course. The exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions. The nature and content of each exam will be specified prior to each exam.

- **Grades.** Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following events:

Attendance:	10%
First exam:	20%
Second exam:	20%
Third exam:	25%
Final exam:	25%

- **UNCG Grading Scale.** The undergraduate grading scale cut-offs are as follows:

A+	97	B+	87	C+	77	D+	67	F	<60
A	93	B	83	C	73	D	63		
A-	90	B-	80	C-	70	D-	60		

- **Legal obligations.**

1. In case later consultation should prove necessary, students should keep copies of all graded assignments at least until the end of the semester.

2. **As noted above, all course requirements must be completed satisfactorily to receive a passing grade for the class.**

3. Late Work: Assignments are due on the date and at the time listed on the syllabus; if a crisis (such as illness) arises, it is your responsibility to contact me. If you do not contact me, the work (when eventually received) will be penalized. Contact may be made by email, or by a face to face meeting.

4. **Cheating and Plagiarism:** I have provided the following definitions of cheating and plagiarism for your understanding and compliance. They are in accordance with the University's standing policies,. If you have any doubts about the meaning, refer to the University Academic Integrity Policy, located online at <http://academicintegritypolicy.uncg.edu>. I have included the following from this source. Please see me if you have any additional questions. I will speak to these ideas at length on the first day of class.

- **Cheating is the intentional use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.** Cheating includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying from the work of another student, using notes or other materials not authorized during an examination, giving or receiving information or assistance on work when it is expected that the student will do their own work.

-**Plagiarism is the attempt or act of representing the words of another as one's own in any academic exercise.** Plagiarism may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. This includes submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including web sites, as one's own work. In particular for written assignments, this includes the failure to cite the words and ideas of others or the submission of words, ideas, and text materials as one's own work when these materials were taken from the work of another.

- **If I suspect that a violation has occurred, I will investigate the circumstances to verify my suspicions. If it is clear to me that a violation of either of these policies has occurred, I will take action. At a minimum, I will give the graded event (project or exam) a zero. Other options, including at the most severe end of the spectrum a recommendation for expulsion from the university, are available to me. However, I reserve the right to treat each case and each student as individuals, and I will only refer to the Academic Integrity Panel those cases where I feel the student has knowingly and in a calculated manner set out to deceive me and undermine the academic integrity of this university.**

5. The syllabus is a document that reflects the plan for the course. The instructor reserves the right to alter requirements or to change some aspects of the plan of study for this course based on conditions and situations that cannot be anticipated in advance of the formulation of this syllabus. The timing of assignments and the nature of assignments contained herein do not reflect a binding contract. If I need to make a change, I will provide to you as must forewarning as possible either orally or through email. **Reference documents and readings listed in the syllabus which are not from the textbook are available electronically through Blackboard. Be sure to read them prior to class.**

Schedule by week/day.

Week 1:

23 August – First day of class; syllabus; expectations from student and instructor perspectives. This is a course on the development and exercise of power internationally and internally.

25 August – The atom bomb; the world at the end of the Second World War; how did we get into this mess?

27 August – 19th Century Background to the Twentieth Century

Read Prologue (p.1-5) and Chapter 1 (p.7-32). Answer the questions in Reading Guide.

Week 2:

30 August – Enlightenment and the Age of Reason in Europe: Darwin, Marx and the social struggle.

-Reference documents (see Blackboard):

-Charles Darwin: *The Origin of Species* (1859) – brief overview

-Herbert Spencer: *Social Darwinism* (1857) – extract

-Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) - excerpts

1 September – The Formation of the Second German Reich

-Reference documents (see Blackboard):

-Johann Gottlieb Fichte: *Address to the German Nation* (1807)

-Max Schneckenburger: *The Watch on the Rhine* (1870)

-Kaiser Wilhelm II: *A Place in the Sun* (1901)

3 September – The New World Powers and the European Balance of Power

- *Read Chapter 2 (p.36-50). Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.*

Week 3:

6 September – Labor Day holiday – No class.

8 September – Industrialism and Imperialism: the Making of a Global Colonial Order

- Read Chapter 3 (p.53-70). Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.

-Reference documents:

-John Hobson. *Imperialism* (1902)

-Colonialism charts

- Review maps and be able to identify major colonial regions in the world.

10 September – Latin America, Colonialism and the United States

- Read Chapter 4 (p.75-85) concerning US and Latin America. Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.

-Reference documents:

-Convention between the US and Panama (1903)

-Elihu Root. *Platt Amendment* (1901)

-Monroe Doctrine (1823)

-Ruben Dario. *To Roosevelt*.

Week 4:

13 September - The Middle East.

- Read Chapter 4 (p.85-92). Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.

-Reference documents:

-The Balfour Declaration

-Theodor Herzl. *On the Jewish State* (1896)

15 September – China

- Read Chapter 4 (p.92-99). Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.

-Reference documents:

-Lin Zixu. *Letter of Advice to Queen Victoria* (1839)

-Boxer Protocol (Treaty of 1901, Peace Agreement between the Great Powers and China)

Exam Review (time permitting)

17 September – First Exam

- Review Chapters 1 – 4 using the Reading Guide questions.

- Review map depicting regions of colonial occupation. Be able to identify which European power controlled, or shared control, of each region.

- Review European map for 1914 and identify the Great Powers.

- Review lecture notes.

Week 5:

20 September – The Coming of the Great War

- Read Chapter 5 (p.103-109, 111-136). Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.

22 September – The Ottoman Empire and the Balkans as Contested Territory

- Read/review p.85-92.

24 September – Countdown to Conflict – Sarajevo and All of That...

- Review readings, p.113-116; read p.116-122. Answer the questions in Reading Guide.

-Reference document: Felix Gilbert and David Large. "The First World War." – This reading supports the next four classes. Be sure to read all of it.

Week 6:

27 September – Technology, Strategy, Tactics: Maneuver Warfare and the Trenches on the Western Front. See Gilbert and Large.

29 September – The Great War as World War. See Gilbert and Large.

1 October – The Western Front and the Phases of the Great War. See Gilbert and Large.

Week 7:

4 October – The Failures of Bloody 1916; Mutiny and Morale in 1917 at Home and the Front. See Gilbert and Large.

6 October – Collapse in the East: Russia and the Revolution

- Review p.107-108; 117-118.

8 October – President Woodrow Wilson and the Crusade to Defend Democracy - 1918 as Endgame: the Return of Offensive Warfare

-Reference document: President Wilson's 14 Points Speech

- Review for exam (time permitting)

Week 8:

11 October – **Fall Break – no class.**

13 October – **Second Exam**

- Read/review Chapter 5, up to p.122.

- Review lecture notes.

15 October – Mid-Course Review and the Path Forward

- **Note: Last day for withdrawal without penalty.**

- Exam discussion.

Week 9:

18 October – The Failed Peace – The Peace of Paris

- Read/Review Chapter 5 (p.122-123). Answer the questions in Reading Guide.

-Reference document: James Witherspoon and H. Stuart Hughes. "The Settlement of 1919-1923."

20 October – Deconstructing European Empires: Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottomans

22 October – The First Cracks Begin to Appear in the Colonial Order

- Read Chapter 5 (p.123-135) Answer the questions in Reading Guide.

Week 10:

25 October – America, Japan, Mexico in the Interwar Period

- Read Chapter 6 (p.145-152). Answer the questions in Reading Guide.

27 October – Russia and China in the Interwar Period

- Read Chapter 6 (p.152-163). Answer questions in Reading Guide.

-Reference document: James Witherspoon and H. Stuart Hughes. “The Stalinist System.”

29 October – The Great Depression and the Rise of Totalitarianism in Europe

- Read Chapter 7 (p.170-180). Answer the questions in Reading Guide.

- Primary Source – Mussolini on Fascism

Week 11:

1 November – The 1930s in Latin America

- Read Chapter 7 (p.180-184). Answer the questions in the Reading Guide.

3 November – Russian and Japan in the 1930s

- Read Chapter 7 (p.184-190).

-Review reference document: “The Stalinist System.”

- **Review for exam.**

5 November – Third Exam

- Review Chapter 5, p.122-135; Chapter 6, p.145-163; and Chapter 7, p.169-190.

- Review lecture notes.

Week 12:

8 November – Roots of a New War – Overview of the lead-up to and conduct of the Second World War

- Read Chapter 8 (p.193-208).

-Reference document: K. Eubank. “The Hitler Enigma.” – extract from *Hitler’s Second Book* followed by historians’ analyses of Hitler’s policies.

10 November – Adolf Hitler, the New Germany and Hitler’s Consolidation of Power

Reference documents:

-Roger Eatwell. “Germany: the Rise of Nazism.” In *Nazism*.

-Roger Eatwell. “Germany: the Consolidation of the Nazi Dictatorship.” In *Nazism*.

12 November – The End of Versailles and the Challenge to Europe; the Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Soviet Union, or the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, 23-24 August 1939; the Invasion of Poland

Week 13:

15 November – Hitler Conquers the West (almost)

17 November – Operation Barbarossa and the Holocaust

-Reference documents: Jürgen Förster. “The Wehrmacht and the War of Extermination Against the Soviet Union.”

-Michael Lyons. “Hitler’s New Order in Europe.”

19 November – The World Counterpunches – Planning and Executing Wars in Europe and the Pacific

Reference documents:

-David Kennedy. “The Cauldron of the Home Front.” – This reflects the home front conditions in the United States.

Week 14:

22 November – The Soviets and the Western Allies Collapse the Third Reich

Reference documents: Michael Lyons. “The End of the Thousand-Year Reich.”

24-26 November – **Thanksgiving Break** – no class.

Week 15:

29 November – The War in the Pacific

- *Read about the war in the Pacific (p.205-210). Answer the questions in the reading guide.*

-Reference documents:

-Michael Lyons. “Island Hopping in the Pacific.” – This one is incomplete. What you need is there.

-E. B. Sledge. “On to Peleliu.” In *With the Old Breed*. – Skim for general experience of marines and others in the Pacific theater. This is part of a larger reading and ends abruptly.

1 December – The Atomic Bomb and the End of War; Transition from a Hot War to a Cold War

- *Review End of War’ (p.208-210). Answer Reading Guide questions.*

-Reference documents:

-Henry L. Stimson. “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb.”

-“The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II.”

3 December –and the War to End all Wars – Power redistribution in light of the outcome of the Second World War.

- *Read ‘Decolonization and a New World of Issues’ (p.210-216). Answer Reading Guide questions.*

Week 16:

6 December – last day of class. Final review and discussion.

8 December – **Final Exam** (section 1: 12:00-3:00; section 2: 3:30-6-30)

- *Review Chapter 8 (p.193-210 and reference documents.*

- *Review lecture notes.*