

SYLLABUS  
HIS218-02 The World in the Twentieth Century (Since 1945)

Meeting Time/Location: MW 3:30 to 4:45 SOEB 224  
Instructor: Mark Moser Office: MHRA 2104  
Office Hours: MW 9:00 to 10:00 --- MW 1:00 to 2:00 --- (and by appointment)  
Email: [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu)

Required Texts:

Brower, Daniel R. *The World since 1945: A Brief History* Second Edition\* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005).

Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring* (Any edition/publication).

McCauley, Martin. *Russia, America and the Cold War, 1949-1991* Second Edition\* (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004).

(From time to time there may be additional readings in the form of handouts or online materials that you will be required to read)

Learning Goals for this Course:

(These learning goals are applicable to both history majors and non-history majors alike.)

- **Historical Comprehension:** Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in analyzing historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
- **Historical Analysis:** Students will demonstrate ability to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- **Historical Interpretation:** Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.

Procedures/Assignments:

It will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should have no trouble managing the workload for this class. Discussion of your readings will routinely take up a significant portion of many class sessions. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to the first day of class in any given week. (You should be prepared to be called on EACH and EVERY CLASS SESSION!) Class discussions will be difficult to conduct if you

haven't read and class lectures and videos that we will watch will be more understandable if you have read the assigned material ahead of time. You should not find this course difficult provided that you remain current with your reading. However, students who fall behind will likely find it difficult to catch up. \*A significant portion of our class discussions will attempt to connect to the Exploratory Studies Learning Community course that you are also taking.

### Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a substantial portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here, you cannot participate. Students accumulating more than 4 absences will have their final grade reduced by one letter. Excessive absences may result in being dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of "W" must drop the class on or before Friday, October 12. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session.

*(A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above).*

This class meets two times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to everyone in attendance.

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Any student who misses an exam **must contact me ASAP** to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. (Makeup exams, if permitted, will have to be taken at a time when I am available)

Warning: Technology is a wonderful thing. Having said that, you should be aware that I consider using a laptop in my class a privilege—not a right—and privileges can be taken away. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you use them only for taking notes. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offense will result in the loss of stated privilege. Numerous violations of this request will result in the banning of laptops from class altogether. Similar discretion/judgment should be applied to **any** electronic device that can be a distraction to you, your classmates, or instructor. If you are so important, in a truly global sense, that you cannot go 75 minutes without checking your Facebook® Account, Twitter® Account, email, etc., then you are clearly far too important to be wasting your valuable time and celebrity status here at UNCG.

Grading:

Attendance/Class Participation	20%
Article Portfolio	30%
Mid-term Exam (Essay)	20%
Final Exam (Essay)	30%
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Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point scale and I do assign +/- to final grades when warranted.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(August 20, 22) McCauley, Chapter 1 “Introduction: The Problem”

Week Two—(August 27, 29) McCauley, Chapter 2 “The Cold War in Perspective” and Brower, Chapter 2 “The Cold War and the End of Western Empires”

Week Three—(September 5) McCauley, Chapter 3 “Cold War I: 1949-1953”  
\*No class Monday, September 3---Labor Day

Week Four—(September 10, 12) McCauley, Chapter 4 “To the Brink and Back: 1953-1969”

Week Five—(September 17, 19) McCauley, Chapter 5 “Détente: 1969-1979”

Week Six—(September 24, 26) McCauley, Chapter 6 “Cold War II: 1979-1985”

Week Seven—(October 1, 3) McCauley, Chapter 7 “New Political Thinking and the End of the Cold War: 1985-1991” and Brower, Chapter 7 “The Cold War and the Fall of the Soviet Empire”

Week Eight—(October 8, 10) \*Midterm Exam\* --- (You will need a small format bluebook)  
In-class review on Monday, October 8 ----- Midterm Exam on Wednesday, October 10

\*Fall Break\* --No class Monday, October 15

Week Nine—(October 17) Brower, Chapter 3 “Revolutions and Recovery in East Asia, 1950-1990”

Week Ten—(October 22, 24) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia”  
Film: *Gandhi*

Week Eleven—(October 29, 31) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia” (cont’d)  
Film: *Gandhi* \*\* Begin reading *Silent Spring*

Week Twelve—(November 5, 7) Brower, Chapter 5 “Africa and Latin America in the Third World” \*\*Continue reading *Silent Spring*  
Film: *The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela*

Week Thirteen—(November 12, 14, 19\*) Brower, Chapter 6 “Nations at War in the Middle East” \*Thanksgiving Break Wednesday, November 21 \*\* Continue reading *Silent Spring*

Week Fourteen—(November 26, 28) Brower, Chapter 8 “Local Wars, Global Economy: The World after the Cold War” \*\* **Class discussion: Putting *Silent Spring* in its historical context**  
\*Article Portfolios must be turned in on Wednesday, November 28

Week Fifteen—(December 3) Last day of class ----- Review session for Final Exam

\*FINAL EXAM\* ----- Friday, December 7 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm (You will need a small format Bluebook)

#### Explanation of Weekly Article Assignment:

Each week (beginning with week 2) during the semester every student will be required to find and read one contemporary newspaper or magazine article that coincides with that week’s textbook material. These articles—in their entirety—should be saved, printed, and kept in a portfolio of manageable size since you must bring these with you to class every day. At the beginning of every class session I will randomly call on a few students who will be asked to discuss their article for that week. Students called upon must provide the title of the article, the name of the source in which it appeared, its date of publication, and a brief *synopsis* of the article. Each weekly article that you select for your portfolio must be accompanied by a three to four paragraph response which is essentially your *analysis* of the article. Your typed, double-spaced responses should include things such as: relevance, timeliness, any obvious or perceived bias in the article, etc. The **only** acceptable sources for this ongoing assignment are: *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Wall Street Journal*. During the course of the semester I expect you to retrieve articles **from at least three** of these six sources. Jackson Library has each of these available in online, free-access formats. If you need help, please seek assistance from library staff.

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#### Academic Integrity Policy:

*On all quizzes, exams, and papers you will be expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be reviewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand.*

*\*If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*