

HIS 217 – 01 – The World of the Twentieth Century (1900 – 1945)

MWF 12-12:50, MHRA 1215

Instructor: Justina Licata (j_licata@iuncg.edu)

Office Hours: M 1:00 – 3:00 or by appointment (MHRA 3103)

This syllabus is subject to change

This course surveys major developments in world history from 1900 to 1945. Because of its broad sweep of historical events, the variety of topics covered in this course make no claim to be comprehensive. No single course can examine all of the important events in world history over a half-century. Instead, this course focuses on a selection of important events, historical figures, and international issues that have had global significance. This course will examine this historical era through the lenses of race, class, and gender, highlighting shifts in these theoretical categories.

This course also serves as an introduction to world history as an approach. World history is about understanding the interconnectedness of history across national borders, and thinking comparatively about events around the globe. Students will be trained to think as historians by analyzing evidence and learning to place evidence in historical context. Students will learn to analyze different types of evidence and make arguments based on such evidence. Fiction and films will be studied as sources for historical understanding. Articles and books written by historians will also be read and critically analyzed. It is hoped that the material explored in this course will provide the student with a springboard to further study in history in upper level courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will examine the role of human agency in historical change, as well as understand the larger economic, political and social structures that shape human experience.
- Students will examine interconnections between different parts of the globe, and think comparatively about different cultures and peoples studied.
- Students will be able to historically contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument.
- Students will improve their writing and verbal skills.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance:

A student who is not present to sign the attendance sheet when it circulates at beginning of class will be marked “absent.” **Once the sheet has circulated the room, no late students will be allowed to sign it.** Students who leave class early without permission will be marked absent. More than five absences will lower your **Final Grade** by one-

third of a grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your sixth absence will cause a “B” to become a “B-,” your seventh will make it a “C+,” your eighth will make it a “C,” etc.). Missing a total of 14 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic “F” for the course. No exceptions. Please use your five un-penalized absences wisely by saving them for emergencies or severe illness. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned or due on days in which they are absent.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, or have special needs that make the attendance policy burdensome, you **MUST** inform the instructor in the first week of class, and provide proof of your condition to the Dean of Students. We will do our best to accommodate any legitimate, documented, special needs.

Participation:

You must take notes during class lectures and be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you to be marked “absent.” Cell phones should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing or internet surfing during class. Laptop computers may be used for note-taking until it becomes a distraction.

Students are expected to complete the reading assignments in time to participate in class discussion. Participation is vital to your success in this class. Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive.

Grading Policies:

Students earn grades based on the work they submit. A common student misconception is that anyone can earn an A just by following instructions and doing the work. However, just following instructions is the same thing as doing the minimum. Most people do the minimum, and that makes their work Average (i.e. a C). Doing less than the minimum is either a D (“Below Average”) or an F (“Unsatisfactory”). Doing more than the minimum is worth either a B (“Above Average”) or, in rare cases, an A (“Excellent”). Therefore, students must submit work that proves their performance is better than the majority of their peers in order to earn the highest letter grades.

Assignments:

While there are no exams that require you to memorize dates, there will be periodic “pop quizzes” at the beginning of class covering the assigned reading for the day. Quizzes will be given on an “as needed” basis. If participation in the class is lively and students can demonstrate that they have read for each class, there will be fewer quizzes.

Students are expected to have completed the assigned reading prior to class. Additionally, students will be assigned three short papers that will focus on a variety of

writing skills and a take-home final. Details on these assignments will be given at a later date.

Grade Breakdown

Paper 1 – 20%
 Paper 2 – 20%
 Paper 3 – 20%
 Quizzes – 10%
 Final Exam – 20%
 Participation – 10%

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details: <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

Required Texts: (available online or at the UNCG Bookstore):

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
 Helen Zenna Smith, *Not so Quiet*
 Robert G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*

Course Schedule: (Note: the assigned readings are due on the date they are listed on the syllabus. Please view the syllabus prior to each class).

Week 1:

Monday, August 18th - Introductions/ Syllabus

Wednesday, August 20th - Beyond the Bubble Assessment (we work on this class)

Friday, August 22nd - Sourcing Assignment

Reading: will be handed out in Wednesday's class

Week 2:

Monday, August 25th - Expansion into Africa Background

Wednesday, August 27th - Expansion into Africa

Friday, August 29th - List of Characters and descriptions- Bring to class

Reading: *Things Fall Apart* Part 1

Week 3:

Monday, September 1st - LABOR DAY- NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 3rd - Race and Genocide

Friday, September 5th -

Reading: *Things Fall Apart* – Part Two

Week 4:

Monday, September 8th –African and the World/ Give out Paper One Assignment

Reading: *Things Fall Apart* – Part Three

Wednesday, September 10th - Pan Africanism

Friday, September 12th - Continue Pan Africanism

Reading: *The Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World* (Garvey);
Article from *The Crisis* (DuBois) (Blackboard)

Week 5:

Monday, September 15th - Gandhi and Indian Nationalism

Wednesday, September 17th - Nationalistic movements in the Middle East

Friday September 19th – Paper One Due

Reading: Orwell’s “Shooting an Elephant” (Blackboard)

Week 6:

Monday, September 22nd – American Imperialism (Philippians)

Wednesday, September 24th - Immigration in the United States

Friday, September 25th - Continue Immigration

Reading: Selected Readings from *A Bintel Brief* (Blackboard)

Week 7:

Monday, September 29th - Unrest in Europe (Lead up to WWI)

Wednesday, October 1st - WWI

Friday, October 3rd - Continue WWI

Reading: *Not So Quiet*, Chapters 1 – 8

Week 8:

Monday, October 6th - WWI

Wednesday, October 8th - Post War Nationalism and the Wilsonian Moment/ **Give out Paper Two Assignment**

Friday, October 9th - **Class Cancelled**

Reading: *Not So Quiet*, Chapters 9 – 12

Week 9:

Monday, October 13th - **FALL BREAK- No Class**

Wednesday, October 15th - Global Suffrage

Friday, October 17th - Continue Suffrage/ **Paper Two Due**

Reading: Emmeline Pankhurst's "Freedom or death" (Blackboard)

Week 10:

Monday, October 20th - Girl Culture of the 1920s

Wednesday, October 22nd - 1920s

Friday, October 24th - 1920s

Reading: From *Some Wore Bobby Sox* (Blackboard)

Week 11:

Monday, October 27th - Global Depression

Wednesday, October 29th - Global Depression

Friday, October 31st – Continue with the Depression/ Happy Halloween!

Reading: From *The World in Depression* (Blackboard)

Week 12:

Monday, November 3rd - Rise of Fascism

Wednesday, November 5th - WWII in Europe

Friday, November 7th - WWII Continued

Reading: From *The Nazi State and German Society* (page #s TBA)

Week 13:

Monday, November 10th –The Holocaust

Wednesday, November 12th – Gender, Sexuality, and the Holocaust

Friday, November 14th – Senegalese Soldiers in WWII/ Give out Paper Three Assignment

Reading: From *The Nazi State and German Society* (page #s TBA)

Week 14:

Monday, November 17th - Nuclear Age Begin

Wednesday, November 19th – Postwar Period

Friday, November 21st – The Cold War

Reading: Segments from Truman’s Diary regarding *Hiroshima* (Blackboard)

Week 15:

Monday, November 24th – Human Rights, Paper Three Due/ Give out Take Home Final Assignment

Reading: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Blackboard)

Wednesday, November 26th - THANKSGIVING BREAK- No Class

Week 16:

Monday, December 1st - Final take home exam check in to be turned in online by 1 pm.

Final Take Home Exam – Due Friday, December 5th at 3 pm