The World of the Twentieth Century, 1900-1945
HIS 217-03
Fall 2016, MW, Bryan 105

Brian E. Lee
belee@uncg.edu
Office: MHRA 2110
Office Hours: MW 12:45-1:45

Course Description

This course examines the political, social, and economic forces affecting Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe from 1900 to 1945. Specifically, this course focuses on a world in conflict: the origins, execution, and aftermath of the world wars.

Student Learning Objectives

General Education Student Learning Objectives
Categories: Historical Perspectives (GHP)
1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Course Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to trace the major themes and events of World History from 1900 to 1945, with special attention to the causes and aftermath of global conflict.
2. Students will be able to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Students will be able to construct a historical argument using primary sources and support a thesis statement in a short essay.

Course Readings

• There is no required text for this course. All the reading materials are available on Canvas.

Grades

• Exams (3): 60%. The course is divided into three units. Therefore, there will be three equally weighted exams. The exams will consist of objective questions to quiz your grasp of key concepts and actors, and subjective questions to measure your critical analysis. The objective questions will derive from class notes and the subjective questions from class discussions.

• Paper (1): 20%. Students will choose one option from several writing prompts. The five-page essay must include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, body paragraphs that support the thesis, a conclusion, and endnotes. The evidence to support your thesis must come
from the two assigned textbooks (no outside sources, specifically internet sources, should be used). The papers must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and with standard one-inch margins. A grading rubric and more specific instructions will be posted on Canvas. In addition, you must follow the Academic Integrity Policy or face disciplinary measures.

- **Quizzes:** (several) 20%. Students will be given quizzes on the course readings throughout the semester. Students can prepare for this assessment by reading the unit study guide that is posted on Canvas, which provides the student learning objectives and identifications. The quizzes will be given promptly at the start of class and CANNOT be made up. To earn full credit it is recommended that assignments are read prior to class and to attend all classes.

- **Class Participation:** Although this class is in a lecture setting and you will have dozens of classmates, you are expected to participate in class discussions. To ensure that you are best engaged and not a distraction to others, there will be a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, meaning laptops, cell phones, and other non-life sustaining electronic devices will be prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in a recorded absence and a request for you to leave the classroom.

- **Attendance:** All students are expected to attend all class meetings and be to class on time. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class to record attendance. Students that arrive late will be marked absent. It is reasonable to expect that illness or other unexpected events will cause you to miss a class on occasion. A student may miss three (3) classes without penalty. However, each additional absence will result in a drop of 1/3 of a letter grade from your overall course grade.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/22</td>
<td><strong>The World at 1900</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Imperialism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td><strong>Entente Tested</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8/31 Militarization  

3 9/5 Labor Day – Class Dismissed

9/7 Nationalism and Assassination at Sarajevo  
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “Pan-Serbism: Nationalism and Terrorism,” p. 295-298.

4 9/12 July Crisis  
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “War as Celebration: The Mood in European Capitals,” p. 298-304.

9/14 Great War, 1914-1915  
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “Trench Warfare,” p. 304-308.

5 9/19 Great War, 1916-1917  

9/21 Great War, 1918  
▪ Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points.”

6 9/26 Exam #1

9/28 Treaty of Versailles  
▪ Lamb & Tarling, From Versailles to Pearl Harbor, “The Peace Settlement,” p. 21-44.  
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of the Western Tradition, “Paris Peace Conference,” p. 313-316.

7 10/3 The Test of Peace  

10/5 **Rise of Totalitarianism: Soviet Union**

8 10/10 **Rise of Totalitarianism: Italy**

10/12 **Rise of Totalitarianism: Germany**

9 10/17 **Fall Break – Class Dismissed**

10/19 **Depression**

10 10/24 **Appeasement**
- Lamb & Tarling, *From Versailles to Pearl Harbor*, “ Appeasement,” p. 112-137.

10/26 **World War II: Phony War, 1939-1940**
- R.A.C Parker, *The Second World War*, “German Conquest of Poland, Norway, the Low Countries, and France,” p. 21-43.

11 10/31 **Exam #2**

11/2 **World War II: The Battle of Britain, 1940-1941**
Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “The Battle of Britain,” p. 397-400.

12 11/7 World War II: A Sleeping Giant Awakens, 1941-1942
▪ Franklin D. Roosevelt, “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy.”

11/9 World War II: Allies on the Offensive, 1942-1943
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “Stalingrad: A Turning Point,” p. 404-408.

13 11/14 World War II: The Liberation of Europe, 1943-1944

11/16 World War II: The Liberation of Europe, 1944-1945
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “D-Day,” p. 428-430.

14 11/21 World War II: The Liberation of Europe, 1945
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “The End of the Third Reich,” p. 431-440.

11/23 Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed

15 11/28 World War II: Victory in the Pacific
▪ Marvin Perry, Sources of Western Tradition, “The Defeat of Japan,” p. 440-444.

Term Paper Due

11/30 Legacies of a World in Conflict

16 12/5 Legacies of a World in Conflict

17 12/12 Exam #3 (3:30-6:30)