

**History 218-05: The World of the Twentieth Century since 1945 (Fall 2017)**  
**Time and Place: MW 6:30-7:45pm, MHRA 1214**

Professor David M. Wight (dmwight@uncg.edu)

Office Hours and Location: W 3:30-5:30pm & by appointment, MHRA 2116

**STRUCTURE & SCOPE**

Welcome! This course introduces the key events, people, and trends of world history since 1945. Moreover, it presents what comprises the field of history and how historians conduct their craft.

The second half of the twentieth century witnessed extraordinary and rapid change across the globe. This class will examine the making of the contemporary world, from the aftermath of World War II to the beginnings of the new millennium. It will focus upon three main themes: the geopolitical struggles of the Cold War and decolonization; the rise of contemporary globalization and attendant economic, cultural, and environmental issues; and global shifts in the status of women and attitudes toward gender and sexuality.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

There are three books assigned for the course, listed below. The books can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional short readings will be provided online.

Paul Chamberlin, *The Global Offensive: The United States, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Making of the Post-Cold War Order* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008)

Mary Elise Sarotte, *The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall* (New York: Basic Books: 2014)

**GRADING**

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Lecture Quizzes	20%
Writing Assignment 1	20%
Writing Assignment 2	30%
Final Examination	30%

Grading will be on the following scale: A = 94 and up; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87 to 89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = <60.

## LECTURE QUIZZES AND CLASS ATTENDANCE

Daily class attendance is expected. To encourage students to attend class and keep up with assigned readings, random quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes will be on both lecture materials and readings. In each quiz, a “historical ID”, or term (or two) will be given. For each ID, you will need to explain the “who/what, where, when, and why/how,” as well as its significance/connection to larger course themes. Half of the points go to defining the ID term, and half of the points go to explaining the significance. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped (including those missed due to an absence), but no more, so plan accordingly.

You are required to complete the readings listed below each week **before** arriving to class on Monday, unless I state otherwise. Weekly readings are listed at the end of this syllabus under the heading “Class Topics & Assignments.”

Common sense respect (not texting or surfing the web or listening to headphones during class, etc.) is required. Likewise, when discussing ideas, you are required to be respectful of other people’s arguments. Critiques and disagreements over the ideas we discuss are expected and even encouraged, but this does not permit anyone to be offensive or abusive toward others. I reserve the right to remove anyone from class for disrespectful behavior.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

History is primarily a written craft, and writing is a distinct process of obtaining and relating knowledge. One of my goals is to improve your ability to write a clear argument with the use of evidence, a skill which will benefit you in almost any field or occupation.

You will have two paper assignments in this class. Each paper should be 3-4 pages, double spaced, begin with a clear thesis which responds to the prompt, and have thoughtful examples and analysis which demonstrates your thesis. And do not forget that the key to writing a good essay is reading over it and **REVISING** it several times!

Papers will be graded by the following criteria:<sup>1</sup>

- **ACCURACY:** Does my paper show that I have thoroughly and accurately examined the assigned material AND the relevant context from the textbook?
- **CLEAR THESIS:** Does my paper begin with a clear and interesting thesis statement indicating what I am arguing?
- **ARGUMENT:** Have I substantiated my thesis with a clear argument that utilizes sufficient evidence and analysis?

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<sup>1</sup> Paper grading rubric from Emily S. Rosenberg

- CONSTRUCTION: Do I have proper paragraphs and topic sentences?
- SYNTAX AND WORDING: Have I used proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling? Is my writing clear and straightforward, with mostly active voice and active verbs?

I require that you submit both a hard copy of your paper in class and an electronic version to turnitin.com by the start of class on the day the assignment is due. Late papers will be marked down 10% per day late, starting with the day the assignment was due (so if you submit the paper after class on the first day, it will be marked down 10%; the following day marked down 20%, etc.)

## EXAMINATIONS

There will be an in-class final examination. For this exam, the format will consist of historical IDs, passage analyses, and essay questions. The historical IDs operate the same as the in-class quizzes. For the passage analyses, you will need to evaluate the historical context and relevance of short passages from assigned course readings. Essays will require you to produce a historical thesis in response to the prompt that you then support with examples and analysis. Study sheets will be provided in advance of the final.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsible to know what constitutes academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and to be familiar with UNCG policies on academic integrity laid out here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Students who engage in an academically dishonest act (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating during an exam) will receive a grade of "F" in the course and be reported to the Academic Dean for possible additional disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the university. Do not attempt it.

## CONTACTING ME

I encourage you to meet with me at my office hours or at another arranged time. You can also ask me questions by email. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on the weekends), but I'll usually reply sooner.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

## SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements about any alterations.

## CLASS TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK 1

W 8/16 – Welcome & What is World History?

### WEEK 2

Readings: Connelly: Introduction, Chapter 3

M 8/21 – Decolonization and the Cold War, 1945-1953

W 8/23 – Three Economic Orders, 1945-1953

### WEEK 3

Readings: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949) [Excerpts]

Sukarno, “Opening Address of the Bandung Conference” (1955)  
[https://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/opening\\_address\\_given\\_by\\_sukarno\\_bandung\\_18\\_april\\_1955-en-88d3f71c-c9f9-415a-b397-b27b8581a4f5.html](https://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/opening_address_given_by_sukarno_bandung_18_april_1955-en-88d3f71c-c9f9-415a-b397-b27b8581a4f5.html)

John F. Kennedy, “Imperialism – The Enemy of Freedom” (1957)  
[https://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/JFK-Speeches/United-States-Senate-Imperialism\\_19570702.aspx](https://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/JFK-Speeches/United-States-Senate-Imperialism_19570702.aspx)

Mao Zedong, *Quotations from Chairman Mao* (1966) Chapters 5, 6, 7, 18  
<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/>

M 8/28 – The Second Sex, 1945-1953

W 8/30 – The Challenge of the Third World, 1954-1962

### WEEK 4

Readings: Connelly: Chapters 4, 5, 6

M 9/4 – Holiday: No Class

W 9/6 – Economic Recoveries and New Beginnings, 1954-1962

## WEEK 5

Readings: Chamberlin: Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2

M 9/11 – Women Revolutionaries, 1954-1962

W 9/13 – Fracturing Political Orders, 1963-1968

## WEEK 6

Readings: Chamberlin: Chapters 3, 4, 5

M 9/18 – Globalizing Economic Orders, 1963-1968

W 9/20 – Sexual Revolutions and Second Wave Feminism, 1963-1975

## WEEK 7

### **Paper 1 Due (Monday 9/25)**

Readings: Fela Kuti, “Gentleman” (1973)  
Listen at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snIV\\_-IECsM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snIV_-IECsM)  
Lyrics at <http://www.songlyrics.com/fela-kuti/gentleman-lyrics/>

Bob Marley, “Concrete Jungle” (1973)  
Listen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y07vgARrOUE>  
Lyrics at <http://www.songlyrics.com/bob-marley-the-wailers/concrete-jungle-original-album-version-lyrics/>

M 9/25 – Seeking Détentes, 1969-1975

W 9/27 – The End of Bretton Woods, Environmentalism, and the NIEO, 1969-1975

## WEEK 8

Readings: Sara Gomez, *One Way or Another* (1974)  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_FaWYhtW80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_FaWYhtW80))

Chamberlin: Chapters 6 & 7, Conclusion

M 10/2 – *One Way or Another*, 1974

W 10/4 – The Cold War and Islamism, 1976-1983

## WEEK 9

Readings: Connelly: Chapters 7, 8, 9, Conclusion

M 10/9 – Holiday: No Class

W 10/11 – Crises of Capitalism, Communism, and ISI, 1976-1983

## WEEK 10

Readings: Sarotte: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3

M 10/16 – The Politics of the Veil, 1976-1983

W 10/18 – The End of the Cold War, 1984-1991

## WEEK 11

Readings: Sarotte: Chapters 4 & 5

M 10/23 – Global Capitalism Triumphant, 1984-1991

W 10/25 – Global AIDS Crisis, 1984-1991

## WEEK 12

Readings: Sarotte: Chapters 6 & 7, Epilogue

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (1989)  
[ps321.community.uaf.edu/files/2012/10/Fukuyama-End-of-history-article.pdf](https://ps321.community.uaf.edu/files/2012/10/Fukuyama-End-of-history-article.pdf)

M 10/30 – New World Order, 1992-2000

W 11/1 – Globalization and Its Discontents, 1992-2000

## WEEK 13

### **Paper 2 Due (Monday 11/6)**

Readings: Molaria Ogundipe, *Re-Creating Ourselves* (1994) [Excerpts]

Osama Bin Laden, Writings and Speeches (1994-2004)

M 11/6 – Third Wave Feminism, 1992-2000

W 11/8 – The Global War on Terror, 2001-2007

## WEEK 14

Readings: Naomi Klein, "Iraq, Full Circle: Overshock" (2007)

M 11/13 – The Apex of Neoliberalism, 2001-2007

W 11/15 – Of Burqas and Bikinis, 2001-2007

## WEEK 15

Readings: Xi Jinping speech in Seattle (2015)  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-09/24/c\\_134653326.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-09/24/c_134653326.htm)

Vladimir Putin speech at the United Nations (2015)  
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/50385>

M 11/20 – Shifting toward Multipolarity?, 2008-2017

W 11/22 – Holiday: No Class

## WEEK 16

Readings: The United Nations, "Paris Agreement" (2015) [Excerpts]

Rita Banjeri, "SlutWalk to Femicide" (2011)  
<http://thewip.net/2011/09/02/slutwalk-to-femicide-making-the-connection/>

Rita Banjeri, "Facebook Game 'Angry Brides'" (2012)  
<http://thewip.net/2012/02/22/facebook-game-angry-brides-trivializes-grave-human-rights-violation/>

Rita Banjeri, "Here's Why India's 'Save The Girl' Campaign Will Not Stop Female Gendercide" (2017)  
<https://genderbytes.wordpress.com/2017/03/07/heres-why-indias-save-the-girl-campaign-will-not-stop-female-gendercide/>

M 11/27 – Overcoming the Great Recession and Global Warming?, 2008-2017

W 11/29 – Advancing Gender and Sexual Equality?, 2008-2017

## WEEK 17

**M 12/4 – 7:00-10:00 PM – Final Exam**