

History 218-01: The World of the Twentieth Century since 1945 (Fall 2023)

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

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

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 two books assigned for the course, listed below. Both are available as free ebooks through the UNCG library. The books can also be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional short readings will be provided on Canvas.

Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011)

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:

Reflections	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	40%

Grades follow this scale: A = 93 and up; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87 to 89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82;

C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <60

GENERAL EDUCATION MARKERS

This course qualifies for the Minerva's Academic Curriculum (MAC) Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning and the General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) and General Education Global Non-Western Perspectives (GN) markers.

MAC Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning

Upon successful completion of this global engagement and intercultural learning through the humanities and fine arts OR through the social & behavioral sciences course, students will:

1. Describe dynamic elements of different cultures. These elements may include (but are not limited to) aesthetic systems, communication systems, economics, physical environments, ethics, gender norms, geography, history, politics, religious principles, or social beliefs, norms and practices.
2. Explain how similarities, differences, and connections among different groups of people or environmental systems affect one another over time and place.

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

General Education Global Non-Western Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among cultures, politics, and/or intellectual traditions of the world other than the dominant Euro-American ones.
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues

LECTURE VIDEOS, READINGS, AND REFLECTIONS

Each week there are lecture videos for you to watch and, starting week two, readings to complete.

A module's readings and lecture videos will be posted nine days in advance if not earlier. Starting week 2, there will be a reflection question most weeks (there are a few that will not) about the lecture videos and readings. You are required to write a short writing

reflection responding to these questions for 10 weeks of your choice (so you get to skip 2 without penalty, or the lowest 2 scores will be dropped). You are required to submit the reflection by the end of the Thursday of that week. There will be a question posted to guide your reflection on the course materials for each week within the “Assignments” tab in the course menu on the left-side of Canvas; this is also where you will submit your reflection.

Since you are allowed to skip two reflections without penalty, late submissions of a reflection will generally only be allowed after you have missed two due dates, only due to extreme extenuating circumstances, only at the discretion of the professor, and may receive only partial credit.

Your reflection should be a full page in length, Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced (you can carry over into a second page, but don't go beyond that). Quoted material should have page number in parenthesis, otherwise just mention the book or lecture the material is from.

Your reflection should answer all parts of the question and include coverage of the assigned readings and lecture videos. Note that while the questions will often center on the readings, you need to also make reference to how lecture videos provide background/ context to better understand these readings.

Reflections will be graded along the following point structure and criteria:

- COMPLETENESS (10 point): Do I answer all parts of the question?
- READINGS ANALYSIS (15 points): Do I show that I have thoroughly and accurately examined the assigned readings?
- LECTURE CONTEXT (15 points): Do I provide relevant context that is clearly drawn from lecture videos?

Satisfies MAC Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning and markers GHP and GN.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS

There will be a take-home midterm and a take-home final examination, comprised of written responses. The exam questions will be provided in advance and can be completed at your own pace up to the submission deadline.

Satisfies MAC Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning and markers GHP and GN.

STUDENT TO STUDENT MESSAGE BOARD

If you click on the “Discussions” tab you will see a pinned discussion titled “Student to Student Message Board.” This is a place where students can post or reply to messages

about anything related to the course. It is intended as a way for students to connect and collaborate, such as forming a study group.

ETIQUETTE

Throughout the course, whether in online discussion boards, assignments, or anywhere else, you are required to be respectful of other people and their 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.

General behaviors to avoid include (but are not limited to): flaming, doxing, using or posting offensive images or language that is outside the scope of course materials, posting suspicious websites, and advertising yours or others' businesses or products.

TECHNOLOGY

This course requires the capability of the student to use and regularly access a computer, a word processor, pdf files, the internet (including videos), and a webcam. The UNCG library is a resource for technology access.

On protecting your personal data and privacy, see https://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/acceptable_use/Links_to_an_external_site..

If you encounter a technology problem, contact UNCG Information Technology Services as soon as possible. They have online, phone and walk-in options for technical support, all listed here: https://its.uncg.edu/Help/Links_to_an_external_site.. If a technology problem poses the possibility of preventing you from completing coursework, communicate this to me and the graduate assistant as soon as possible, too, so we can see if we can mitigate any negative impacts on your learning and grade.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

UNCG provides a variety of useful services for you, the student. Check them out!

The UNCG Library (https://library.uncg.edu/Links_to_an_external_site.) has a wealth of books, articles, archival materials, and other media resources, computers, inter-library loan services, and knowledgeable staff.

The UNCG Writing Center (https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/Links_to_an_external_site.) provides assistance with writing assignments; contact staff members to set an appointment either in person or via instant-messaging.

The UNCG Speaking Center (https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/Links_to_an_external_site.) provides assistance in improving your skill and confidence in public, group, and individual speaking.

If you have any needs or questions related to disability issues, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) (<https://ods.uncg.edu/Links to an external site.>). I prioritize making this course accessible to all of the students in it, and I will work with OARS to accommodate students' requests. You do not need to disclose details about your disability to me or your TA to receive accommodations.

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/Links to an external site.> 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 expulsion from the university. Do not attempt it.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Large Language Model (LLM) technologies to generate any part of your assignments for this course constitutes a violation of the University's policy on plagiarism, because it represents thoughts or ideas of another as your own.

All writing assignments (reflections, papers, etc.) are subject to a plagiarism check through the website <https://www.turnitin.com/Links to an external site.> This website compares the text of your paper to text up on webpages, in scholarly works, and within its massive database of student papers submitted to schools around the world. If you purchase a paper to pass off as your own, it is possible the paper may contain portions reused and sold to other students as well. So do not plagiarize or purchase papers, whether only a portion of your paper or its entirety. Additionally, Turnitin has AI / LLM detection software.

COMMUNICATION

I will make periodic announcements regarding important information about the course, accessible in the "Announcements" tab. Likewise, I will provide feedback on assignments under comments. I might also send you a message via Canvas or an email to your UNCG email address if needed. It is your responsibility to monitor and read all of these communications in a timely manner.

I am happy to answer your questions by email or message in Canvas. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on weekends and holidays), but I'll usually reply sooner.

I also encourage you to meet with me at my office hours or at another arranged time. My office hours will be held via Zoom; go to the Zoom tab to schedule or launch an appointment.

USEFUL WEBSITES

History Department Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/uncghistory1/> [Links to an external site.](#)

History Department Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/> [Links to an external site.](#)

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/> [Links to an external site.](#)

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.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation.

Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling [336-334-5874](tel:336-334-5874), visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> [\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [Links to an external site.](#) or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> [\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [Links to an external site.](#) or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu