

The World in the 20th Century: 1900-1945

HIS 217-01

T R – 3:30-4:45

MHRA 2211

Instructor: Justin Horton

Spring 2009

Office: MHRA 2102

Hours: T R – 2:00 – 3:25 and by appointment

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Required Texts:

- Adas, Michael, Peter N. Stearns, and Stuart B. Schwartz. *Turbulent Passage: A Global History of the Twentieth Century*, 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc., 2009.
- Howard, Michael. *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Plowright, John. *The Causes, Course and Outcomes of World War Two*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Course Description: This course is designed to offer a general understanding of major events and concepts that have shaped the world between the end of the 19th century to 1945. This will be accomplished through proper examination of economic, political, and societal changes. Since proper historical examination goes well beyond dates and figures, we will examine the concepts, themes, and outcomes through critical inquiry and the use of primary sources.

Course Objectives: The course will consist of weekly lectures, which, at times, will be accompanied by respective video clips and Power Point presentations. Participation in class is strongly encouraged; especially during the class periods the supplementary texts will be discussed. Students will gain insight on, and will be able to explain the concepts of nationalism, imperialism, and expansionism as it applies to the world in a global context.

Class Courtesy: Please be aware that you are one student in a class of many, so be respectful to your fellow classmates. Do not get up and leave class at your leisure, make up your mind prior to class whether you want to be here or not. Just because you “paid” for this course does not give you the right to interrupt the flow of the lectures. When you come to class please turn off your cell phones (this does not mean set the phone to silent and this also means no texting); however, if you have a specific situation which requires that you be reachable (i.e. a sick child) please see me before class begins. Two cell phone interruptions will result in a failing grade for the next assignment. Laptops may be used for note taking only, not social websites or other superfluous ventures.

Attendance: A strong academic standing in class is reflective of a good attendance record, so make every effort to be at each class for the full time. Your record during the semester will be taken into account when determining your final grade. If you have extenuating circumstances, please let me know. Attendance is required on discussion and exam days.

Assignments: The class will have 2 exams and 2 book reviews. Each exam is 30% of your final grade and the reviews are 20% each. Assignments not completed on time will result in a zero for that assignment. Assignments, other than exams, may be completed and turned in prior to the deadline. You are expected to uphold the Academic Integrity Policy of UNCG on all assignments.

The **exams** will be given out during the class period noted and students will have the entire class period to complete the exam. Exams will consist of 15 identification terms and an essay choice out of four. Bluebooks are required for each exam. The final will not be comprehensive.

Each student will complete a **book review** on both of the supplementary books, *Causes, Course and Outcomes of World War Two* or *The First World War*. The papers will be between 4-6 pages, while adhering to proper guidelines of citation and structure. The paper will focus on the thesis of the book, how the author supports the argument, and where the author may fall short. Examples and further information will be on Blackboard. This assignment will be due that day the class is to discuss the book. *The First World War* is due March 19th and *Causes, Course, and Outcomes of World War Two* is due on April 21st.

Grading: Each assignment will be worth 100 points. The grade scale is stepped in 10 point increments. Again, each exam is worth 30% of your grade and the reviews are worth 20% each.

Course Schedule: *Note that this schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.*

- 1/20: Introduction to course
- 1/22: Patriotism and Nationalism - Expansionism and Imperialism
- 1/27 – 1/29: The Beginnings of the 20th Century
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 1*
- 2/3 – 2/5: Japan: A New Global Power
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: pgs. 43-49*
- 2/10 – 2/12: Russia's March to World Power
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: pgs. 35-43*
- 2/17 – 2/19: The Age of Imperialism: The Rise of Colonization
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 3*
- 2/24 – 2/26: Developments in Latin America, the Middle East, and China
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 4*
- 3/3: The Eve of War
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 5*
- 3/5: **Midterm Exam**
- 3/10 – 3/12: **Break**
- 3/17: End of WWI and the Postwar World
 - *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 6*
 ○ *Last Day to Drop a Course without Academic Penalty*
- 3/19: Discussion of *The First World War*
 Paper Due

- 3/24 – 3/26: Global Depression
- *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: pgs. 168-176*
- 3/31 – 4/2: Totalitarianism
- *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: pgs. 176-188*
- 4/7 – 4/9: The Coming of War: A Thirty Year's War?
- *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 8*
- 4/14 – 4/16: The Post War Era
- *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 8*
- 4/21: Discussion of Causes, Course, and Outcomes of World War Two
Paper Due
- 4/23: Decolonization
- *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 8*
- 4/28 – 4/30: The Red Scare and the Coming of the Cold War
- *Adas, Stearns, and Schwartz: Chapter 9*
- 5/5: Informal Discussion on Course Themes
- 5/12: **Final exam – 3:30-6:30**

*****If there is any student in this class who has need for test-taking or note-taking accommodation please discuss this with me*****