



## **The World in the Twentieth Century: 1900-1945**

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Office: MHRA 3103

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:45 am-11:45 am, or by appointment

Class Meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 12:00-12:50, Petty 303

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to offer a general understanding of the major events and concepts that have shaped the world between the end of the nineteenth century to 1945. This will be accomplished through examination of economic, political, and social changes.

Since proper historical examination goes well beyond dates and figures, concepts, themes, and outcomes will be emphasized. The course will be taught by utilizing readings, lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and carefully selected films.

## Goals and Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students:

- should possess a factual knowledge of world history from 1900-1945
- should be able to explain the concepts of nationalism, imperialism, and expansionism as they apply to the world in a global context
- should know how to use historical analysis to understand the lives of common people of different races, ethnicities, classes, and genders in the past
- should have developed the ability to read and think critically about history
- should be able to express ideas in a logical, clear, and concise manner

**Readings** (reading assignments are mandatory, unless stated otherwise):

- Adas, Michael, Peter N. Stearns, and Stuart B. Schwartz. *Turbulent Passage: A Global History of the Twentieth Century*. 4th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson-Longman, 2009.
- Two (2) books of your choice from a list of options

## Grading:

There will be no grading curve in this course. The following grading scale will be used to evaluate student performance:

100-98 A+, 93-97 A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

If you must miss an exam, please arrange to make it up with me **ahead of time**. Except in extenuating circumstances, I do **not** accept late assignments; if you know you will be absent on the due date, submit the assignment early, or make other arrangements with me.

The final grade will be based on the performance of the following activities (see note below):

Exam One (Midterm)	= 25%
Exam Two (Final)	= 35%
Book Reviews (2 of these @ 15%)	= 30%
Class Attendance and Participation	= 10%

**Please note:**

1. There will be two exams (a Midterm and a Final) in this course. The exams will be primarily essay questions with some identification, short answers, and/or map questions. More details will be provided nearer to the exam time.
2. For the Book Reports, students will choose two (2) books on different subjects from the list provided. For each book, students will read carefully, and then write an essay of about four to five (4-5) pages, briefly summarizing the author's thesis, evidence, and use of the evidence, as well as the student's reaction to the book. Detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester.
3. "Attendance" means more than just being present bodily in the classroom. I expect you to pay attention to any learning experience, taking notes that will help you learn and assimilate the material. To this end, those students who choose to skip class, sleep during class, surf the internet, send text messages, or habitually leave class early (or enter class late) will be penalized.
4. "Participation" means that one is actively engaged in the task of learning. During lecture, this means taking notes and asking questions if you have them. During discussion, this means taking an active role in the class discussion and making meaningful contributions to it. The quality of your participation in discussions is much more important than quantity.

**Summary of "Important" Dates:**

**Wednesday, February 2** - Deadline to select texts for Book Reports

**Friday, February 25** - Exam 1 (Midterm)

**Wednesday, March 23** - Book Review 1 due

**Monday, April 25** - Book Review 2 due

**Friday, April 29** - Exam 2 (Final)

All assignments and exams in this course shall be completed under the tenets of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, found at

<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

Please note that any violations will be handled in the manner prescribed by the Policy.

**Class Schedule:**

I will make every effort to adhere to the schedule below. However, as we live in a world of uncertainty and imperfection, I may announce the occasional change to this schedule. I believe it is best to complete the readings BEFORE attending the lecture, but this is up to your discretion.

Note: Please set cell phones to VIBRATE before class starts. During exam periods, cell phones must be TURNED OFF. In addition, you should plan to be in class for the entire period each day.

Week One:

Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Part I overview, all

January 10: Introduction to the Course

January 12: Lecture: Patriotism and Nationalism

January 14: Lecture: Expansionism and Imperialism

Week Two:

January 17: NO CLASS - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 19: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 1, pp. 16-24

Lecture: The Beginnings of the Twentieth Century (Part I)

January 21: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 1, pp. 24-34

Lecture: The Beginnings of the Twentieth Century (Part II)

Week Three:

January 24: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 2, pp. 36-38

Lecture: Expanding Industry, Japan and Russia

January 26: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 2, pp. 43-51

Lecture: Japan as a New World Power (Part I)

January 28: Lecture: Japan as a New World Power (Part II)

Week Four:

Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 2, pp. 35-43

January 31: Lecture: Russia Rising

February 2: Activity: Select two (2) books to review from the list of options

Lecture: Russia Enters World Prominence (Part I)

February 4: Lecture: Russia Enters World Prominence (Part II)

Week Five:

February 7: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 3, pp. 53-58

Lecture: The Rise of Colonization

February 9: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 3, pp. 58-71

Lecture: The Age of Imperialism, and the Fallout (Part I)

February 11: Lecture: The Age of Imperialism, and the Fallout (Part II)

Week Six:

Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 4, all

February 14: *Happy Singles Awareness Day!*

Lecture: Developments in Latin America

February 16: Lecture: Developments in the Middle East

February 18: Lecture: Developments in China

Week Seven:

February 21: *Turbulent Passage*, Part II overview, Ch. 5, pp. 111-116

Lecture: The Eve of World War I (Part I)

February 23: Lecture: The Eve of World War I (Part II)

February 25: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Bring a blue book and writing utensils

Week Eight:

February 28: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 5, pp. 116-137

Lecture: World War I (Part I)

March 2: Lecture: World War I (Part II)

Activity: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930 American film)

March 4: Activity: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930 American film)

*Note: Friday, March 4 is the last day to drop a course without a penalty.  
Spring Break is March 7 - 11. Class will not be held.*

Week Nine:

March 14: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 6, pp. 139-150

Lecture: The World War I Settlement

March 16: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 6, pp. 150-167

Lecture: The Postwar World (Part I)

March 18: Lecture: The Postwar World (Part II)

Week Ten:

March 21: Activity: *The Man with the Movie Camera* (1929 Soviet film)

March 23: **Due: Book Review 1**

Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 7, pp. 169-176

Lecture: The Worldwide Depression (Part I)

March 25: Lecture: The Worldwide Depression (Part II)

Week Eleven:

March 28: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 7, pp. 176-186

Lecture: The Rise of Totalitarianism (Part I)

March 30: Lecture: The Rise of Totalitarianism (Part II)  
Totalitarianism: Fascism and Stalinism (Part I)

April 1: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 7, pp. 186-191

Lecture: Totalitarianism: Fascism and Stalinism (Part II)

Week Twelve:

April 4: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 8, pp. 193-201

Lecture: The Coming of World War II

April 6: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 8, pp. 201-209

Lecture: World War II (Part I)

April 8: Lecture: World War II (Part II)

Week Thirteen:

April 11: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 8, pp. 201-209

Lecture: The Aftermath of World War II

April 13: Activity: *Germany, Year Zero* (1948 Italian film)

April 15: Activity: *Germany, Year Zero* (1948 Italian film)

Week Fourteen:

April 18: Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Chapter 8, pp. 209-219

Lecture: The Beginnings of the Cold War

April 20: Lecture: Decolonization

April 22: NO CLASS - Good Friday Holiday

Week Fifteen:

April 25: **Due: Book Report 2**

Activity: Exam Review - Q&A for Final Exam

April 26 (Note - you follow your Friday schedule on this Tuesday):

Activities: Reflections on the Course  
Course Evaluation

**Note: Final Exam: Friday, April 29, 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm**  
Bring a blue book and writing utensils.

Note: I will post your final grades on Blackboard as soon as I have them ready; please allow me adequate grading time by NOT deluging me with e-mails or phone calls regarding final grades.

I hope you have a pleasant and refreshing Summer Break!