

**SYLLABUS**  
**HIS218-01 The World in the Twentieth Century (Since 1945)**

Meeting Time/Location: MW 2:00 to 3:15 MHRA 1215

Instructor: Mark Moser Office: MHRA 2104

Office Hours: MW 11:00 to 1:00 --- F 11:00 to 12:00 --- (and by appointment)

Email: [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu)

Required Texts:

Brower, Daniel R. *The World since 1945: A Brief History* Second Edition\* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005).

McCauley, Martin. *Russia, America and the Cold War, 1949-1991* Second Edition\* (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004).

(From time to time there will be additional readings in the form of handouts or online materials that you will be required to read)

Course Objectives:

Students will be expected to:

- Understand and retain the basic facts and framework of global history since 1945.
- Analyze and synthesize relevant information from both primary and secondary sources in order to interpret historical facts
- Develop a personal and historical sense of time relevant to recent events in world history
- Think critically and make informed judgments!

Procedures/Assignments:

It will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should have no trouble managing the workload for this class. Discussion of your readings will routinely take up a significant portion of many class sessions. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to the first day of class in any given week. (You should be prepared to be called on EACH and EVERY CLASS SESSION!) Class discussions will be difficult to conduct if you haven't read and class lectures and videos that we will watch will be more understandable if you have read the assigned material ahead of time. You should not find this course difficult provided that you remain current with your reading. However, students who fall behind will likely find it difficult to catch up.

Note: Please turn off cell phones or set them to vibrate mode *BEFORE* class begins.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a substantial portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here, you cannot participate. Students accumulating more than 4 absences will have their final grade reduced by one letter. Excessive absences may result in your being dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of “W” must drop the class on or before Friday, March 2. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session. *(A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above).*

This class meets two times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to everyone in attendance.

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Any student who misses an exam **must contact me** to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. (Makeup exams, if permitted, will have to be taken at a time when I am available)

The use of laptops in my class is a privilege—not a right. If you wish to bring a laptop to class I respectfully ask that you **only use it to take notes**. Please do not use them during class to check email, surf the web, play games, or orchestrate your social life on **Facebook**.® Students caught using their laptops for anything other than taking notes will not be allowed to bring them to class in the future.

Grading:

Attendance/Class Participation	20%
Article Portfolio	30%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
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Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point scale and I do assign +/- to final grades when warranted.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 9, 11) McCauley, Chapter 1 “Introduction: The Problem”

Week Two—(January 18) McCauley, Chapter 2 “The Cold War in Perspective” and Brower, Chapter 2 “The Cold War and the End of Western Empires”

\*No class Monday, January 16—MLK, Jr. Holiday

Week Three—(January 23, 25) McCauley, Chapter 3 “Cold War I: 1949-1953”

Week Four—(January 30, February 1) McCauley, Chapter 4 “To the Brink and Back: 1953-1969”

Week Five—(February 6, 8) McCauley, Chapter 5 “Détente: 1969-1979”

Week Six—(February 13, 15) McCauley, Chapter 6 “Cold War II: 1979-1985”

Week Seven—(February 20, 22) McCauley, Chapter 7 “New Political Thinking and the End of the Cold War: 1985-1991” and Brower, Chapter 7 “The Cold War and the Fall of the Soviet Empire”

Week Eight—(February 27, 29) \*Mid-term Exam\* Wednesday, February 29--- (You will need a small format bluebook)

**SPRING BREAK**—No class March 5, 7

Week Nine—(March 12, 14) Brower, Chapter 3 “Revolutions and Recovery in East Asia, 1950-1990”

Week Ten—(March 19, 21) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia”

Film: *Gandhi*

Week Eleven—(March 26, 28) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia” (cont’d)

Film: *Gandhi*

Week Twelve—(April 2, 4) Brower, Chapter 5 “Africa and Latin America in the Third World”

Film: *The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela*

Week Thirteen—(April 9, 11) Brower, Chapter 6 “Nations at War in the Middle East”

Week Fourteen—(April 16, 18) Brower, Chapter 8 “Local Wars, Global Economy: The World after the Cold War” \*Portfolios must be turned in on Wednesday, April 18

Week Fifteen—(April 23) Last day of class! Review for final exam

**FINAL EXAM** ----- Wednesday, May 2 from 12:00 to 3:00pm (You will need a small format Bluebook)

Explanation of Weekly Article Assignment:

Each week during the semester every student will be required to find and read one contemporary newspaper or magazine article that coincides with that week's material. These articles—in their entirety—should be saved, printed, and kept in a portfolio (of manageable size since you must bring these with you to class every day). At the beginning of every class session I will randomly call on a few students who will be asked to discuss their weekly articles. Students called upon must provide the title of the article, the name of the source in which it appeared, its date of publication, and a brief synopsis of the article. Each weekly article that you select for your portfolio must be accompanied by a two to three paragraph response which is essentially your analysis of the article. Your typed, double-spaced responses should include things such as: relevance, timeliness, any obvious or perceived bias in the article, etc. Acceptable sources for this ongoing assignment include: *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Times* of London, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Wall Street Journal*. During the course of the semester I expect you to retrieve articles from at least three of these seven sources. Jackson Library has each of these available in various formats. If you need help, please seek assistance from library staff.

The purpose of this semester-long assignment is to strengthen students' understanding of key events of the time periods/events being examined. By acquiring, reading, and analyzing these primary source articles students should gain greater insight to the global events and individuals who shaped late 20<sup>th</sup> century history.

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Academic Integrity Policy:

*On all quizzes, exams, and papers you will be expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be reviewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand.*

*\*If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*