

HIS 217 - The World of the Twentieth Century (1900-1945)

Professor Mark Elliott

Office: 2125 MHRA

Office Hours: Mon. 2:00-4:00
or by appointment

E-mail: mark.elliott@uncg.edu

Teaching Assistants:

Mr. Joseph Ross

Mr. Brian Lee

Ms. Jamie Mize

Monday and Wednesday Lectures:

10:00-10:50 FERGUSON 100

Dr. Elliott

Friday Discussion Sections:

Section 01 10:00-10:50 MHRA 2210

Mr. Lee

Section 02 10:00-10:50 MHRA 3204

Ms. Mize

Section 03 10:00-10:50 MHRA 3208

Mr. Ross

Section 04 11:00-11:50 Curry 332

Mr. Lee

Section 05 11:00-11:50 Ferg 248

Ms. Mize

Section 06 11:00-11:50 MHRA 2210

Mr. Ross

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys major developments in world history from 1900 to 1945. Because of its broad sweep of historical events, the variety of topics covered in this course make no claim to be comprehensive. No single course can examine all of the important events in world history over a half-century. Therefore, this course chooses particular events, historical figures, and international issues that have had the greatest impact across the globe. One of the major themes of this class will be the spread of genocidal atrocities around the globe as new technologies, combined with harsh ideological justifications, led to the attempted extermination of colonial peoples and ethnic minorities by dominant nations. Relatedly, the brutalities of war reached new extremes in the modern phenomenon of “total war” during this period which saw two world wars of unprecedented destruction. Resistance to these brutalities will provide a second theme of the course. In response to these horrors, the period also witnessed the formation of new international treaties and institutions to restrain nations from aggressive actions, crimes against humanities, and violations of human rights.

This course also serves as an introduction to world history as an approach. World history is about understanding the interconnectedness of history across national borders, and thinking comparatively about events around the globe. Students will be trained to think as historians by analyzing evidence and learning to ask questions that help to understand the historical context of the evidence. Students will learn to analyze different types of evidence and make arguments based on such evidence. Fiction and films will be studied as sources for historical understanding. Articles and books written by historians will also be read and critically analyzed. It is hoped that the material explored in this

course will provide the student with a springboard to further study in history in upper level courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

--Students will examine the role of human agency in historical change, as well as understand the larger economic, political and social structures that shape human experience.

--Students will examine interconnections between different parts of the globe, and think comparatively about different cultures and peoples studied.

--Students will be able to historically contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.

--Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument.

--Students will improve their writing and verbal skills.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance:

A student who is not present to sign the attendance sheet when it circulates at beginning of class will be marked "absent." Once the sheet has circulated the room, no late students will be allowed to sign it. Students who leave class early without permission will be marked absent. More than five absences will lower your *Final Grade* by one-third of a grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your sixth absence will cause a "B" to become a "B-," your seventh will make it a "C+," your eighth will make it a "C," etc.). Missing a total of 14 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic "F" for the course. No exceptions. Please use your 5 un-penalized absences wisely by saving them for emergencies or severe illness. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned or due on days in which they are absent.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, or have special needs that make the attendance policy burdensome, you MUST inform the instructor in the first week of class, and provide proof of your condition to the Dean of Students. We will do our best to accommodate any legitimate, documented, special needs.

Participation:

You must take notes during class lectures and be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you to be marked "absent." Cell phones should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing or internet surfing during class. No laptop computers may be used for note-taking.

Students are expected to complete the reading assignments in time to participate in their weekly discussion sections with your assigned Teaching Assistant. It is important that you participate actively in your discussion section. Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive. There will be regular quizzes on the readings and films in the Friday discussion sections.

Term Paper:

There will be one term paper of 1600-1850 words in length. You will write your term paper based on one of four assigned topics that will be distributed in Friday discussion sections. You will be assigned ONE of the topics. Paper due dates are as follows:

Topic #1:	February 13
Topic #2:	February 27
Topic #3:	April 3
Topic #4	April 24

Late papers will be marked down one grade for each day they are late. An assignment sheet with the term paper topic questions will be distributed in class. In order to pass this course you must hand in all written work and complete all assignments. You will be required to take your paper to the Writing Center at least 3 days in advance of the due date for help revising it before the due date.

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using the “Safe Assignment” function on Blackboard which automatically scans your paper for plagiarism. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details:

<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

Grading Formula:

- 20% Participation in class discussion at TA sections
- 20% Quizzes and short papers
- 20% Term Paper
- 20% Midterm
- 20% Final Exam.

REQUIRED READING (available at UNCG’s Bookstore):

Sven Lindquist, *“Exterminate All the Brutes”*

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*
Helen Zenna Smith, *Not So Quiet...*
David Hardiman, *Gandhi in His Time and Ours: The Global Legacy of His Ideas*
Doris Bergen, *War & Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*

Week 1. INTRODUCTION

Film: *Namibia: Genocide and the Second Reich*

Jan. 14 Studying World History
Jan. 16 Nationalism and Nation-States
Jan. 18 Discussion Section

Week 2. INDUSTRIALISM AND NATIONAL RIVALRIES

Reading: From Bosworth, *Nationalism*

Jan. 21 **MLK DAY (NO CLASS)**
Jan. 23 Industrialism and the Clash of Great Powers
Jan. 25 Discussion Section.

Week 3. EMPIRES AND IMPERIALISM

Reading: Lindquist, “*Exterminate All the Brutes*” all.

Film: *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death* [optional]

Jan. 28 The Scramble for Africa
Jan. 30 “Racial” Regimes Around the World
Feb. 1 Discussion Section

Week 4. IDEOLOGIES: PROGRESSIVISM, SOCIALISM, COMMUNISM

Reading: From Bender, *A Nation Among Nations: America’s Place in World History*

Film: From *Harmony to Revolution: The Birth and Growth of Socialism*

Feb. 4 Progressive Democracy
Feb. 6 Challenges to Liberalism
Feb. 8 Discussion Section

Week 5. THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1919

Reading: Smith, *Not So Quiet...* all.

Film: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930) [optional]

Feb. 11 Causes of the First World War

Feb. 13 The Experience of Total War [Paper Topic #1 Due]

Feb. 15 Discussion Section

Week 6. THE BOTCHED PEACE

Reading: Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment*, iv-135.

Film: *Manifest Destiny: Making the World Safe for Democracy, Part 1.*

Feb. 18 Redefining Europe

Feb. 20 The Middle East and the Colonies

Feb. 22 Discussion Section

Week 7. THE POSTWAR WORLD

Reading: Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment*, 137-225.

Film: *The Armenian Genocide*

Feb. 25 Impact of the Russian Revolution

Feb. 27 Legacies of Versailles in International Politics [Paper topic #2 due]

Mar. 1 Discussion Section

Week 8. “MODERNISM” AND POSTWAR CULTURE

Film: *The 20s: From Illusion to Disillusion*

Mar. 4 Modernism and Disillusion

Mar. 6 New Media: Radio, Movies, and Mass Culture

Mar. 8 **Midterm Exam**

SPRING BREAK MARCH 9-16

Week 9. HUMAN RIGHTS AND COLONIAL INDEPENDENCE

Film: *Gandhi* (1982) [optional]

Reading: Hardiman, *Gandhi in His Time and Ours*, all.

Mar. 18 Nationalist Movements in India and the Middle East

Mar. 20 Pacifism Between the Wars

Mar. 22 Discussion

Week 10. THE CHALLENGE OF COMMUNISM

Reading: From Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* and Kuromiya, *Stalin: Profiles in Power*

Film: *Stalin: Declassified* (2006)

Mar. 25 Russian Civil War

Mar. 27 Stalin and the Soviet Regime of the 1930s

Mar. 29 SPRING HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)

Week 11. FACISM AND NAZISM

Reading: Doris Bergen, *War & Genocide*

Film: *Anne Frank* (2001) [optional]

April 1 Fascism in Italy and Germany

April 3 The Spanish Civil War and the Road to World War II [Paper Topic #3 Due]

April 5 Discussion Section

Week 12. JAPAN AND THE ORIGINS OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Reading: From *The Nanjing Massacre in History and Historiography*

Film: *Nanking* (2007)

April 8 Germany and the Holocaust

April 10 Imperial Japan in the 1930s

April 12 Discussion Section

Week 13. WORLD WAR II: GLOBAL CATASTROPHE

Reading: From *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*

Film: *Letters from Iwo Jima* (2006)

April 15 The War Against Germany

April 17 The War Against Japan

April 19 Discussion Section

Week 14. THE MAKING OF A NEW WORLD ORDER

Reading: From *The Human Rights Revolution*

Film: *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961)

April 22 The Nuclear Age Begins at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

April 24 The United Nations and the New World Order [**Paper #4 Due**]

April 26 Discussion Sections

Week 15. WRAP-UP

April 29 The Cold War and the Future of Human Rights internationalism

April 30 Discussion Sections (Friday Schedule)

Week 17 FINAL EXAM

May 6 12:00-3:00 pm in FERG 100