

**SYLLABUS**  
HIS218-02 The World in the Twentieth Century (Since 1945)

**Meeting Time/Location: MW 2:00 to 3:15 SOEB 202**  
**Instructor: Mark Moser Office: MHRA 2104**  
**Office Hours: MW 1:00 to 2:00 (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).

Gladwell, Malcolm. *What the Dog Saw: and other adventures* (New York: Back Bay Books, 2010).

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

**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 7. 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)

**Warning:** Technology is a wonderful thing. Having said that, you should be aware that I consider using a laptop in my class a privilege—not a right—and privileges can be taken away. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you use them only for taking notes. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offense will result in the loss of stated privilege. Numerous violations of this request will result in the banning of laptops from class altogether. Similar discretion/judgment should be applied to *any* electronic device that can be a distraction to you, your classmates, or instructor. If you are so important, in a truly global sense, that you cannot go 75 minutes without checking your Facebook® Account, Twitter® Account, email, etc., then you are clearly far too important to be wasting your valuable time and celebrity status here at UNCG.

**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 13, 15) McCauley, Chapter 1 “Introduction: The Problem”

Week Two—(January 22) McCauley, Chapter 2 “The Cold War in Perspective”  
**\*No class Monday, January 20—MLK, Jr. Holiday**

Week Three—(January 27, 29) McCauley, Chapter 3 “Cold War I: 1949-1953”

Week Four—(February 3, 5) McCauley, Chapter 4 “To the Brink and Back: 1953-1969”

Week Five—(February 10, 12) McCauley, Chapter 5 “Détente: 1969-1979”

Week Six—(February 17, 19) McCauley, Chapter 6 “Cold War II: 1979-1985”

Week Seven—(February 24, 26) McCauley, Chapter 7 “New Political Thinking and the End of the Cold War: 1985-1991”

Week Eight—(March 3, 5) **\*Mid-term Exam\* Wednesday, March 5--- (You will need a small format bluebook)**

**SPRING BREAK—No class March 10, 12**

Week Nine—(March 17, 19) Brower, Chapter 3 “Revolutions and Recovery in East Asia, 1950-1990”

Week Ten—(March 24, 26) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia”  
 Film: *Gandhi*

Week Eleven—(March 31, April 2) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia” (cont’d)  
 Film: *Gandhi*

Week Twelve—(April 7, 9) Brower, Chapter 5 “Africa and Latin America in the Third World”  
 Film: *The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela*

Week Thirteen—(April 14, 16) Brower, Chapter 6 “Nations at War in the Middle East”

Week Fourteen—(April 21, 23) Brower, Chapter 8 “Local Wars, Global Economy: The World after the Cold War” **\*Portfolios must be turned in on Wednesday, April 23**

Week Fifteen—(April 28) **Last day of class! Review for final exam**

**FINAL EXAM ----- Wednesday, May 7 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 that require no fees or payments. 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.*