

SYLLABUS Spring 2019 Jan 14 – March 13

History 218: The World of the Twentieth Century (1945-Present) Online

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History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

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Course Description

This class will examine global issues in the contemporary world, focusing mainly on the post-World War II period, from the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, to the complex, high-tech, evolving world of today. We will examine some of the important political, economic, social, and cultural changes of the second half of the twentieth century and how these changes have shaped the world we live in today. This is an online class and we will make heavy use of Canvas, Youtube, and other online resources.

Course Objectives

- 1.) To enhance understanding of the diversity of world civilizations and cultures by reading primary source materials.
- 2.) To improve the student's knowledge of historical events and important people by reading what scholars have said about the world in the twentieth century.
- 3.) To enhance perceptive reading skills by actively engaging supplemental books.
- 4.) To enhance concise writing skills by taking short answer identification and essay examinations and by writing responses to questions posed concerning supplemental books.
- 5.) To enhance oral communication skills by participating in periodic class discussion about primary or secondary source material.

Teaching Methods and Online Classroom Responsibilities

History 218 will be taught through a variety of methods. The most common method will be lecture presentations through Canvas, PowerPoint, and YouTube. Additionally, we will read primary documents, secondary materials, and watch documentaries to promote online discussion. Supplemental readings and HAT questions will also play a key role in online discussion throughout the semester.

I will have all recorded lectures posted on Canvas to our YouTube channel. Since this is a rapid paced mini-mester course I will upload everything ahead of time – up to each exam time. You will be responsible for roughly three modules per week. Our first exam will be on **March 21st**. So I will upload all modules on the first exam before that point. The next day, March 22nd, I will upload everything for the second exam. And the same afterwards, I will upload everything for the final on April 12th.

Follow along with the syllabus and keep up with the lectures / PowerPoints.

With the rapid pace of this course, I will not be able to extend any deadlines. You must be committed to learning 20th century history very quickly in this course. I have kept the reading to a minimum here. I expect that everyone should be able to handle the work load. I recorded these videos a year ago. If I say something in the video and the date sounds wrong to you, check the syllabus schedule. Always follow the schedule below. You may email me with any questions.

Required Readings

Books: *Cold War: A Very Short Introduction* by Robert McMahon ISBN: 9780192801784

Communism: A Very Short Introduction by Leslie Holmes ISBN: 9780199551545

Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction by Dane Kennedy ISBN: 9780199340491

Readings/History Assessments of Thinking (HAT questions) noted on the syllabus are available on canvas

Examinations

There will be three examinations, including the final examination. All three must be taken. They will consist of short answers, identifications, HAT questions and essays. I will give you multiple essay options to answer on every exam. Answers will be judged on accuracy and abundance of historical information. The final examination is not cumulative but will include important material from previous tests as I see fit. All exams must be completed by the due date. If you have an extremely substantial and documented reason for completing an exam late, contact me at the earliest possible time to schedule a make-up time. It is your responsibility to notify me as early as possible to schedule the make-up.

I strongly encourage you to begin looking at your notes and the textbook days or weeks before the examinations. I will give you a study guide before the exam. Students who wait until the night before and try to "cram" will achieve nothing except a headache. Study early, study often.

Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

HAT questions: 100 Points **HAT discussions:** 100 Points

Students will answer 3 Historical Assessment Thinking questions. Each question will be worth 33 points with 1 point of extra credit built in! The objective of these assignments is for students to engage primary sources, analyze their significance, and gain the basic skills of historical thinking.

Students will participate in online discussions concerning the HAT questions that we do as noted on the syllabus. You will need to respond initially to the prompts about the HAT. You will also need to make a follow up post that responds to someone else's response. Because HAT answers are often opinion based, you will need to agree or disagree with another student's response. Your initial response should be about a paragraph (five sentences minimum) and your response to a colleague's response should be about a paragraph (5 sentences minimum). Your response is due the following Friday from the initial post, noted on the schedule.

Movie Project: 100 Points

Students will select and watch a movie from the list that I provide you. Students will then complete a 3-4-page paper on their thoughts of the film and respond to a prompt provided by the instructor. It is important to employ what you learn in the class and readings to determine if the movie is accurate or not.

I encourage you (but this is not required) to put together a PowerPoint presentation for this project that you can share with the rest of the class on Canvas. This portion is up to you and I will offer 20 points of extra credit for any student who puts together a presentation of some kind and shares it with everyone. I will designate a discussion thread for this on Canvas. Your options for this presentation are broad: feel free to make a video of your own but you must include a PowerPoint of some kind.

Book Reflections: 3 x 100 = 300 Points

Students will read, three books from OUP's AVSI series and write a two to three page reflection on each. In order to succeed on these reflections, you must briefly summarize the contents of the book in about a page and then reflect for one to two pages. The reflection is open ended in nature. Pick something in the book that stood out to you and explain why and how it stood out. You may also connect the book to what we learn in class. Please see the assignment section on canvas for more information. The objective of this assignment is to expose students to some contemporary historiography.

Exam I: 100 Points

Students will complete an exam covering the first third of the course material. Questions will include fill in the blank, HAT questions, short answer identifications, and an essay.

Exam II: 100 Points

Students will complete an exam covering the middle portion of the course material. Questions will include fill in the blank, HAT questions, short answer identifications, and an essay.

Final Exam: 100 Points

Students will complete an exam covering the final third of the course material. Questions will include fill in the blank, HAT questions, short answer identifications, and an essay.

Attendance, Participation, In-Class Assignments: 100 points

Attendance and participation will count towards a portion of your grade. As this is an online class, attendance is a bit different. You must participate in online discussions when appropriate. I cannot force you to log in (unfortunately) so it is up to you to keep up with your online attendance. I am able to see how long you have spent on our page, so I do know how long and when you log in. Students who fail to log in to the Canvas page will not earn a good grade in this category. This category will also include any extra assignments (not including the HAT assignments) that may come up during the course of the semester.

Also, in the first week of classes, **you must check in** on the discussion labeled Class Introductions or I may drop you.

Total: 800 Points

No weighted grades here. Divide your total earned points by 800 and you will arrive at your percentage. I adhere to UNCG's standard grading scale.

Code of proper classroom conduct

Online etiquette, or Netiquette if I can coin a new word, is essential especially on our discussions. Please be respectful of other opinions. Please disagree if it is appropriate but do it in a respectful manner. I reserve the right to give any student a 0 for an assignment if I feel that you have breached the code of polite netiquette.

I encourage, and love, questions and comments. See me during my office hours at UNCG if you need to.

At the first sign of trouble - come to me and I will help you. I host on campus office hours if you are able to come to campus at all. I may not know you are having problems if you don't come to me. Send me an e-mail at any time but please maintain proper decorum. Begin and end every e-mail with a proper salutation or I may ignore it. Please allow up to 48 weekday hours for a response. If I have not responded in that time, assume that I did not receive it.

Academic Integrity

The best learning environment is one based on mutual respect and trust. However, the desire to achieve a good grade without doing the necessary work may tempt some students to cheat on exams or to represent the work of others as their own. As should be obvious to anyone at UNCG, plagiarism and cheating are wrong and are acts of "academic dishonesty." The term "academic dishonesty" means a deliberate and deceptive misrepresentation of one's own work. Instances of academic dishonesty include all, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.) Plagiarism: presenting as one's own work, whether literally or in paraphrase, the work of another author.
- 2.) Turning in the same paper for multiple courses.
- 3.) Cheating on exams, tests, and quizzes; the wrongful giving or accepting of unauthorized exam material; and the use of illegitimate sources of information.
- 4.) Unsanctioned collaboration with other individuals in the completion of course assignments.
- 5.) Falsifying data and use of fraudulent methods in laboratory, fieldwork, and COMPUTER WORK.
- 6.) Falsifying excuses for non-attendance or completion of assignments.

There are no mitigating circumstances to justify academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism, please ask - Ignorance is no excuse. Discovery of academic dishonesty will bring stiff penalties, including a failing grade for the assignment in question and possibly a grade of F for the course. The maximum penalty at UNCG for plagiarism is possible expulsion from the entire UNC system, so for your own sakes, DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.

Don't think you can fool me. I have been reading and writing history for many years now. You will be caught if you plagiarize. This is not a challenge; this is a plea. Don't do it, it will ruin your career as a student at UNCG.

I have engaged TURNITIN software for this course. This program scans for cases of copied works.

Additional Information

I want you to succeed in this class. Please come see me if you are having trouble, or if you want to talk history! Ask questions, read often, study often. If you need something and would like to meet, please email me and we can set up an appointment to meet in my office, don't be shy.

The course schedule on the following page will change as circumstances dictate. Considering the breadth of material that we have to cover in a short period of time, do not be surprised if I have to revise the schedule. I will announce by email if I need to make changes.

If you need to contact me outside of class, email me. I check it several times daily.

If class is cancelled for any reason - snow, hurricanes, or a sick instructor - you will be notified on your UNCG issued email address, so check it often - although being an online class this probably will not happen.

A note about differently abled students: If you are differently abled in any way and cannot properly use something that I have put on Canvas, contact me and I will work with you and our disability office to fix the situation. For example, I will record lectures often and if you need transcripts instead, I will provide that, but you must register with the office of disability services first. Whatever your case may be, let me know and I will help you any way that I can.

Course Schedule [Assignments as assigned]

Module 1 [Check in on the discussion page labeled Class Introductions and Welcome. Do this by the end of Friday, 1/18 or you will be dropped]

Course introduction, Syllabus, What is history?, Primary and secondary sources. HAT questions

The World in the Twentieth Century 1900-1945

Module 2

The World in the Twentieth Century 1900-1945, The defining year: 1945

Module 3 [HAT Question I Due Tuesday 1/22 at Noon] [Responses to HAT I questions are due Friday 1/25 at Noon]

The origins of the Cold War

Module 4

The Cold War, Korea, The Soviet Union and Communist Europe, The United States

Module 5 [HAT Question II Tuesday 1/29 at Noon] [Responses to HAT II questions are due Friday 2/1 at Noon]

The Postwar International Economy, China

Module 6 [Book Reflection on *Communism* due Friday 2/1 at 11:59 pm]

China, India

Module 7 [Exam I Due by Wednesday 2/6 at 11:59PM – available beginning 2/3 12:00 pm]

Vietnam

Module 8

Decolonization in Africa, South Africa

Module 9 [Book Reflection on *Decolonization* due Tuesday 2/12 at 11:59 pm]

Iranian Revolution, Arab-Israel-Palestine Conflict, Munich

Module 10 [HAT Question III Due Tuesday 2/12 at Noon] [Responses to HAT III questions are due Friday 2/15 at Noon]

The United States: Society, The Space Race

Module 11

Latin America, Russia's Vietnam: Afghanistan

Module 12 [Exam II Due Wednesday 2/27 at 11:59PM – available beginning 2/24 at 12:00pm]

Civil Rights and Feminism in the U.S. and the World

Module 13

The End of the Cold War, The Balkan Wars

Module 14 [Book Reflection on *The Cold War* due Tuesday 3/5 at 11:59 pm]

Gulf Wars, Iran-Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda

Module 15 [Movie Project Due Friday 3/8 at 11:59PM – You may turn it in any time you choose before then]

9/11 and the Middle East in the 21st century

Our final is due by Wednesday 3/13 at 11:59 pm. Any submissions submitted after this deadline will earn a zero. The Final will be available beginning Sunday 3/10 at midnight (that is – when Saturday turns into Sunday midnight, you will have all day Sunday to work on this).

-Keep in mind that this schedule is a general outline and may change but I will let you know well in advance of any due dates if I have to change it-