

History 218-01: The World of the Twentieth Century since 1945 (Spring 2021)

Professor David M. Wight

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Graduate Assistant Summer Crews

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

STRUCTURE & SCOPE

Welcome! This course introduces the key events, people, and trends of world history since 1945. Moreover, it presents what comprises the field of history and how historians conduct their craft. The second half of the twentieth century witnessed extraordinary and rapid change across the globe. This class will examine the making of the contemporary world, from the aftermath of World War II to the beginnings of the new millennium. It will focus upon three main themes: the geopolitical struggles of the Cold War and decolonization; the rise of contemporary globalization and attendant economic, cultural, and environmental issues; and global shifts in the status of women and attitudes toward gender and sexuality.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

There are two books assigned for the course, listed below. Both are available as free ebooks through the UNCG library. The books can also be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional short readings will be provided on Canvas.

Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011)

Mary Elise Sarotte, *The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall* (New York: Basic Books: 2014)

GRADING

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Reflections	30%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

Grades follow this scale: A = 93 and up; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87 to 89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <60

GENERAL EDUCATION MARKERS

This course qualifies for the General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) and General Education Global Non-Western Perspectives (GN) markers.


General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Global Non-Western Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among cultures, polities, and/or intellectual traditions of the world other than the dominant Euro-American ones.
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues

LECTURE VIDEOS, READINGS, AND REFLECTIONS

Each week there are lecture videos for you to watch and, starting week two, readings to complete. A list of the weekly readings can be found here: [HIS 218-01 Weekly Reading List.pdf](#) .

A module's readings and lecture videos will be posted by the Sunday at the start of the week of the module if not earlier. Starting week two, there will be a reflection question each week about the lecture videos and readings. You are required to write a short writing reflection responding to these questions for ten weeks of your choice (so you get to skip three without penalty, or the lowest three scores will be dropped). You are required to submit the reflection by the end of the Saturday of that week. There will be a question posted to guide your reflection on the course materials for each week within the "Assignments" tab in the course menu on the left-side of Canvas; this is also where you will submit your reflection. You can also include in your reflection any questions you have about the readings, lecture, or the course in general. Late submissions for reflections will receive only partial or no credit.

Your reflection should be a full page in length (you can carry over into a second page, but don't go beyond that). Quoted material should have page number in parenthesis, otherwise just mention the book or lecture the material is from.

Your reflection should answer all parts of the question and include coverage of the assigned readings and lecture videos. Note that while the questions will often center on the readings, you need to also make reference to how lecture videos provide background/context to better understand these readings.

Reflections will be graded along the following point structure and criteria:

- COMPLETENESS (10 point): Do I answer all parts of the question?
- READINGS ANALYSIS (10 points): Do I show that I have thoroughly and accurately examined the assigned readings?
- LECTURE CONTEXT (10 points): Do I provide relevant context that is clearly drawn from lecture videos?

Satisfies markers GHP and GN.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS

There will be a midterm and final examination, comprised of short and long written responses. You will be given a window of time over multiple times to complete these exams, with a time limit once you start the test. Study sheets will be provided in advance of the midterm and final.

This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor and a webcam when you take these tests. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. This is done to ensure that only the student and allowed materials are taking the test. Make ups for missed tests will only be allowed due to an extenuating circumstance and at my discretion.

Details on how to install and use LockDown Browser and Monitor can be found here: [HIS 218 LockDown Browser Instructions.pdf](#).

Satisfies markers GHP and GN.

STUDENT TO STUDENT MESSAGE BOARD

If you click on the “Discussions” tab you will see a pinned discussion titled “Student to Student Message Board.” This is a place where students can post or reply to messages about anything related to the course. It is intended as a way for students to connect and collaborate, such as forming a study group.

ETIQUETTE

Throughout the course, whether in online discussion boards, assignments, or anywhere else, you are required to be respectful of other people and their arguments. Critiques and disagreements over the ideas we discuss are expected and even encouraged, but

this does not permit anyone to be offensive or abusive toward others. I reserve the right to remove anyone from class for disrespectful behavior.

General behaviors to avoid include (but are not limited to): flaming, doxing, using or posting offensive images or language that is outside the scope of course materials, posting suspicious websites, and advertising yours or others' businesses or products.

TECHNOLOGY

This course requires the capability of the student to use and regularly access a computer, a word processor, pdf files, the internet (including videos), a webcam, and Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor. The UNCG library is a resource for technology access.

On protecting your personal data and privacy, see https://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/acceptable_use/ (Links to an external site.).

If you encounter a technology problem, contact UNCG Information Technology Services as soon as possible. They have online, phone and walk-in options for technical support, all listed here: <https://its.uncg.edu/Help/> (Links to an external site.). If a technology problem poses the possibility of preventing you from completing coursework, communicate this to me and the graduate assistant as soon as possible, too, so we can see if we can mitigate any negative impacts on your learning and grade.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

UNCG provides a variety of useful services for you, the student. Check them out!

The UNCG Library (<https://library.uncg.edu/> (Links to an external site.)) has a wealth of books, articles, archival materials, and other media resources, computers, inter-library loan services, and knowledgeable staff.

The UNCG Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/> (Links to an external site.)) provides assistance with writing assignments; contact staff members to set an appointment either in person or via instant-messaging.

The UNCG Speaking Center (<https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/> (Links to an external site.)) provides assistance in improving your skill and confidence in public, group, and individual speaking.

If you have any needs or questions related to disability issues, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) (<https://ods.uncg.edu/> (Links to an external site.)). I prioritize making this course accessible to all of the students in it, and I will work with OARS to accommodate students' requests. You do not need to disclose details about your disability to me or your TA to receive accommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsible to know what constitutes academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and to be familiar with UNCG policies on academic integrity laid out here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Students who engage in an academically dishonest act (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating during an exam) will receive a grade of "F" in the course and be reported to the Academic Dean for possible additional disciplinary action, including expulsion from the university. Do not attempt it.

All writing assignments (reflections, quizzes, papers, etc.) are subject to a plagiarism check through the website <https://www.turnitin.com/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). This website compares the text of your paper to text up on webpages, in scholarly works, and within its massive database of student papers submitted to schools around the world. If you purchase a paper to pass off as your own, it is possible the paper may contain portions reused and sold to other students as well. So do not plagiarize or purchase papers, whether only a portion of your paper or its entirety.

CONTACTING ME AND THE GRADUATE ASSISTANT

I encourage you to ask me questions by email or to schedule a Zoom meeting to talk directly. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on the weekends), but I'll usually reply sooner. Your grading assistant, Ms. Summer Crews, is also available to answer questions. Please ask her first regarding any questions about grades, since she is the one grading assignments.

USEFUL WEBSITES

History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements about any alterations.