

History 218–01: The World of the Twentieth Century since 1945 (Spring 2022)
Time and Place: TR 9:30–10:45 AM, MHRA 1214

Professor David M. Wight (dmwight@uncg.edu)
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:

Attendance	20%
Midterm Exam	40%
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

MAC COMPETENCY

Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning

Courses in this competency provide students with knowledge and critical understanding of similarities and differences across world cultures over time and emphasize the development of global perspectives and skills to engage cross-culturally.

In a Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning course, students will:

1. Describe dynamic elements of different cultures. These elements may include (but are not limited to) aesthetic systems, communication systems, economics, physical environments, ethics, gender norms, geography, history, politics, religious principles, or social beliefs, norms and practices.
2. Explain how similarities, differences, and connections among different groups of people or environmental systems affect one another over time and place.

ATTENDANCE

You will be graded on attendance and (when relevant) participation. Attending only part of the time will only receive partial credit. You are given four excused absences (i.e., the four lowest scores will be dropped). Since some absences are already excused, additional absences can only be made up with a writing assignment, only due to extreme extenuating circumstances, and only at the discretion of the professor.

On days when readings are assigned, you are expected to have completed the readings before the start of that class and that you are ready to discuss the readings with your fellow colleagues.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

There will be a take home midterm and final exam, comprised of written responses. A study sheet will be provided in advance of each.

Will be used to measure MAC Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.

ETIQUETTE

Common sense respect is required. Likewise, when discussing ideas, you are required to be respectful of other people's 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.

TECHNOLOGY

This course requires the capability of the student to use and regularly access a computer, a word processor, and the internet. 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/.

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/>. If a technology problem poses the possibility of preventing you from completing coursework, communicate this to myself 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/>) 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/>) 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/>) 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/>). 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 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/>. 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, papers, etc.) are subject to a plagiarism check through the website <https://www.turnitin.com/>. 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.

COMMUNICATION

I will make periodic announcements regarding important information about the course, accessible in the “Announcements” tab. Likewise, I will provide feedback on assignments under comments. I might also send you a message via Canvas or an email to your UNCG email address if needed. It is your responsibility to monitor and read all of these communications in a timely manner.

I am happy to answer your questions by email or message in Canvas. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on weekends and holidays), but I’ll usually reply sooner. You can also email me to schedule a Zoom meeting to talk directly.

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

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.

COVID-19 AND GENERAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling [336-334-5874](tel:336-334-5874), visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can

learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu

As we return for spring 2022, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- [Following face-covering guidelines](#)
- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19
- Staying home when ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill
- Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [COVID-19](#) website

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats at every class meeting. Students may move their chairs in class to facilitate group work, as long as instructors keep seating chart records. Students should not eat or drink during class time.

A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow the basic standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and other requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact OARS (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health services, will review requests for accommodations.

Spring 2022 Course Delivery: This course is scheduled to be taught in-person and all participants are required to face coverings in the class at all times. Students are strongly encouraged to wear three-layer surgical-style face coverings in class which are available at [designated on-campus locations](#). No food or drink (including water) is allowed in the class. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may require changes to our meeting plan; we will be monitoring the situation closely. If I need to change the format of the course temporarily due to outbreaks of illness, I will announce this via email and the course Canvas page.

Students who test positive: Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to [self-report](#) and isolate per [University guidelines](#). I will provide details on how students will continue to engage in the course while isolating.

CLASS TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

T 1/11 – Welcome & What is World History?

R 1/13 – Decolonization and the Cold War, 1945-1953

WEEK 2

Readings: British Labour Party, “Let Us Face the Future” (1945)

Joseph Stalin, “Election Speech” (1946)

Raúl Prebisch, *The Economic Development of Latin America and its Principal Problems* [excerpt] (1950)

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* [excerpts] (1949)

T 1/18 – Three Economic Orders, 1945-1953

R 1/20 – The Second Sex, 1945-1953

WEEK 3

Readings: Sukarno, “Opening Address of the Bandung Conference” (1955)

Mao Zedong, *Quotations from Chairman Mao* [excerpts] (1966)

Fidel Castro, “May Day Celebration Speech” (1961)

Gamal ‘Abd al-Nasser, “Victory Day Speech” (1961)

T 1/25 – The Challenge of the Third World, 1954-1962

R 1/27 – Economic Recoveries and New Beginnings, 1954-1962

WEEK 4

- Readings: Wambui Waiyaki Otieno, *Mau Mau's Daughter* [excerpts] (1998)
- Rudi Dutschke, "The Students and Revolution" (1968)
- Ludvik Vaculik, "Two Thousand Words for Workers, Farmers, Scientists, Artists, and Everyone" (1968)
- The National Strike Committee, "For a Worker/Peasant/Student Alliance" (1968)

T 2/1 – Women Revolutionaries, 1954-1962

R 2/3 – Fracturing Political Orders, 1963-1968

WEEK 5

- Readings: Ahmed, Introduction, Chapter 1

T 2/8 – Globalizing Economic Orders, 1963-1968

R 2/10 – Islamism and the Veil, 1963-1968

WEEK 6

- Readings: Ahmed, Chapter 2

Fela Kuti, "Gentleman" (1973)

Listen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snIV_-IECsM

Lyrics at <http://www.songlyrics.com/fela-kuti/gentleman-lyrics/>

Bob Marley, "Concrete Jungle" (1973)

Listen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y07vgARrOUE>

Lyrics at <http://www.songlyrics.com/bob-marley-the-wailers/concrete-jungle-original-album-version-lyrics/>

T 2/15 – Seeking Détentes, 1969-1975

R 2/17 – The End of Bretton Woods, Environmentalism, and the NIEO, 1969-1975

WEEK 7

Readings: Ahmed, Chapter 3, 4

T 2/22 – Sexual Revolutions and Second Wave Feminism, 1969-1975

R 2/24 – The Cold War and Islamism, 1976-1983

WEEK 8

Readings: Ahmed, Chapters 5, 6

Deng Xiaoping, “We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds” and “We Can Develop A Market Economy Under Socialism” [excerpts] (1979)

Margaret Thatcher, “Speech to Conservative Party Conference” (1980)

T 3/1 – The Resurgence of the Veil, 1976-1983

R 3/3 – Crises of Capitalism, Communism, and ISI, 1976-1983

WEEK 9

T 3/8 Spring Break

R 3/10 Spring Break

WEEK 10

Readings: Sarotte, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3

T 3/15 – The End of the Cold War, 1984-1991

Midterm Exam due at start of class, both hard copy and Canvas upload

R 3/17 – Global Capitalism Triumphant, 1984-1991

WEEK 11

Readings: Sarotte, Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7, Epilogue

Molara Ogundipe, “Stories of Structural Adjustment” (circa 1987)

T 3/22 – Global AIDS Crisis, 1984-1991

R 3/24 – New World Order, 1992-2000

WEEK 12

Readings: Ahmed, Chapters 7 & 8

Osama Bin Laden, "The Betrayal of Palestine," "Declaration of Jihad," and "The World Islamic Front" (1994-1998)

T 3/29 – Globalization and Its Discontents, 1992-2000

R 3/31 – No Class

WEEK 13

Readings: Naomi Klein, "Iraq, Full Circle: Overshock" (2007)

T 4/5 – Third Wave Feminism, 1992-2000

R 4/7 – The Global War on Terror, 2001-2008

WEEK 14

Readings: Ahmed, Prologue to Part II, Chapter 9

T 4/12 – The Apex of Neoliberalism, 2001-2008

R 4/14 – Of Burqas and Bikinis, 2001-2008

WEEK 15

Readings: Xi Jinping, "Speech in Seattle" (2015)

Vladimir Putin, "Speech at the United Nations" (2015)

Brady Dennis and Sarah Kaplan, "Humans have pushed the climate into 'unprecedented' territory, landmark U.N. report finds," *Washington Post* (2021)

T 4/19 – Shifting toward Multipolarity?, 2009-2022

R 4/21 – Overcoming the Great Recession and Global Warming?, 2009-2022

WEEK 16

Readings: Ahmed, Chapter 11

Rita Banjeri, “SlutWalk to Femicide,” “Facebook Game ‘Angry Brides,’” and
“India’s ‘Save The Girl’ Campaign” (2011-2017)

T 4/26 – Advancing Gender and Sexual Equality?, 2009-2022

WEEK 17

T 5/3 – **Final Exam due on Canvas by 11:59 PM**