The World in the Twentieth Century – 1900-1945
Spring 2013
History 217 Section 07

Human blunders usually do more to shape history than human wickedness. A. J. P. Taylor

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 – 2 or by appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

By building on the profound transformations set in motion by the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, the first half of the 20th century was arguably the most significant 50 year period in all of human history. By the start of the 20th century scientific and technological advances had markedly transformed the world we live in, ushering in an era of even greater change which eventually culminated with the atomic age in 1945. This period includes two global wars, the Great Depression, colonial domination of the non-Western world, and the rise of totalitarianism, as well as other factors which affect the world we live in today.

READING LIST

Texts – There will be no text for this course, rather the material will be provided through readings posted either on the course blackboard site or accessible electronically through the UNCG library homepage.

Selections from the following books on Electronic Reserve (indicated ER) or available as E books (indicated EBOOK), and accessible through either Blackboard or through the library website.

Beasley, W.G. The Meiji Restoration (Stanford, 1972)
Blackwell, William. The Industrialization of Russia (Davidson, 1982)
Eksteins, Modris. Rites of Spring (Houghton Mifflin, 1989)
Forrest, Andrew. The Spanish Civil War (Routledge, 2000)
Fromkin, David. A Peace to End All Peace (Holt, 2001)
Graves, Robert. Good-Bye to All That (originally published, 1929)
Hobsbawm, Eric. The Age of Empire, 1875-1914. (Little, Brown,1989)
Holt, P.M. *The Mahdist State in the Sudan*. (Clarendon, 1958)
Overy, Ronald and Andrew Wheatcroft. *The Road to War* (Random House, 1990)
Remarque, Erich. *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Ballantine, 1982)
Zieger, Robert. *America’s Great War* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2001)

II. COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Students who complete the course will be able to:

1) Understand that history is an interpretation of the past, and not memorization of dates and facts.

2) Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.

3) Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.

4) Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources.

5) Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.

6) Acquire a general knowledge of world history from 1900-1945
III. FORMAT AND PROCEDURES:

Instruction: Because of the size of the class we will have less time for discussion than I would like, but I will occasionally ask questions, and I certainly encourage you to ask questions when you have them. That being said, the format will largely be one of lectures delivered by the instructor, along with pictures, maps, video clips and movies - all of which expand upon the lecture and reading material. In addition, there may be a guest lecturer on one subject or another.

Attendance: Attendance is required, not optional. However, I will allow everyone a single unexcused absence - otherwise only properly documented absences will be excused. All unexcused absences beyond the single one allowed will affect your final grade.

There will be an attendance sheet passed around each day, and it is your responsibility to make sure you have signed it.

Participation: Come to class prepared to listen, take notes, and ask questions where needed. You will be allowed to use laptops to take notes, and e-readers for some of the reading materials, but no other electronic devices are to be used during class time. Furthermore, class time is exactly that – do not use laptops or tablets for anything other than matters pertaining to the course while we are in class.

Quizzes: There will be quizzes given occasionally, at random intervals throughout the semester. These will serve to keep you on track with your readings, allow you to gauge how well you are absorbing the reading material, and constitute the primary element in your participation grade. Given that these will be administered at the beginning of the class period, you need to ensure that you are on time.

Writing Assignments: There will be two writing assignments given during the course. The exact details have yet to be determined, but one of the projects will be a book review from a work of history, and the second assignment will be a film review.

Grades: Your grade will be determined using the following components:

Mid-term exam: 30%
Final Exam: 30%
Writing Assignments: 30%
Participation and Quizzes: 10%

IV. Academic Integrity

Each student is expected to abide by the UNCG Code of Academic Integrity. All work you turn in should be your own or should carry the proper citation for any outside sources used. Please review the academic integrity policy as outlined by the university by visiting http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/
V. Accommodations for students with disabilities
In compliance with the UNCG policy, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

VI. Tentative Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Textbook- There is no required textbook for the course, but there are readings assigned to you each week on blackboard, in addition to the books you are to read for your book review and also for your writing assignment.

ER=reading on electronic reserve; can be downloaded from Blackboard

Week 1:
Jan. 15: Introduction

Jan 17: Birth of the 20th Century: Industrialization and the Industrial Revolution
READINGS: Pollard: The Industrialization of Europe (Excerpts) ER
          Marx and Engels: The Communist Manifesto (Excerpts) ER
          Hobsbawm: The Age of Empire (Excerpts) ER

Week 2:
Jan. 22: Enlarging the Club: Russia and Japan as Emerging Powers
READINGS: Blackwell: The Industrialization of Russia (Excerpts) ER
          Beasley: The Meiji Restoration (Excerpts) ER

Jan. 24: Modern Conflict: War in the Early 20th Century
READINGS: Hobsbawm: The Age of Empire ER
          Pakenham: The Boer War ER

Week 3:
Jan. 29: Empire and Industry: The World Controlled from the “West”
READINGS: Hobsbawm: The Age of Empire (Excerpts) ER

Jan. 31: Colonial War and Colonial Rivalry
READINGS: Chassaigne and Dockrill: Anglo-French Relations E BOOK
          Pakenham: The Boer War (Excerpts) ER
Week 4:

Feb. 5: Colonization, Commerce and the Mission of the Colonizers  
READINGS: Jacobsen: *Barbarian Virtues* (Excerpts) ER

Feb. 7: Influence and Control Part I: China, South Asia, and the Middle East  
READINGS: Holt: *The Mahdist State in the Sudan* (Excerpts) ER  
READINGS: Wakeman: *The Great Enterprise* (Excerpts) ER

Week 5:

Feb. 12: Influence and Control part II: Latin America, Africa and the Pacific  
READINGS: Rotberg and Mazrui: *Protest and Power in Black Africa* (Excerpts) ER

Feb. 14: The Ottoman Empire and the Challenge of Identity  
READINGS: Lewis: *The Emergence of Modern Turkey* ER

Week 6:

Feb. 19: Alliance, Honor and European Politics: The World on the Eve of War  
READINGS: Wilkinson and Hughes, “Europe in 1914” ER

Feb. 21: The Balkan Crisis: The Road to the Great War  
READINGS: Paxton, “The Coming of the War” ER

Week 7:

Feb. 26: The Great War Part I  
READINGS: Strachan: *The First World War* (Excerpt I) ER

Feb. 28: **FIRST EXAM**

Week 8:

March 5: The Great War Part II  
READINGS: Strachan: *The First World War* (Excerpt II) ER

March 7: Legacy of the Great War: Winners, Losers and the Price of Peace  
READINGS: MacMillan: *Paris 1919* (Excerpts) ER

Week 9

**SPRING BREAK**

Week 10

March 19: Reworking Colonialism: Mandates, Colonies, and the Question of Self Rule
READINGS: Fromkin: *A Peace to End All Peace* (Excerpts) ER

March 21: Changing Shades of Government: The Postwar World and challenges of Statehood
READINGS: Brose, "Problematic Legacy of the Great War in the Wider World" ER

**Week 11**

March 26: Postwar society: Culture and Civilization in the 1920s
READINGS: Remarque: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Excerpts) ER

March 28: Global Depression and the Threats to Democracy
READINGS: Kindleberger: *The World in Depression* (Excerpt) ER

**Week 12**

April 2: The Militarization of Japan and Latin America
READINGS: La Feber: *Inevitable Revolutions* (Excerpts) ER

April 4: Japanese Expansionism
READINGS: Overy and Wheatcroft, "Japan" ER

**Week 13**

April 9: Rise of Totalitarianism in Europe
READINGS: Forrest: *The Spanish Civil War* (Excerpts) EBOOK
Eatwell, "Germany: The Rise of Nazism" ER

April 11: Conflict in Asia
READINGS: TBA

**Week 14**

April 16: The World on the Eve of World War II
READINGS: Parker: *The Second World War* ER

April 18: World War II: Part 1
READINGS: Parker: *The Second World War* ER

**Week 15**

April 23: World War II: Part 2
READINGS: Parker: *The Second World War* ER

April 25: Legacy of World War II

**Week 16**
Final Exam – TBA
Course Description. HSE International Preparatory Programmes in Russian provide intensive training for international students and brings students to CEFR level B1/TRKI level 1 of language proficiency that enables them to enter a full-degree programme at HSE or other Russian universities. The programmes start with an intensive compulsory course of Russian as a Foreign Language. Contents of the course: a human as a personality; social relations, politics, law and economics, and their specifics in Russia. Course description: Introduction to the theory and applications of differential calculus of one variable; topics include limits, continuity, differentiation, mean value theorem and applications. M408L Integral Calculus. M408L Integral Calculus. Course Description: The course is designed to provide the student with a clear understanding of basic statistical techniques. Topics include Descriptive statistics - measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion. course description: introduction to the theory and applications of differential calculus of one variable; topics include limits, continuity, differentiation, mean value theorem and applications.

Whether you’re creating courses for a corporate library or to sell online, it’s critical to provide an accurate course outline and description. It’s all too easy to fall into the trap of writing dry course descriptions that ‘tick all the boxes.’ But if you want to captivate, create excitement and curiosity, and ultimately make students want to take or purchase your courses, you’ll need to write a course description that leaves your prospects eager to sign up. Read on to discover how that’s done. What Is a Course Description?