Fall 2019

HIST 213-009: The 20th Century World

Elektra Kostopoulou

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New Jersey Institute of Technology

HIST 213-009
The 20th Century World
Fall 2019
CKB 206

Tuesdays: 10:00 PM – 12:50 PM

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30- 5:30 PM

Brief Course Description:

This course introduces students to the manifold histories of the 20th century world. It is organized in chronological order, incorporating different regions of the world and various methodologies of world history into a coherent narrative. Together, we will examine the ways political, economic, and social processes have informed one another by reference to both long-term phenomena and specific human experiences on the ground. The main goal of this approach is to shift focus from the West to the rest of the world, inviting students to think in comparative, integrative terms.

Prominent themes include revolutionary nationalisms and enduring empires; notions of modernity, peace, and war; technology in the context of global interactions; economic and political expressions of globalization.

General University Requirement Category (200 level Cultural History):

The goal of this course is empower students to understand historical events and movements in the world, both Western and non-Western, and to assess their subsequent significance. It uses case studies to provide an interdisciplinary view of the 20th-century world. It satisfies three credits of the GUR in Cultural History.
Course Goals:

1) Identify and interpret primary and secondary sources.
2) Learn key political, economic, and cultural concepts.
3) Establish comparisons between past and present issues.
4) Discover connections among different parts of the world.
5) Understand and implement interdisciplinary approaches.
6) Exercise analytical thought, orally and in writing.
7) Develop out-of-the-box thinking skills.

Course Requirements:

1. Attend all classes prepared for a critical discussion and do the weekly readings.
2. Answer the weekly forum. Each week students will be divided into two groups and will have to comment on the assigned readings respectively. Two students will lead the in-class discussion.
3. Complete the take-home midterm exam.
4. Complete the take-home final exam.
5. Complete a research paper on the topic of your choice in connection to the course themes and scopes. Indicative topics:

1) individuals: Albert Einstein, Nikolai Tesla, Frida Carlo, Fidel Castro, Kemal Atatruk, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Indira Gandhi, Pablo Picasso, Diego Riviera, Nelson Mandela, Mao Zedong, Raicho Hiratsuka etc.

2) inventions: telegraph, telephone, televised networks, computers, airplanes, washing machines, typewriter, radiation, military technology, nuclear power etc.

3) artistic movements: Art Nouveau, Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, Suprematism, Peking Spring etc.

4) urban history: the evolution of a specific region/town/city/rural or urban territory in the 20th century etc.

5) specific events and their global implications: Great Depression, WWI or WWII, the Cuban Revolution, De-colonization of Africa, the Spanish Civil War, the Soviet Revolution, Indian Independence, the Chinese Revolution, the Mexican Revolution etc.
or any other topic of relevance.

The paper should be 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced (not including a cover page or references). You should use at least 3 peer-reviewed publications and 1 primary source (Chicago style for review articles).

*Papers should be submitted online through Turnitin by Tuesday, November 5th.*

**Required Textbook:**

*Make sure you get the correct volume (1750 to the present). More recent editions are acceptable. All other additional material used in this class will be provided by the instructor (primary/secondary sources, maps, power points, films etc.)*

**Grading:**

A) Attendance/Class participation: 20%
B) Weekly responses: 20%
C) Research paper: 20%
D) Mid-term: 20 %
E) Final Exam: 20 %

90-100%: Excellent Work (A)
85-89%: Very Good (B+)
80-84%: Good (B)
75-79%: Satisfactory Plus (C+)
70-74%: Satisfactory (C)
60-69%: Marginal (D) Bellow 60%: Failure (F)

**Academic Integrity:**
“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:


Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”

Week One (9/3)

Introduction to the course: What is World History?
Explaining the syllabus and course requirements.

Discussion Theme: Between Global and World Histories
➢ Questions of focus and methodology.
➢ The 20th century through 21st century eyes.

Suggested Readings:

Week Two (9/10)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 17: Nations and Empires

Discussion Themes:
- Consolidating Nations and Constructing Empires
- Expansion and Nation Building in the Americas
- Consolidation of Nation States in Europe
- Industry, Science and Technology
- Global Expansionism and an Age of Imperialism
- Pressures of Expansion in Japan, Russia, and China

Forum Questions

Group A: Compare Manifest Destiny in the United States with European imperialism in Africa. What common influences shaped both kinds of expansion? How did they differ?

Group B: Analyze the cultural impact of imperialist ambitions on imperialist nations. How did notions of race and ethnicity shape the colonial mentality of Europeans, Americans, and Japanese?

Primary Sources:
“Manifest Destiny” (1845), John L. O'Sullivan (17.1); Address to the Indian National Congress (1907), Bal Gangadhar Tilak (17.3); On the Origin of Species (1859) Charles Darwin (17.2).

Week Three (9/17)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 18: An Unsettled World (part one)

Discussion themes:
- Progress, Upheaval, and Movement
- Discontent with Imperialism
- Worldwide Insecurities
Forum Questions

Group A: To what areas did most of the migrants from Europe go? What about the migrants from China, India, and Africa?

Group B: According to your reading, why were Ethiopians, who sustained their autonomy, able to do what other African opponents of European armies were not?

Primary Sources:
* Transport Worker’s Strike (1911) (18.6); Proclamation for the Ottoman Empire (1908), the Young Turks

Week Four (9/24)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 18: An Unsettled World (part two)

Discussion themes:
- Cultural Modernism.
- Rethinking Race and Reimagining Nations.

Forum Questions

Group A: EXPLAIN how European modernism drew on Afro-Asian influences and represented uncertainty about ideas inherited from the Enlightenment.

Group B: EVALUATE the ways in which race, nation, and religion unified populations but also made societies more difficult to govern.

Primary Sources:
* “A’nt I A Woman” (1851), Sojourner Truth (18.1); Industrialization and Women’s Freedom in Egypt (1909), Bahidhat al-Badiya (18.5). Lecture on Teaching and Learning (1845), Sayyid Jamal al-din al-Afgani (18.2); The Young Ladies of Avignon (1907), Pablo Picasso.

Week Five (10/1)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 19: Of Masses and Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939 (part one)

Discussion themes:
- The Quest for the Modern.
- The Great War.

Primary Sources:
BBC Archive on WWI; UPI Archive on the Russian Revolution; To Heinrich Zangger (1915), Albert Einstein; The Fourteen Points (1918), USA President Wilson; The Speech (1919), Kemal Ataturk.

Week Six (10/8)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 19: Of Masses and Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939 (part two)

Discussion themes:
- Mass Society: Culture, Production, and Consumption
- Mass Politics: Competing Visions for Building Modern State.

Forum Questions
Group A: EXPLAIN how the development of modern, mass societies both caused and were affected by the Great Depression.

Group B: COMPARE the ideologies of liberal democracy, authoritarianism, and anticolonialism.

Primary Sources:
Excerpt from Hind Swaraj (1909), Mohandas Gandhi (19.1); The End of Laissez-Faire, John Maynard Keynes (19.4); The New Deal (1932), President Franklin D. Roosevelt; To the Red Army (1941), Joseph Stalin; Triumph of the Will (1935), Leni Riefenstahl.

Week Seven (10/15): Midterm (take home)
Week Eight (10/22)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 20: The Three World Order, 1940-1975 (part one)

Discussion themes:
- World War II and its aftermath.
- The Beginning of the Cold War.

Forum Questions
Group A: ANALYZE the extent to which World War II was a global war.

Group B: ANALYZE the roles that the United States and the Soviet Union played in the Cold War.

Primary Sources:
US National Archives, WWII Records; “New Democracy” (1940), Mao Zedong; “A Note to the Members of the National Planning Committee (1940)”, Jawaharlal Nehru; “Only God Can Send the Rain: Letter to the Prime Minister J Curtin” (1944).

Week Nine (10/29)

Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 20: The Three World Order, 1940-1975 (part two)

Discussion themes:
- Decolonization.
- Three Worlds.
Forum Questions
Group A: What problems and tensions contributed to the uneven process of decolonization across Africa?

Group B: What was the Long March?

Primary Sources:

Week Ten (11/5)
Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 20: The Three World Order, 1940-1975 (part three)

Discussion themes:
➢ Tensions Within the Three Worlds.

Forum Assignment
Both Groups: Identify and present a peer-reviewed publication on the Cold War.

Primary Sources:

Week Eleven (11/12)
Required Reading:
Tignor, Chapter 21: Globalization, 1970-2000 (part one)

Discussion themes:
➢ Removing Obstacles to Globalization.
➢ Unleashing Globalization.
Primary Sources:

**Week Twelve (11/19)**

**Required Reading:**
Tignor, Chapter 21: Globalization, 1970-2000 (part two)

**Discussion themes:**
- Characteristics of the New Global Order.
- Citizenship in the Global Order.

**Primary Sources:**

**Week Thirteen (11/26)**

**Preparation for the final exam**

**Week Fourteen (12/3): Final Exam (take home)**

**Week Fifteen (12/10): Conclusion**