

Spring 2021

## **HIST 213-004: The 20th Century world**

Deborah Morrison-Santana

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### **Recommended Citation**

Morrison-Santana, Deborah, "HIST 213-004: The 20th Century world" (2021). *History Syllabi*. 74.  
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# 20<sup>th</sup> Century World History

HIST 213

Mondays & Wednesdays (11:00-12:20am)

Synchronous Online

**Instructor:** Dr. Morrison-Santana

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**Office Hours:** appointments available upon request (and will be conducted remotely)

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## Course Description:

This course will cover the major ideologies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the cultures in which they occurred, and their connections to themes such as deep nationalism, conflict, and revenge. Looking at the history of the century through an interdisciplinary lens using cases across four continents and focusing on the cultures of those affected, students will gain a better understanding of where we, as humans, are in relation to where we've historically been. Sources will include government documents, memoirs, literature, plays, and film clips to understand the culture of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the eyes of those who experienced it. This course satisfies three credits of the GUR in Cultural History.

## Course Objectives:

The purpose of the course is to provide background knowledge to students of the world in which they live through readings, lectures, and class discussions of an array of historical topics. Knowledge of history is of the greatest importance due to the fact that the world we live in today is the direct result of various historical developments. The students of the course will analyze historical events and movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and assess their subsequent significance. Students will use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to analyze information and develop their writing skills by producing a historically themed analysis paper. Through interactions with the course materials, instructor, and peers, students will learn how to analyze these events on an individual level in order to apply such critical thinking to the larger themes of the course. Students will be assessed through class participation, one writing assignment, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

## Course Outcome Goals:

Upon completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the fundamental concepts and historical events and ideas related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century world.
2. Evaluate global exchanges and perspectives in context of social, religious, and intellectual traditions.
3. Read, analyze, organize, and synthesize evidence, historical problems, and interpretations connected to the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century world.
4. Connect historical events with contemporary global issues.

## Required Texts:

- There are no required purchases for this course. All readings are available on Canvas. Please make sure you have access to the course as soon as possible, as that is where the course material is located, where you submit assignments, and where the discussion posts are.

## Discussion Thread Contributions

Each week, I will post discussion questions or topics that you are expected to respond to based on the lectures, readings, links, and topics of the week. Your contributions must be more than just agreeing with someone else or simple reactions to what others say ("Wow," "I didn't know this," etc.). There may be more than one discussion forum for the week, so double check that you respond to both. Additionally, you must respond to at least one other student's posts each week for full credit on each post. I will post the discussion forums on

Wednesday afternoons, and you will have until Sunday nights at 11:59pm to post a response and respond to another student's post.

### **Reading Response Essays:**

Throughout the semester, you must write four reading responses to four of our course readings. These are to be analytical papers (NOT a summary of the readings). It should be at least two (FULL – double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins) pages long (per reading) and include insights gained, any questions you may have, and topics for class discussion. Only put your name and which reading you are analyzing at the top of the paper. No other information or title is needed. You should submit two of readings before the midterm is due and two in the second half of the semester. I recommend doing these throughout the semester rather than writing them right before they're due, because the readings supplement the lectures.

### **News Article Essays:**

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to issues and/or events from 20<sup>th</sup> century history that we will cover in this class. For this assignment, you must find a recent article (about an event/article from 2020 at least 5 full pages long, and from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of whether a source is acceptable) and write a paper relating the article to a past event that we studied in class. You are expected to tie course readings and lectures into your analysis. A full rubric for the paper is further down this syllabus.

### **Midterm/Final Essays:**

There are two “exam” essays this semester – a midterm and a final. I will post a series of essay questions that you must answer and submit via Turn-It-In. You will need to incorporate material from lectures, readings, links, etc. into your answer for maximum credit. I will give you two days to complete each essay.

**\*\*\* NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED \*\*\***

### **Grading:**

Participation – discussion posts (20 points each/300 points total)

Reading Response Papers (75 points each/300 points total)

Newspaper Article Essays – (100 points each/200 total points)

Midterm Essay – (100 points)

Final Essay – (100 points)

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100% - 1000 points

A (Excellent) = 930 – 1000 pts.

B+ (Very Good) = 890 – 929 pts.

B (Good) = 850 – 889 pts.

C+ (Between Satisfactory and Good) = 800 – 849 pts.

C (Satisfactory) = 750 – 799 pts.

D (Lowest Passing Grade) = 650 – 749 pts.

F (Failing) = 649 pts. – Below

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

1. This semester will be a little different than others. You are expected to virtually attend class each week (Mondays and Wednesdays).
  - a. You are expected to be clothed, paying attention (not driving, talking to others in the room with you, etc.), and acting as if you are in the room with us in terms of attentiveness, respect, and participation. Attending remotely does not exempt you from participation (which will take place via discussion posts in Canvas for ALL students).
  - b. While I do not require you have your camera on, I do expect you to be engaged in the chat discussion during the class as well as taking notes. I do provide PDFs of powerpoint presentations that I use during class, but much of the course material on the midterm and final exams comes from my lectures.

2. **Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an “F” for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code.

For more information, please consult NJIT Academic Integrity Policy available through the NJIT website.

3. Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
4. **Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email (please allow me 24-hours to respond before sending another email. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
5. **Your grade** is your responsibility and is non-negotiable. If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester asking/begging for a better grade.
6. Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be asked to leave.
7. All assignments must be completed specifically for this course. You cannot hand in something you used in another course. You also cannot submit something more than once for this class (using parts of one assignment in another assignment).
8. Do not plan a mid-semester vacation that would cause you to miss an assignment(s) and then ask for an extension. This will not be accommodated.

## **Newspaper Article Assignment:**

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to historical events or eras we’ve discussed in this class. For this assignment, you must find a recent (2019-2020) news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) on a current event and write a paper about how the event relates to an event discussed in this class. This is not an informative paper, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event is related to the history we’ve discussed and how it differs. Compare and contrast the present with the past using course readings, lectures, and outside sources if necessary to supplement your paper. Any supplemental sources should not be the main focus of your paper; your analysis of the newspaper article chosen is, and it should be obvious which is your main article.

Cite everything using **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them & single-spaced).  
DO NOT PUT PARENTHESES IN YOUR TEXT.

\*\*\* Your answer must be about 5 FULL pages (no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, these papers add up to 20% of your final grade; they should be a well thought out responses with a beginning, middle, and end. \*\*\*

**LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason.**

## **Guidelines:**

- Find an article from a credible source – avoid 24-hour news channels (Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.)... Also, avoid opinion articles (op-eds). If you are unsure of your source, please email me.
- Be specific. I want you to really think about this article and your response to it and how it fits into our course... You MUST cite course materials (lectures, readings, etc.)
- **Do not find a recent article about a past event that does the comparison for you... this defeats the purpose of the assignment.**
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... **DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS.** Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, **MAXIMUM.**
- **IF YOU DO NOT CITE, EVEN WHEN YOU PARAPHRASE, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.**
- **PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER.** You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY.
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins all around
- The paper is to be at least 5 FULL pages long, not less (No cover page).

**\*\*\* SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON CANVAS \*\*\***

(I will not accept it any other way)

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## **GRADING RUBRIC FOR THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **Essay Criteria (70 points total):**

- Credible article chosen (\_\_\_\_/10 points)
- Article comparison to course material (\_\_\_\_/20 points)
- Critical Analysis/Original thought (\_\_\_\_/20 points)
- Well-organized essay – beginning/middle/end – (\_\_\_\_/20 points)

### **Paper Guidelines – following directions (30 points total):**

- Handed in on time (freebie) – 2 points
- Brief name (no more than one line) – 4 points
- Required length (5 full pages) – 4 points
- Required font (Times New Roman 12-point) – 4 points
- Proofread – 4 points
- Double Spaced (no extra spaces between paragraphs) – 4 points
- Proper Margins (1-inch) – 4 points
- Footnotes (4 points total)
  - \* Full Bibliographic info (including URL)
  - \* Single-spaced

**GRADE (out of 100 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

## Spring 2021 - 20th Century World Schedule (subject to change)

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS DUE
W 1/20	Introduction	
M 1/25	Fin de Siècle & The Dreyfus Affair	"J'Accuse" (Emile Zola's letter); Trial of the Century (article)
W 1/27	Russo-Japanese War and the Antecedents to the Great War	"The Serbs and the Hapsburgs"
M 2/1	World War I	"The Night the Angels Sang" essay
W 2/3	The Armenian Genocide	De Waal - Armenian Genocide chapter
M 2/8	The Bolshevik Revolution & Ukraine Famine	<i>Anthem</i> by Ayn Rand & Jones excerpt
W 2/10	1920s in the U.S.	"The Destruction of Black Wall Street;" "When Bigotry Paraded Through the Streets"
M 2/15	The Origins of the Nazi Party	Excerpt from <i>The Hitler Myth</i>
W 2/17	The Rise of the Nazis & Suppression of the Jews	Excerpt from <i>Between Dignity and Despair</i>
M 2/22	The Rape of Nanking	Excerpt from <i>The Rape of Nanking</i> (trigger warning: difficult content)
W 2/24	The Politics of World War II in Europe	USHMM doc
M 3/1	The Psychological Aspects of World War II in Europe	Excerpt from <i>This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen</i>
W 3/3	War in the Pacific	"Decision to Drop the Bomb" - Henry Stimson <b>Newspaper Article Essay #1 due (by midnight)</b>
M 3/8	The Aftermath of WWII	<i>The Arsonists</i> (play), UNGC
W 3/10		<b>MIDTERM ESSAY EXAM due at 11:59pm on Canvas</b>
M 3/15 & 3/17	<b>Spring Break (no classes)</b>	
M 3/22	Origins of the Cold War	Winston Churchill Speech
W 3/24	Korean War	"The Korean War as International History"
M 3/29	Cuban Missile Crisis	"The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50"
W 3/31	Vietnam War	"America and Vietnam" article; "The Unlearned Lesson of My Lai"
M 4/5	Cambodian Genocide	Ben Kiernan Chapter
W 4/7	Soviet-Afghan War vs. Afghanistan 2002	"The Afghanistan War and the Breakdown of the Soviet Union"
M 4/12	Fall of the Berlin Wall/End of the Cold War	"A Unipolar Moment" essay
W 4/14	Iraq 1991 vs. Iraq 2003	Operation Desert Storm article
M 4/19	Break-up of the Former Yugoslavia	"14 Years a Fugative..." article
W 4/21	Decolonization in Africa & the U.S. Intervention in Somalia	"Operation Restore Hope" chapter
M 4/26	Rwandan Genocide	Romeo Dallaire's chapter in <i>Hard Choices</i>
W 4/28	Rwandan Genocide (Pt. 2)	"The U.S. and the Genocide in Rwanda 1994: Evidence of Inaction"
M 5/3	Kosovo & The Responsibility to Protect (last day of class)	Kofi Annan's Sovereignty essay; R2P Summary; <i>Blowback</i> Ch.1 <b>Newspaper Article Essay #2 (due by 11:59pm)</b>