Description

The course deals with five hundred years of world history, beginning from 1492 until the present. Rather than trying to do a chronological survey of all the events and processes that shaped the last five hundred years of global history, the course will focus on specific geographic regions and key related themes and processes that had enormous impact in shaping our contemporary world.

To reach this aim, the class will focus on several central themes. These include political and social transformation; the global formation of capitalist economies and industrialization; colonialism and imperialism; nationalism; the emergence of modern states; and the rise of consumer society. While any of these themes could serve the subject for an entire semester, we will discuss them in conjunction with each other and the ways in which they interact. In addition, the class will be based on various types of readings ranging from primary sources, historical narratives, and historiography, to works of fiction and movies. This is intended to familiarize students with the craft of historical work and the process of creating historiography.

Finally, the class is aimed at developing the tools that students need in order to understand, analyze, and critically perceive history and historiography, not only to understand the past but also to better understand the contemporary world.

Course Organization

The format of the class will be lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays. The regular class meetings will be composed of lecture, question and answer and brief discussion of the material. All students must demonstrate that they have read and critically analyzed the material in preparation for lectures and class discussions. Therefore, participation in class is a very important part of the course, as is reflected in the breakdown of the final grade as follows:

Four 5-page papers: 15% each
Discussion/Participation: 20% Final
Exam: 20%
Participation:

This component of the grade includes mandatory attendance of all lecture classes and active participation in the classes. Failure to do so will result in a deduction from your final grade. From time to time students will be asked to facilitate a discussion session.

Written assignments

Essays: In addition to the discussion session, the criteria for HASS-D subjects include twenty pages of written assignments during the semester. These will be divided into four papers that will draw on the assigned readings, lectures, discussion, and movies from class. There will be no need for additional outside research. The four 5-page papers are due on September 29, October 27, November 19, and December 10.

Film Project: Students will be required to write one of the four 5-page papers on movies. In this paper students are required to compare 2-3 films [see film series below] and evaluate the extent to which they reflect the historical transformations that took place during the period that they cover.

Final Examination: The final exam will take place during finals’ week and it will encompass the entire semester’s work. The final exam will include a map, key terms, short essays, and a long essay question. All of the sections mentioned in the final exam will have some element of choice.

Academic Honesty: The work that you submit for this class must be your own work. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated under any circumstance and will result in an immediate “F” grade for the course. In addition, all such cases will be immediately directed to the Committee of Discipline. Any words and ideas that are not yours should be accompanied by full and complete citation. If you have any further questions dealing with academic honesty you must contact the professor prior to the submission of any written assignment.

Books for Purchase:


Additional readings will appear on the course website or will be handed out in class.

**List of Movies:**

- Double Suicide
- The Return of Martin Guerre
- Last Supper
- Danton
- Oliver Twist
- Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors, Settlers
- El Norte
- Gallipoli and/or Avalon.
- Battle of Algiers

**Class Outline:**

**Week I- Sep.4.**

Introduction to class and requirements

**Week II - Sep. 8, 10**

Global History and World Systems before 1492


Marks, *Origins of the Modern World*, 1-42

**Week III- Sep. 15, 17,**

Transatlantic Contact and its Significance

Week IV- Sept. 22, 24. Sept. 22 is a Holiday

Indian Ocean Encounters; Conquest in the New World:


Excerpts from Las Casas, Bartolome de. *In Defense of the Indians (ca. 1548-1550)*. DeKalb,III.: Northern Illinois University Press, 1974, chap. 4-6, 34, 35.


Movie: *Double Suicide*

Week V- Sept. 29, Oct. 1.

The Splintering of Christendom and the European State and Science as a Revolution


Movie: *The Return of Martin Guerre*

Week VI- Oct. 6, 8.

Racism I: New World Slavery

The Beginning of the Slave Trade and New World Plantations
The American Paradox of Slavery and Freedom


Marks, 82-92

Discussion: Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Equiano

Movie: Last Supper

Week VII- Oct. 13, 15. NOTE: Oct. 13 is a Holiday

The French and the Haitian Revolutions


The Outbreak of the Revolution in France


Revolution in Haiti: Universal Human Rights?


Movie: Danton

Week VIII- Oct. 20, 22.

The Industrial Revolution


Marks, Origins of the Modern World, 95-122

Social Implications of Industrialization

Documents on Child Labor and Social conditions of Industrialization, Smiles, Self-Help (1882) [3 pp.];


Movie: Oliver Twist

Week IX- Oct. 27, 29.

Nation, Empire, and Ethnicity


Origins of National Identity (and of Nationalism) Read: Marks, 139-142 Discussion: Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities (excerpts)

European Industrialization Read: Marx, 95-139 Excerpts from Pomerance & Topik, The World that Trade Created (course website)

Week X- Nov. 3, 5.

From Opium Wars to the Boxer Uprising in the Far East


Movie: Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors, Settlers

Week XI- Nov. 10, 12. NOTE: Nov. 10 is a Holiday
The New Imperialism in the Americas and Africa


Marks, 142-151

Movie: *El-Norte*

**Week XII- Nov. 17, 19.**

**State and Society in the Age of Imperialism**


**Russian and “Backwardness”**

Turgenev, Ivan Sergeevich. *Father and Sons*. Translated by Eugene Schuyler. New York: Leypoldt and Holt, 1867 [1861], Chap. 1-10

Movie: My Childhood

**Week XIII- Nov. 24, 26.**

**Global Wars and The Origins of Consumerism and The Dawn of Advertising**


Marks, 155-162

Movie: Galipoli and/or Avalon
Week XIV- Dec. 1, 3.

Socialism in the Soviet Union and China


The Rise of Fascism Marks, 162-166

Week XV- Dec. 8, 10.

The Cold War, Decolonization and Global Inequity

Marks, 166-174


Movies: Battle of Algiers

Globalization and the Great Acceleration


Marks, Origins of the Modern World, 199-208.