

HIST 103: World History 1815-present

Dr. Jason Knirck

Fall 2009

Office: Language and Literature, 100J

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00-11:00

Office Phone: 963-2422

Email: knirckj@cwu.edu

Web address: www.cwu.edu/~knirckj

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the major events and themes that have animated world history since 1815. We will discuss political, social and economic trends, and will emphasize the relationships, similarities and differences between various world regions. Since the subject matter is so broad, and our time together tragically short, we will focus on the creation of nation-states in the 19th century; the unleashing of nationalism; the rise of fascism, communism and feminism in the twentieth century; and the role of empire and decolonization in world history. Students will also gain experience evaluating both primary and secondary historical sources, and in the mechanics of historical writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully navigating this course, the student should be able to

- Identify some of the major trends in world history since 1815
- Compare and contrast the governmental, economic and social structures of various world regions
- Demonstrate awareness of the role that differing interpretations play in the discipline of history
- Generate historical analyses that are well-written and well-argued, using both primary and secondary sources
- Demonstrate awareness of the difference between historical analysis and historical narration.

BOOKS

Ways of the World: A Brief Global History, Volume II, Robert Strayer (**optional**)

The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Spider Eaters, Rae Yang

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams

There will be two exams in this course—a mid-term and a final. The exams are designed to test your ability to synthesize and analyze material that we have discussed in class. The mid-term will be **Monday/Tuesday October 26th/27th** and the final exam is **Friday, December 11th at 8:00 am**. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Comparative Paper

Karl Marx's *The Communist Manifesto* outlines the problems that Marx saw in 19th century industrializing society, and at least attempts to propose solutions for those problems. Rae Yang's *Spider Eaters* and Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* describe some aspects of life in 20th century Communist societies. For this paper, you should use *Ivan Denisovich*, *Spider Eaters* and *The Communist Manifesto* to compare the theory and practice of communism as revealed by Marx's manifesto, Yang's memoirs and Solzhenitsyn's novel. Do you see some similarities or connections between the criticisms and recommendations made by Marx and the Communist policies implemented by the Chinese and Soviet Communist governments? Do you see some contradictions or differences? Analyze these similarities and differences in a 6-8 page paper, making sure to have a thesis, an analytical focus (don't simply recapitulate each book), and sufficient supporting examples from each book to back up your analysis. The paper is due on **Tuesday, December 1st** and is worth 100 points.

NOTE: I am happy to look over your theses and give you general suggestions on writing this paper. If you need more extensive help, particularly with structure, grammar or mechanics, please make an appointment at the **Writing Center**. See their website (www.cwu.edu/~writingcenter/) for more information.

Quizzes

I also reserve the right to give quizzes over the assigned readings, as well as over other class material. These quizzes each will be worth 20 points and will be multiple-choice in format. Quizzes will be given at the start of the class period and there are **no opportunities to make up missed quizzes**.

GRADING

Grades will be computed along a standard 90-80-70-60 scale. An "A" indicates excellent work; a "B" indicates above average work, usually possessing significant strengths but at least one major weakness in structure or content; a "C" indicates average work, generally a paper that is overly narrative, confusingly structured or lacking significant engagement with the material; a "D" indicates work that is below average, yet still passing. The assignments will be weighted in the following manner:

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|-------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------|
| Exam I | 100 points | Exam II | 100 points | Quizzes | ???? |
| Comparative Paper | 100 points | | | | |

LATE WORK

Late work will be penalized five points for each day late. If you have a problem with one of the due dates, please come and talk with me before the due date and we can make arrangements. I reserve the right to refuse to accept assignments more than three days late.

ATTENDANCE/CONDUCT

I do not take attendance and attendance is not a formal part of your grade. However, there are a few things that you should know about attendance:

- Exams mostly focus on material covered in class. I do not lend out my notes, and so the responsibility for getting material that you missed is yours. Obviously, poor class attendance usually correlates with a poor grade.
- If your grade is on the borderline between grade categories at the end of the term, I will consider bumping you up if you have attended class faithfully and have participated in class discussions. Those who do not attend class do not get any "breaks" such as this, or extensions on paper deadlines or anything of that sort.
- Because I do not require attendance, I expect that when you are present you are attentive and courteous. **The use of cell phones, for phone calls or text messaging, is strictly forbidden. Use of a cell phone in class may result in your grade being lowered for the course, with a maximum of one grade category (i.e. from A to A-) for each violation.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Simply put, you can be unceremoniously tossed from this university for cheating. The resulting shame, ignominy and ostracism should be a sufficient deterrent, but if it is not, be warned that I will have no tolerance for those who cheat and will not hesitate to fail any student who turns in copied or plagiarized work. I fully expect that all work you turn in is your own. Cheating includes, but is not necessarily limited to, copying another's work, turning in work that is not your own, lifting phrases or ideas out of the assigned books or any other books without citation, and copying phrases and ideas from web sites without citation. As a result, I reserve the right to **fail you for the entire class** if you turn in work which is not your own.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a disability or special need, please feel free to discuss this with me during the initial class meetings, and we will make suitable arrangements for accommodation.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

This is designed to be a rough guide. Announcements of changes will be made in class.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Readings</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sept 23 | Course Introduction | |
| Sept 24 | The French Revolution: A Recap | Strayer, 491-526 |
| Sept 25 | Industrial Revolution | Strayer, 527-558 |
| Sept 28 | 1848 | |
| Sept 29 | 1848 | |
| Sept 30 | 19 th Century Russia | |
| Oct 1 | The Ottoman Empire | Strayer, 571-577 |
| Oct 2 | The Tanzimat | |
| Oct 5 | 19 th Century China | Strayer, 559-571 |
| Oct 6 | 19 th Century China | |
| Oct 7 | The Meiji Restoration | Strayer, 577-588 |
| Oct 8 | The Meiji Restoration | |

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| Oct 9 | Discussion: <i>Communist Manifesto</i> | Marx (all) |
| Oct 12 | The British Raj in India | Strayer, 589-615 |
| Oct 13 | The Sepoy Mutiny | |
| Oct 14 | German Unification | |
| Oct 15 | Mexico Under Diaz | |
| Oct 16 | The WSPU and the Suffrage Movement | |
| Oct 19 | The New Imperialism | Strayer, 625-632 |
| Oct 20 | The 1911 Revolution in China | |
| Oct 21 | World War One | |
| Oct 22 | World War One | |
| Oct 23 | Exam Review | |
| Oct 26 | EXAM DAY | Strayer, 659-675 |
| Oct 27 | EXAM DAY | |
| Oct 28 | The Mexican Revolution | |
| Oct 29 | The Russian Revolution | |
| Oct 30 | The Russian Revolution | |
| Nov 2 | The Russian Revolution | Solzhenitsyn (all) |
| Nov 3 | Stalin and Stalinism | |
| Nov 4 | Stalin and Stalinism | |
| Nov 5 | Video: <i>October</i> | |
| Nov 6 | Discussion: <i>Ivan Denisovich</i> | |
| Nov 9 | Nationalist China | Strayer, 633-653 |
| Nov 10 | Nazis and Nazism | |
| Nov 11 | NO CLASS: Veterans' Day | |
| Nov 12 | Nazis and Nazism | |
| Nov 13 | Writing Workshop | |
| Nov 16 | The Holocaust | Strayer, 653-658, 675-681 Yang (all) |
| Nov 17 | Communist Revolution in China | |
| Nov 18 | Communist Revolution in China | |
| Nov 19 | Cold War Czechoslovakia | |
| Nov 20 | Discussion: <i>Spider Eaters</i> | |
| Nov 23 | Cold War | Strayer, 691-719 |
| Nov 24 | The Mandates and the Creation of Israel | |
| Nov 25 | NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING | |
| Nov 26 | NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING | |
| Nov 27 | NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING | |
| Nov 30 | Arab-Israeli Crisis | Strayer, 681-688 |
| Dec 1 | Decolonization in India | |
| Dec 2 | The Iranian Revolution | |
| Dec 3 | Gorbachev and 1989 | |
| Dec 4 | Gorbachev and 1989 | |
| Dec 11 | FINAL EXAM, 8:00 AM | |