WORLD HISTORY SINCE 1500
(HIS 123)
Spring term 2024

Instructor:

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Course Description:

This course provides students with general knowledge about the history of the modern world, starting with the transition from the Middle Ages into the period of Renaissance in Europe until the present. The course includes all the major topics from the European Renaissance and Reformation, the Great Discoveries, European and American Revolutions, World War I and World War II, Cold War to Modern Globalization and current international affairs. The course also examines the social, political, and economic transformations and development in some major countries in Asia, such as China, Japan, and India. The industrial revolution, urbanization, the emergence of capitalism, European expansion and the East-West cultural and economic interactions and exchanges are also major themes of this course.

Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand:

- Major historical developments of modern world history
- Major revolutions in Europe, America, and Asia since 1500
- Theories and concepts about renaissance, reform, revolution, capitalism, imperialism, colonialism, decolonization, and globalization…
- The East-West interactions and exchanges (economic, cultural, and political aspects)/globalization
- The origins, process, and aftermaths of WWI, WWII, Cold War
- The recent development of the world and international relations since the end of the Cold War

Required Readings:

1. William J. Duiker, Jackson J. Spielvogel, *World History*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Boston, 2013.

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2. B.V. Rao, *History of modern world*, Sterling, New Delhi, 2014

3. Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A brief global history with sources.* Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.

4. J.M.Roberts, *The Illustrated history of the world, Vol.8. The European empires*. London: Time Life Inc., 1998.

Course requirements: Read required documents before the class; attend all the classes and participate in the class discussions and other activities; complete all class assignments including oral presentations, group discussions, and essays.

Technology: Blackboard and projector for slides and documents

Course policies: (1) Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will result in a failing COURSE grade and be subject to university discipline; (2) Without specific prior approval from instructor, no early and make-up exams, any schedule conflicts with lectures and exams are not accommodated; (3) Please be on time for class; frequent tardiness, early departures, or absence without valid reasons (documentation required) will affect your grade seriously (one absence=10% participation grade deduction, while 3 absences lead to a failing COURSE grade); (6) Late submission of class assignments will be penalized.

Grading Policy: **This course assigns plus/minus grades**.

Student learning will be assessed on the basis of student performance in:

1. Class participation: 10%
2. Group assignment: 20%
3. Midterm exam: 20%
4. Final exam: 50%.

Grading Scale:

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Grade point	Grade Letter
9.0 – 10.0	A
8.0 – 8.9	B
7.0 – 7.9	C
6.0 – 6.9	D
Under 6.0	F

Grade of "A" is reserved for "excellent" work; "B" is "above average"; "C" is "average"; "D" is "below average"; "F" is "failure

Schedule of class meetings

Week 1: Introduction: The Great Global Convergence

- General introduction
- Modern World History: A Bird's-eye view

- Course organizations
- Course requirements

Week 2: Renaissance and Reformation: Sources and Achievements

- Definitions: Renaissance, Reform, Reformation, Renovation, Revolution…
- Sources of Renais;sance and Reformation
- Achievements in sciences, arts, literature, philosophy, architecture…
- Historical significance

Reference: Rao (2014), Chapter One (pp.18-38)

Week 3: Great Discoveries: Causes and Consequences

- Causes for European exploration and expansion
- The Portuguese maritime empire
- The Spanish conquests in the "New World"
- Slave trade and Spice trade
- The Colombian exchange

Reference: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp. 395-426

Week 4: Europe and America in the Age of Revolutions

- Definitions of revolutions: distinguishing the concept of revolution with reformation, renaissance, enlightenment ...
- British civil war (1642): Historical background, main events, the consequences
- French revolution (1789): Historical background, main events, the consequences
- American revolution (1779): Historical background, main events, the consequences

Reference: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp.447-450; 524-528; 531-542;

Week 5: Industrialization

- Definitions
- The socio-economic development of Britain in the 16th-17th century
- The expansion of technological from Britain to other European countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden
- Technological developments: textile, steam-power, iron making, chemicals....
- Consequences: economic development, social division, living condition, transportation, urbanization...

Reference: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp. 549-563

Week 6: Modern Imperialism and European Colonization

- Theories of imperialism: formal imperialism, informal imperialism
- The long-term development of Europe in the 15th -19th centuries:
- European colonies in Latin America, Africa and Asia

References: Duiker& Spielvogel (2013), pp. 614-642

Week 7: World War I

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- The road to World War I
- Pretext: the Sajarevo incident
- Main events: video, photos, maps..
- Consequences: death, destruction, the redistribution of colonies...

Reference: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp. 671-701

Week 8: Mid-term exam (written exam)

Week 9: Meiji Reform

- Important terms: Meiji reform, Meiji Restoration, Meiji Revolution, Meiji Renaissance...
- Historical conditions: social-economic development, the crisis of feudalism, the arrival of Europeans...
- Major reforms: law, education, the military, technologies...
- The effects of the reforms

*Reference**s:*** Strayer (2011), pp. 894-904;Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp.497-508; 657-665.

Week 10: China: from Feudalism to Semi-colonialism

- The crisis of feudalism in China: socio-economic crisis, the peasant revolt, political splits
- The Opium wars: first opium war and second opium war
- Western powers divided China: British colonies, French colonies, German colonies, American colonies...
- The failed attempts to reform: Kang Youwei, Liang Qichao, Sun Yat-sen

References: Strayer (2011), pp. 877-889;Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp.492-496; 644-655.

Week 11: Great Depression and World War II

- Economic Crisis
- The Rise of Fascism, Hitler and Nazi Germany
- War in Europe
- Pacific War
- Aftermath of WWII

Reference: Duiker& Spielvogel (2013), pp.731-764;

Week 12: World Decolonization

- Definitions
- Independence movements
- Decolonization in Asia
- Decolonization in Africa

Reference: Duiker& Spielvogel (2013), pp.703-720; 901-913

Week 13: Cold War

- Definitions: Communism, Capitalism, Non-Alignment…
- The collapse of Grand Alliance
- Cold war in Europe and Asia
- The disintegration of the Soviet Union
- Reform in China, Vietnam

References: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp.771-797,

Week 14: Post- Cold War Development

- The development of the Western hemisphere
- The rise of unipolar world
- Modern globalization

References: Duiker& Spielvogel (2010), pp.798-833; 913-933

Week 15: Vietnam in Modern World History

Week 16: Final Exam (Written exam)

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