

SYLLABUS

HIST 3801/001 - Contemporary World History Since 1945 (CRN 8335)

Southern Polytechnic State University

Fall Semester 2009 ☐ M W F 10:00 - 10:50 J-131

Instructor: Mr. Mark D. Vickrey
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Office Hours: MWF: 12:00-1:00
T Th: 10:00-11:00
other times by appointment

TEXTS:

Required:

Brower, Daniel R. The World Since 1945: A Brief History. Second Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005. 0-13-189705-5

Lipson, Charles. Cite Right: A Quick Guide to Citation Styles - MLA, APA, Chicago, the Sciences, Professions and More. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. 0-226-48475-0

Other brief readings and maps will be handed out during the semester.

Recommended:

- ☐ A daily newspaper, a weekly newsmagazine, and a magazine of commentary and analysis.
- ☐ A dictionary: If you don't already have one, a good dictionary is an excellent investment (*The American Heritage College Edition* is a good choice). Look up words and terms you aren't familiar with as you read.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OUTCOMES, AND OBJECTIVES:

Description:

Through class discussions, readings, student presentations, lectures, films, and other presentations we will survey world history from the final year of World War II through the present.

Outcomes:

After successfully completing HIST 3801, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the most important themes in contemporary world history.
2. Point out the greatest problems facing the world's regions/states over the past sixty years.
3. Assess the impact of major political, economic, and religious ideologies on the contemporary world.
4. Illustrate the consequences – both intended and unintended – of major post-1945 technological

developments.

Further Objectives:

History 3801 will encourage the student to develop a greater awareness of our past as well as an understanding of how ideas, institutions, and societies have evolved into their present forms. Additional objectives include developing an understanding of, and familiarity with, the most important themes in recent world history including, but not limited to:

- a. the impact of ideologies and religions on the world in recent times
- b. the development of political thought
- c. the Cold War and its effect on the world
- d. diplomacy, war, and terrorism
- e. globalization, its advantages and disadvantages
- f. basic world geography over the past 63 years
- g. the impact of imperialism and the colonial experience on the world

Further objectives will be to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills and develop an awareness of how past events influence the present (and future).

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Course materials will be divided into four units; each unit will conclude with an examination. The final exam will be comprehensive.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Three examinations worth 60 points each, 1 final exam worth 80 points (260 points total). Exams will be made up of some combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, identification questions, and/or essays, but will emphasize questions requiring written responses. Formats will be announced prior to each exam.

Four map exams. Blank maps will be handed out each unit along with lists of items that need to be located on the maps. Students will locate the items on their copies of the maps and then learn the maps. Tests will feature blank maps with certain items identified (or questions asked about the items). The map exams are worth 15 points (60 points total).

A major research paper. Each student will conduct a research project and write a paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. More information will be forthcoming. The research paper is worth 180 points. *There will be specific deadlines for research paper tasks.*

Completion of all four examinations and the research paper is required to successfully complete the course.

Failure to take Exam I will result in the instructor withdrawing the student from the course.

Failure to take Exam II, III, or Exam IV (Final), or to complete the research paper, will result in an F on the course.

6. Absence from an Exam: Permission to take one of the exams after its assigned date can be given **only** if the instructor is contacted **prior** to the exam and gives his permission for a make-up, or in cases of a **documented** medical, family, or job **emergency**. Absence from any exam without permission will result in a **0** on that exam and a **F** on the course. (See "Assignments" above) Students are responsible for scheduling a make-up as soon as possible following the excused absence.
7. Absence from Map Exam: Permission to take one of the map exams after its assigned date can be given **only** if the instructor is contacted **prior** to the map exam and gives his permission for a make-up, or in cases of a **documented** medical, family, or job **emergency**. Absence from any map exam without permission will result in a **0** on that map exam. Students are responsible for scheduling a make-up as soon as possible following the excused absence.

8. Emergency Information and Plan:

- a. Should SPSU be forced to temporarily close due to a flu epidemic or other emergency, this class will be conducted by e-mail communication between the instructor and students. The planned class materials will be delivered to students each scheduled day of class. Questions about the materials can be directed to the instructor via the e-mail address above. Mr. Vickrey will also provide his cell phone number in his first communication following the school's closing.
- b. All students should learn and/or program two phone numbers into their cell phones:
- (678)915-5555 University Police emergency (web-based)
- (770)528-5555 University Police emergency direct line

9. Disruptive Behavior and Academic Dishonesty:

"A faculty member reserves the right to remove any student from his or her course if the student's behavior is of a disruptive nature or where there is evidence of academic dishonesty. In instances of disruptive behavior and/or academic dishonesty, the faculty member will discuss the circumstances with the student(s) before taking final action. In the event the student cannot be reached, he/she will be given the grade of "Incomplete" until such time as he/she can be reached. The student shall have the right of appeal of the faculty member's decision first to the faculty member's department head and then to the appropriate college or school dean and, if necessary, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Removal of a student from a course under this provision will result in the faculty member's issuing a grade of 'F'. A grade of 'F' issued under these circumstances shall not be superseded by a voluntary withdrawal and will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average calculated for graduation purposes."

(Southern Polytechnic State University Undergraduate Catalog 2008-2009 [on-line or cdr version], or on-line Student Handbook)

A. Disruptive Behavior: Students may not engage in any behavior that disrupts the conduct of class or their fellow students. In addition, the following things will be considered disruptive in this class:

- 1.) Cellular and satellite phones, beepers, and other similar electronic devices are **not** to be used in any way

in class. Audible rings from cellular or satellite phones or beepers are disruptive. If you must carry one of these devices either turn it off or select the vibrate option. Phones may **not** be answered in class. Keep your cell phones, Blackberries, and beepers out of hand, out of sight, and off your desk during class.

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The instructor will stop class to remind anyone who forgets this policy.

- 2.) Sleeping in class is unacceptable. Anyone sleeping will receive one verbal warning, then will be asked to leave class.
- 3.) Homework, projects, and other assignments for this and other classes are to be done outside of class.

Any

student doing such work will be asked to stop.

- 4.) Listening to materials on computers, iPods, and other such devices in class is unacceptable.
- 5.) Use of a laptop computer will be allowed only after the student discusses its use with Mr. Vickrey.

*Repetition of 1-5 following a discussion with the instructor can lead to the student's (or students') removal from the course or the grade of **F** for the course, or both.*

When you are in class you should be paying attention to class materials.

B. Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a **F** on the course. Plagiarism, a type of cheating, is defined as the presentation of the words, ideas, or work of another person as one's own work. Within the framework of this course presenting memorized passages from the text, outside readings, passages from the text itself, or other materials on an examination as one's own work constitutes plagiarism. Issues of plagiarism will be further discussed in relation to the term paper. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated in any form. Do your own work and writing, using your own words.

Students should be familiar with Southern Polytechnic's policies on academic dishonesty, disciplinary procedures, and appeals process.

The instructor reserves the right to assign seats, or move a student or students from one seat to another, during any exam or map exam.

TIPS FOR DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE:

1. **Attend class.**
2. **Pay attention in class and ask questions.** See the instructor if you have a question about the material or need clarification on something presented in class or in the assigned readings.
3. **Read all assigned materials.**
4. Read over your notes shortly after class each day. If you have any questions about the materials contained in your notes, look through your reading assignments and/or see the instructor.
5. Think about the materials. How do the readings fit together with the presentations? What insights do the readings provide? How do ideologies contribute to actions?

Be sure you are familiar with these course policies and have a copy of this syllabus. If needed, additional copies are available from Mr. Vickrey and from Mr. Vickrey's web site (<http://www.spsu.edu/sis/vickrey>).

Important note on Communication: Mr. Vickrey has a hearing impairment. When speaking to him or answering questions in class, please speak clearly and loudly (but do not shout!) while facing him. Those measures should enable Mr. Vickrey to hear you. It is also difficult for him to hear when more than one person is speaking at once – please speak when you are recognized. If you are asked to repeat something, Mr. Vickrey is not picking on you, he simply didn't understand what you said. Please forgive any inconvenience this may
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cause during the semester.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the dates of exams and map exams, and other noted dates, as needed. Dates for the map exams will appear on unit schedule sheets.

September 4	F	<i>Term Paper/Research Project topic must be selected in meeting with Mr. Vickrey</i>
September 7	M	No Class - Labor Day Holiday
September 21	M	Exam I
October 13	T	Last day to withdraw with grade of W
October 16	F	Exam II
November 11	W	Exam III
November 6	F	<i>first draft of research paper must be turned in</i>
November 23	M	<i>Research Paper Due</i>
November 25	W	No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27	F	
December 9	W	Last day of class
TBA	TBA	Final Exam (Exam IV)