

Imperialism, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern World (History 360)



Instructor: Dr. Mark Moreno

Class Meets: Tues.-Thurs., SS141

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences, #118

Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wed., 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Phone: 903-886-5216

Email: Mark.Moreno@tamuc.edu (or eCollege)

Office Fax: 903-468-3230

COURSE INFORMATION

Overview: This course covers the period of world history we have come to know and love – the origins and events of the “modern” world, from the late 1500s to the present. With the Columbus voyages of discovery, the union of Old and New worlds ensures that human civilization is connected as never before; technology brings it ever closer. The unification of the world means more people are fed; more precious metals are available for currency. But it also signifies the start of the Atlantic slave trade; the beginning of Western domination of the world; and the creation of nation-states – ushering in an age of unity and ethnic awareness, and a 20th century of horrific violence. As history progresses, wars intensify, revolutions occur more frequently – and the world increasingly becomes defined by national identities and colonial domination by the Western world. As a consequence of imperialism and revolution, people all over the world today

are struggling with what it means to be a “nation” – and who belongs in it. History, in this course, is the interpretation of global encounters and conflicts, out of which arose ideas that have shaped our North American-based world perspective, and also perceptions of global superiority and inferiority. We will critically analyze what has been called “The Rise of the West.”

Required Texts

Strayer, Robert A., *The Ways of the World: A Brief Global History, Vol. 2* (Macmillan), ISBN 978-0-3124-8705-8

Marks, Robert B., *The Origins of the Modern World* (Rowman & Littlefield), ISBN 978-0-7425-5419-1

Fitzpatrick, Sheila, *The Russian Revolution (3rd Ed.)* (Oxford University Press) ISBN 978-0-19923-3767-8

Wa Thiongo, Ngugi, *Weep Not, Child* (Penguin) ISBN 978-0-1431-0669-2

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation and attendance: Regular attendance is expected, as well as regular questions and comments from students. Ten points will be deducted for every three unexcused absences. Other lectures and film/video presentations will relate to class readings. Class time is meant for both lecture and discussion, so participation is important whether class involves interaction or film/video presentations. Class time is not nap time, and the instructor reserves the right to dismiss disengaged students for the day. Absolutely NO cell phone use in class is permitted.

Plagiarism: Taking work directly from other sources and presenting it as your own is a serious academic offense, and will automatically result in a “0” grade for your paper, and possibly for the class. In addition, students will need to meet with the instructor for explanation and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Modern (or postmodern) technology has made detection of plagiarism easier than ever before, and faculty members in most cases have adopted a “zero tolerance” policy for such actions. All work produced for this class must come directly from History 306.01E students, and be specific to History 306.01E for the Fall 2014 semester.

Exams: Two Blue Book exams – a midterm and a final – will be assigned in this class. Students will answer two out of three questions in standard essay form and in longhand.

Participation/Discussion: Students will regularly turn in written analyses and engage in discussions on primary documents, including those found in *The Ways of the Word* by Strayer. Students can use the other textbooks in class to assist in these short assignments, and the instructor will also post academic articles on eCollege to assist in this process.

Semester Project: Students will produce a research paper of six to eight (6-8) pages on the theme of decolonization or revolution in the second half of the twentieth century, and include

primary sources in their citation material. Guidelines for this paper will be posted and discussed within the first month of class.

Grading

Attendance, Participation = 100 points

Exams = 200 points total

Short Assignments/Discussions = 100 points total

Final Project/Paper and Presentation = 150 points total

Total = 550 points possible

Percentages and grades:

90-100% = A range

80-90% = B range

70-80% = C range

60-70 = D range

Below 60% = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, and NAVIGATION

Required:

High-speed Internet access, a word processor, and a printer for some assignments

Updated versions of Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, or other compatible browsers are necessary.

This course is facilitated online with eCollege, the online system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. You can get started at <https://tamuccommerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to login to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

All relevant course materials – including the syllabus – can be found in eCollege.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor

Email through the online learning system is the best way to contact the instructor outside of class. Students should expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays.

Writing and Library Support

For assistance with writing, students are encouraged to make appointments with the University Writing Center:

<http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/http/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Electronic Devices: No smartphones are to be active during class time. The use of laptops and electronic notebooks will be prohibited for any student not using them for note-taking or other activities directly related to class. The instructor reserves the right to revoke such privileges, and to dismiss disengages students from class. It is important to be focused on the subject matter during lectures, discussions, and film/video presentations.

Plagiarism: As stated above, it is easy to detect and provokes the ire of faculty members like almost nothing else, and it is against University policy.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See the “Code of Student Conduct” in *Student Guide Handbook*.)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule is subject to slight revision during the course of the semester

Lecture/Discussion Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- From Voyages of Discovery to Industrial Revolution

Week 2

- The Enlightenment and the French Revolution
- Film, “The French Revolution”

Week 3

- **First Discussion Assignments Due**
- British Empire in China and India

Week 4

- **Second Discussion Assignments Due**
- The European Revolutions of 1848
- The French Intervention in Mexico

Week 5

- Belgian Empire in the Congo
- The Scramble for Africa
- The Age of High Imperialism

Week 6

- **Third Discussion Assignments Due**
- The Russian Revolution
- The Mexican Revolution

Week 7

- **Midterm**
- Nationalism, Industry, and Imperialism: World War I

Week 8

- **Book Review Due: The Russian Revolution/Discussion**
- Nazism and the Age of Dictators

Week 9

- **Fourth Discussion Assignments Due**
- Revolution of Another Kind: Hitler’s Takeover

Week 10

- Film, “Downfall” (Der Untergang)

Week 11

- **Fifth Discussion Assignments Due**
- Palestine
- The Chinese Revolution

Week 12

- Imperialism and Resistance
- Discussion: *Weep Not, Child*

Week 13

- **Semester Projects Due/Class Tuesday**

Week 14

- Imperialism and Resistance: The Congo
- Film, TBA

Week 15

Final Exam