Emergence of the Modern World
History 306.01E

Instructor: Dr. Mark Moreno
Class Meets: MW 8 a.m., SS150
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences, #118
Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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COURSE INFORMATION

Overview: The “modern world,” for purposes of this class, is the period beginning with Spanish conquest of the Americas (1521-1540) through the post-World War II era. This theme encompasses the emergence of global trading systems, the Industrial Revolution, the Age of High Imperialism, and what these topics imply regarding Western liberalism, modernization, and globalization. We will examine not only the historical sequence of world events and actions leading up to the “modern world,” but also manifestations of popular perceptions regarding modernization, including aspects of print culture and other media. In this class, we will discuss what the “modern world” is, and what it means for nation-states and the global state of affairs.
Required Texts


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).
- Verbally and in writing, students can provide a thesis and supporting argument that defines “the modern world” at a regional or global level.

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 or Facebook time, and the instructor reserves the right to dismiss disengaged students for the day. Absolutely NO cell phone use 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 Spring 2015 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 specific themes relating to the modern world and modernity. Students will use class textbooks to facilitate discussions, and the instructor will also post academic articles on eCollege to assist in this process.
**Semester Project:** Students will produce a research paper of eight to 10 pages on the theme of modernization regarding one region or nation-state, 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 and Discussion = 100 points  
Exams = 200 points total  
Discussion Assignments = 100 points total  
Semester Project = 100 points total

Total = 500 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://tamucommerce.edu/login.aspx](https://tamucommerce.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.)
Statement of Non-Discrimination:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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

Lecture/Discussion Schedule

Week 1: Before the Voyages of Discovery, the Enlightenment and Industrialization

Readings: Adas, “Introduction” and Chapter 1; Marks, “Introduction” and Chapters 1, 2; eCollege readings TBA

Week 2

- The Causes and Effects of the Industrial Revolution
- First Discussion

Readings: Marks, Chapter 3; Adas, Chapter 2; eCollege readings TBA

Week 3

- China, India, and the British Empire
- Technology, Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Readings: Adas, Chapter 3; Marks, Chapter 4; eCollege readings TBA

Week 4

- Technology, Science, and Race
- Second Discussion

Adas, Chapter 4

Week 5

- Mexico and Modernization
- Modernization and The Age of High Imperialism

Adas, Chapter 5; Marks, Chapter 5; eCollege Reading, “Meat for the Multitudes”

Week 6

- Modernization, Race, and Nation-States
- Third Discussion
Week 7
- **Midterm**
- Print and Popular Culture

Week 8
- **World War, Modern Alternatives to Western Liberalism**

Readings: Adas, Chapter 6, pp. 345-40; eCollege readings TBA

Week 9
- Modernization and Cinema: Film, “Modern Times”
- Fourth Discussion


Week 10
- The 1930s and Alternate Modernizations
- Globalization and Mexican Food

Pilcher, Parts II and III

Week 11
- Post-War Transformations, Decolonization, Globalization
- Fifth Discussion

Week 12
- Islam and the Modern World

Readings TBA

Week 13
- **Semester Projects Due**
- Islam and the Modern World

Readings TBA

Week 14
- Last Discussion
Week 15

Final Exam