



**HIST 265.91E A WORLD DIVIDED: CHALLENGES OF MODERNITY
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015**

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Ross
Assistant Professor
Class Time: TR 2:18pm – 3:05pm
Office Location: TAMU-Commerce, Ferguson Social Sciences 104
Office Hours: Via email
Instructor Email: Cynthia.ross@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Additional Readings:

Jerry Bentley, Herbert Ziegler, Heather Streets-Salter. *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History, Volume II*. Third Edition. New York: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2013. ISBN: 9780077412067

Miguel Leon-Portillo. *The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico*. Expanded and Revised Edition. Beacon Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0807055007.

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*. Penguin Classics, 1983. ISBN: 978-0140444292.

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*. Anchor, 1994. ISBN: 978-0385474542.

Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve*. Signet Classics, 2010. ISBN: 978-0451531728.

Additional required articles and readings will be available in eCollege under DocSharing.

A Note about the Course Texts:

Students are expected to acquire the course texts prior to the start of class. Failure to do so will hinder a student's ability to keep up with the course, and the Instructor is in no way responsible for such an eventuality. Allowances will not be made for students who lack possession of any course books.

Course Description:

Encounters between human populations who perceive the differences that separate them to be greater than the similarities that unite them have punctuated world history. Such encounters have frequently led to war, imperialism and colonization, and less frequently to cultural imitation and syncretism. The modern world is the product of these encounters as much as, if not more than, it is the product of the development of distinct regional cultures, such as Western Civilization. This course explores the nature of such encounters and the consequences they had for cultural and political developments. The course satisfies a Literature, Philosophy and Culture requirement for the core curriculum and may be repeated when topics change.

Some of the themes that we will address include: European exploration, international trade and colonial encounters; the development and impact of Enlightenment thought; industrialization and new problems in the modern world; imperialism and empires; nationalism, resistance and decolonization; the growth of ideological conflict; and post-colonial and Cold War history. This course emphasizes comparative history between different time periods and regions; frequently events in one place and time will help explain why things happen elsewhere. By exploring the large-scale processes and global interconnections of the last 500 years, the goal of this course is to enable students to better understand the economic, cultural and political structures of the modern world. . Special emphasis will be given to the non-Western world. Majors: Pre or co-requisite: Hist 253. Non-majors may enroll with consent of the department.

Student Learning Outcome:

Students will be able to demonstrate *knowledge* of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

The reading assignments are listed for each week. I expect you to complete your readings on schedule. You will submit all written assignments electronically through eCollege so be sure to familiarize yourself with the application before any assignments are due. To access this course, go to [MyLeo](#), login, click eCollege on the right side of the screen, then click My Courses on the left side of the next screen and look for this course.

Assignments: (*refer to eCollege for assignment instructions*)

Weekly chapter quizzes (13 @ 20 points each)	260 points
Book Exams (4 @ 50 points each)	200 points
Mid-term Exam	150 points
Final Exam	150 points

Participation 100 points

TOTAL: 860 points

Semester Grades: A, Excellent: 100-90%; B, Good: 89-80%; C, Average: 79-70%; D, Below Average: 69-60%; F, Fail: 59% and below.

The general grading criteria for all written assignments in this class is based on the following:

A = Mastery of content and reading material; factual accuracy; thoughtful interpretation or argument that synthesizes original thoughts and ideas with content; technically clean
B = Good-to-excellent command of the majority of content and reading material; competent factual accuracy; a generally solid historical argument backed with adequate evidence

C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence

D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay

F = Even worse than above; completely off topic; no work submission

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed required (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:
Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. Students using Google Chrome report consistent errors and failure to load.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course.

To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the

“Browser Test” link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated with the use of eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students should email the Instructor with any questions or concerns. Students must provide a valid return email address for replies. Unless otherwise announced, students can expect replies within 24 hours.

eCollege Student Technical Support:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the '*Help*' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Citation Style:

MLA or Turabian (Chicago)

Additional Resources:

Depending on student familiarity with history courses, university classes, and the quality of work expected in assignments the following links may be helpful:

[Evaluating Scholarly Content Online](#)

[A Tutorial on Plagiarism](#)

[Assessing Online Resources](#)

[MLA Formatting](#)

Late Assignments:

Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates. Any work submitted past the due date will receive 1 letter grade deduction per day. For example, a discussion post due on Friday but not submitted until Sunday can only receive a maximum letter grade of C.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit in this course.

Electronic Devices including but not limited to laptops, tablets, and phones:

Electronic devices are not allowed during lecture. The Instructor will announce times when device usage is acceptable. No lecture recording. Note taking is essential and must be done using pen/pencil and paper.

Class Conduct:

I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Please exercise common classroom courtesy which includes: being on time, not interrupting me or fellow students during discussion, staying focused on the material rather than social networking, reading material for other classes, avoid sleeping and generally act in a way that indicates to me that you are engaged. Also, refrain from putting away your things before class is over. I will not keep you past the end time.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages as your final paper. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It is fine to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see me or visit the TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

I have absolutely no tolerance for plagiarism! If a student commits academic dishonesty on any part of an assignment, the assignment will receive a zero with no possibility for make-up. If academic dishonesty is committed a second time, the student will immediately fail the course and the instructor will pursue the maximum university discipline possible. *This is not negotiable.*

Writing Lab:

The [TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab](#) is a valuable service free to any student. They can help you get started on a paper, help with drafts, and answer specific questions about citation style, grammar, and spelling. While they will not write the paper for you, they are there to give feedback and guidance.

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 *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Each week lists the discussion themes covered in the course. I will cover some material in lecture while other elements will be available online. These must be completed during the assigned week. Take notes as the online portions will not be accessible after the week closes. I reserve the right to modify the class schedule and readings if necessary but will give students ample notice in class and on eCollege. All assignments are due Friday @ 11:59pm unless otherwise noted.

Week 1:

No lecture, Thursday, September 3

Introduction, Rationale for World History

Historical evidence: How do historians 'know' what they know? Lecture online

Reading: Begin *Broken Spears*

Assignments: None

Week 2:

The World in 1300

Exploration in a global context

Reading: T&E chapter 19, "Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections."

Assignments: Chapter quiz

Week 3:

Film in history: How has Columbus and the Spanish conquest been interpreted in film?

The Columbian Exchange

Reading: T&E chapter 21, "New Worlds: The Americas and Oceania."

Assignments: Chapter quiz

Week 4:

Discussion of revisionist history

Slavery and the African diaspora

Reading: T&E chapter 22, "Africa and the Atlantic World."

Begin Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*, parts I-III.

Assignments: Book exam on *Broken Spears*

Chapter quiz

Week 5:

Family life, religion, and gender relations in China and the Ottoman Empire

Discussion of Six Records of a Floating Life and its relation to family life and values in world history

Reading: T&E chapter 23, "Tradition and Change in East Asia"

T&E chapter 24, "The Islamic Empires"

Assignments: Chapter quiz

Book quiz on *Six Records of a Floating Life*

Week 6:

Atlantic revolutions

Revolutionary symbols, clothing, and slogans: the birth of modern nationalism

Reading: T&E chapter 25, "Revolutions and National States in the Atlantic World"

Assignments: Chapter quiz

Week 7:

Industrialization in a global context

The environment since the industrial revolution: statistics, predictions, solutions. Mid-semester theorizing.

Reading: T&E chapter 26 “The Making of Industrial Society”
Assignments: Chapter quiz. Release mid-term exam.

Week 8:

Global imperialism after industrialization
Drugs and power in modern world history

Reading: T&E chapter 28, “The Building of Global Empires”
Begin *Things Fall Apart*.

Assignments: Chapter quiz
Mid-term exam due

Week 9:

The Great War: causes and consequences
Stories from soldiers and civilians: letters and photos from the field and home front

Reading: T&E chapter 29, “The Great War: The World in Upheaval”
Assignments: Chapter quiz

Week 10:

Global depression and the rise of totalitarianism in Western Europe, Russia, and Japan
Art and music in an age of depression, fascism, and militarism

Reading: T&E chapter 30, “An Age of Anxiety”
Assignments: Chapter quiz

Week 11:

Coping with economic and political domination: a global phenomenon
Discussion of resistance and collaboration

Reading: T&E chapter 31, “Nationalism and Political Identities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America”

Assignments: Chapter quiz
Book exam on *Things Fall Apart*

Week 12:

From appeasement to total war
Holocaust and genocide

Reading: T&E chapter 32, “New Conflagrations: World War II”
Begin *Nectar in a Sieve*.

Assignments: Chapter quiz

THANKSGIVING WEEK: NO CLASS, NO ASSIGNMENTS

Week 13:

The Cold War: superpower politics on a global scale

Discussion of family life, poverty, social systems in modern world history

Reading: T&E chapter 33, "The Cold War and Decolonization"

Assignments: Chapter quiz

Book exam on *Nectar in a Sieve*

Week 14:

Decolonization: causes and models

Neo-colonialism and consumerism: from transnational corporations and the IMF to global Barbie and Reggae

Reading: T&E chapter 34, "A World Without Borders"

Assignments: Chapter quiz, final exam release

Week 15:

The future in the short, middle, and long terms (the current world including China, Russia, and India)

Class wrap-up.

Assignment: Final exam due on Tuesday @ 11:59pm