HIST 3305/WORLD SINCE 1945

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Course Description and Objectives

This class offers students an historical overview of the contemporary world, while also trying to promote an awareness of the striking diversity of views that both characterize and shape that world. Through multiple perspectives the students will look at major issues in the post-1945 world: the Cold War; colonialism, decolonization, and the struggle for national independence; globalization; the international economy and different economic cultures; ethnic, gender, racial, and religious differences; the nature of international conflict in the post-Cold War world; and the changing nature of humans' relationship to the world around them (in both environmental and technological terms). Objectives: To create awareness of the world around us; to be exposed to the real meaning of history through critical analysis of primary sources; to challenge and change existing stereotypes about history of the world; to develop historical thinking by understanding the past and the people who inhabited it on their own terms while also recognizing how our views of the past are shaped by our own experiences.

Grade distribution
A=100-90, B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=below 60

Attendance
Attendance is required for academic success of the course. You are allowed to miss one class without an excuse. Please notify your instructor in advance if you have to miss classes in cases of family/medical emergencies or job-related absences. No make-up exams unless your situation is exceptional. Your active participation is important (10% of your grade). I will not reward you for attendance. I will, however, penalize you if you miss classes. Please follow the deadlines. You will loose 2 points for each day a project is due.

Academic Honesty
Students are expected to be familiar and to comply with the regulations regarding academic honesty as described in the Kennesaw State University Catalog, pp. 314-315.

The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of these high standards is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No students shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated; when the language, ideas, theories, data, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. Anything directly copied from the Internet without proper citation is plagiarism. Papers without proper citations with get zero credit; a student will fail the course and can be suspended for at least one semester unless evidence is provided to convince the courts that substantial mitigating circumstances existed in that student's offense.
Required readings

1. W. McWilliams, H. Piotrowski. The World since 1945

2. Defining the horrific.


Exams:

1. There will be 4 exams (each is 15% of your grade= 60%). For each exam there is a practice test. All primary documents are either on VISTA or in your book (documents).

2. You have to read assigned documents and answer all questions posted after the documents (The Cold War Documents).

3. Group assignments and a group paper “What if?” is based on your own creative interpretation of a historical period or an event using imaginary outcomes- 20%. Submit only one paper per group. Details and Due date to be announced.

4. Group assignments and your group presentation on genocides, participation- 20%. Details and Due date to be announced.

Weekly schedule (tentative):

1. World War II and aftermath.

   Read Chapter 1.

   Watch Power Point presentation “World War II and the results”.

   Look at the interactive maps:


   Read the documents Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima in the Cold war documents

   Answer all the questions posted after the document.

2. Cold War

   Read chapters 2 and 3.

   Read the lecture “The Origins of the Cold war” (VISTA)

3. Cold War-continued

   Read all about Yalta and Potsdam conferences in your textbook.
Read the documents: The Yalta conference and the Potsdam conference. Answer all questions.

Read the documents-Stalin’s election speech and Churchill’s iron Curtain speech. Answer all questions.

4. Cold War-continued

Read the document- the Truman doctrine. Read the documents-Warsaw pact and The NATO Alliance. Answer all questions.

Exam 1

6. Fear in America

Read the document- McCarthy on Communists. Answer all questions.

7. Eastern Europe

Read chapter 4 and 8

Read the documents-The Hungarian Rebellion and The Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia.

8. After Stalin

Read chapters 8 and 10. Watch Power Point presentation “Khruschev”

Read the document -Khrushchev’s Secret Speech. Answer all questions.


Read chapter 3, 5. Read the documents The Korean War.


Read chapter 9

11. China

Read chapter 14

Read the following lectures:
http://www.wsu.edu:8001/~dee/MODCHINA/COMM2.HTM

http://www.wsu.edu:8001/~dee/MODCHINA/REV2.HTM

Read the documents Mao proclaimed republic of China. Answer all questions.

Exam 2

12. Modern Asia

Read chapter 16
13. Decolonization and revolution in Latin America
Read chapters 11

14. Revolution, one failed, one succeeded: Guatemala and Cuba
Read chapters 13
Read the documents Castro on the Cuban revolution. Read CIA files on Chile (VISTA)

15. Africa
Read chapters 6 and 12

16. South Africa
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/12chapter6.shtml
Law http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/12chapter7.shtml
Collapse of the system http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/12chapter11.shtml
Mandela Inaguration http://www.wsu.edu/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_2/mandela.htm
Exam 3

17. Soviet Union
Read chapter 18
Read the documents The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

18. Soviet Union, causes and consequences of disintegration
Read chapter 18

19. The end of the Cold war?
Read all about revolutions of 1989
http://www.historyguide.org/europe/lecture16.html
Read the Attempted Coup in the USSR and Gorbachev’s resignation speech.

20. Genocides, p. 1
Read the documents Genocides (Vista)

21. Genocides, p. 2

22. Islam
Read chapters 20 and 21 on Political Islam and the Middle East

23. Globalization and Environment

Read chapter 17

Read the documents on Environment (VISTA). Go through five WebPages listed, answer these questions:

1. What is the page about?
2. What kind of format does it have, any pictures, data etc?
3. Did you learn something new?
4. Would you recommend it to a friend, why?

24. Brave New World

25. Final exam