

MAKING OF A MODERN WORLD
[PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS—SUBJECT TO CHANGE]

Lecture: MW 12-1, plus Recitation

Instructor: Lee Cassanelli [lcassane@sas.upenn.edu]

Office hours: M 1-3, and by appointment (215B College Hall)

Teaching Assistants: tba

Aims and Format

History 001 explores some of the major ideas, events, and forces which have shaped the modern world since 1400: transformations in world trade; political, intellectual and social revolutions and counterrevolutions; industrialization and technology; nationalism, imperialism and colonialism; capitalism, communism, and socialism; forced and voluntary migrations; and the many struggles for freedom, equality and human rights that have united and divided people across the world. We will look particularly at the ways events or ideas originating in one part of the world have affected other parts, and how global forces manifest themselves differently in different contexts and cultures. Many of our case studies will focus on “big events” in parts of the world that may not be as familiar to students of American and European history but which have had a powerful impact through space and time. Our goal is to help understand the making of the modern world from a diversity of places and perspectives.

Textbook and Readings

NOTE: Required books TBD...stay tuned

Just as important as the texts are the required weekly readings, which include short scholarly articles, book excerpts, and samples of primary sources. These are available on our course Canvas site (CV) under ‘Course Documents’. The weekly assigned readings and documents provide background for that week’s lectures and a basis for recitation discussions. Hard copies of the primary sources should be brought to recitation sections for analysis and discussions.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students are required to attend lectures and weekly recitations and to complete all assignments by the due dates listed in the syllabus. Final grades for the course will be based on three short 4-page essays (15% each, 45% total), a final exam (25%), and performance in recitation, including attendance, participation, and completion of short recitation-related assignments (30%). The three short essays will be due in recitation on Weeks 5, 9, and 12, respectively. Questions will be posted on Canvas well in advance. The T.A.s will provide you with additional information on requirements and expectations in sections.

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

(NOTE: While most of the weekly topics will remain the same, the reading assignments and guest lecturers [IN BRACKETS] listed below are from last year's course; syllabus will be updated once textbook and guest lecturers have been confirmed.)

Wk.1. Introduction

Jan 16. Logistics and logic of the course

PART I. FOUNDATIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD: INTELLECTUAL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, & ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS (1400-1900)

Unit 1 (Weeks 1-4): The Early Modern World

Unit 2 (Weeks 5-8): Industrialization, Nationalism and Imperialism

Wk. 2. The World in 1500: Two Oceans

Jan 21. MLK Day: No classes

Jan 23. World systems before and after 1500

*CV Readings, Wk 2

Wk. 3. The Nature of Power on Land and Sea (1400-1750)

Jan 28. China and the World

Jan 30. The Atlantic Economy

*CV Readings, Wk 3

Wk. 4: Political and social 'revolutions' in the Atlantic World

Feb 4. The French Revolution in Europe and the wider world [ROSENFELD]

Feb 6. The Americas before and after the Haitian Revolution

*CV Readings, Wk 4

Recitation: Discussion of French and Haitian revolution documents*

Wk. 5. Capitalism and Commerce in the Early Industrial Era

Feb 11. West Africa and the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade

Feb 13. Building Overseas Empires in South and Southeast Asia

*CV Readings, Wk 5

First Short Essay due Fri Feb 15

Wk. 6: Technology and Empire

Feb 18. The Opium Wars in China

Feb 20. Egypt and the Suez Canal

*CV Readings, Wk 6

Recitation: The 'dark side' of the Industrial Revolution

Wk. 7: Racism, Nationalism, and Imperialism

Feb 25. 'Manifest Destinies' and 'Civilizing Missions'

Feb 27. The U.S. in the Philippines and the Caribbean [OFFNER]

*CV Readings, Wk 7

Recitation: Discussion of primary documents

Wk. 8. Spring Break

Wk. 9: The 'New Imperialism'

Mar 11. Diamonds and gold in South Africa

Mar 13. The Scramble for Africa

*CV Readings, Wk 8

Second Short Essay due Fri Mar 13

**PART II. SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS
REVOLUTION, WORLD WAR, DOMINATION AND LIBERATION (1900-2018)**

Unit 3 (Weeks 10-12): War, State and Society 1900-1950

Unit 4 (Weeks 13-16): Global Struggles for Rights and Resources

Wk 10. War, State, and Society 1900-1950, Part 1

Mar 18. Ideologies of the Modern Age

Mar 20. The Russian Revolution and the Soviet Century [NATHANS]

*CV Wk 10: Poe, *The Russian Moment in World History*, chs.6-8

*CV Wk 10: Documents: Communist Manifesto, Founding of the International

Recitation: Global ideas, Russian realities: discussion of documents

Wk 11. War, State, and Society 1900-1950, Part 2

Mar 25. Mexico's Strange Revolution, 1910-1940

Mar 27. Japan and Asia (1900 – 1950)

* CV Readings, Wk 11

Recitation: Discussion of documents

Wk. 12. War, State and Society 1900-1950, Part 3

Apr 1. Emergence of Modern China [WALDRON]

Apr 3. World Wars I and II

*CV Readings, Wk 12

Recitation: Utopias: discussion of readings

Third Short Essay due Fri Apr 3

Wk. 13. Decolonization and the Making of the ‘Second’ and ‘Third’ Worlds (1945-1990)

Apr 8. Independence and liberation in Asia and Africa

Apr 10. The Cold War in the developing world

*Reynolds, *Sovereignty and Struggle*, intro and chs. 1-3

*CV Readings, Wk 13

Recitation: Neo-colonialism: discussion of readings

Wk. 14. Global Resources, Rights, and Resistance (1950 – 2018)

Apr 15. Oil wars and water wars

Apr 17. Drug wars and culture wars

* Reynolds, chs. 4, 5

*CV Readings, Wk 14

Recitation: Discussion of readings

Wk. 15. Boundaries, Migration and Citizenship in the modern world (1950 – 2018)

Apr 22. Migration & the Migrant Crisis in historical perspective [CHASE-LEVENSON]

Apr 24. Challenging the Nation-State? Political Islam

*CV Readings, Wk 15

Recitation: Discussion of readings

Wk 16. The Next Global Revolution?

Apr 29. Global Humanitarianism and Global Terrorism in the 21st century

May 1. Genocide and the Global Conscience

*CV Readings, Wk 16

FINAL EXAM: Format and Due Date TBD