

Department: History

Course No: 1201 [108]

Credits: 3

Title: Modern World History

Contact: Nancy Shoemaker

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Catalog Copy: 108. Modern World History

Either Semester. Three credits. A survey of the historical experiences of the world's major civilizations during recent centuries with particular attention to the modernization of the traditional cultures of Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Course Information: a. This course examines the history of the world since around 1500 with an emphasis on perspectives outside of the United States and Europe. The course studies how the world's people came to be more closely interrelated and, in some ways, more similar as a consequence of European expansion, but at the same time the course takes a comparative approach. It contrasts the distinctiveness of the world's many cultures and the variety of historical experiences to illustrate how differing traditions and power imbalances created conflicts and tensions.

b. At a minimum, the course requirements consist of a midterm and final exam based on short-answer and essay questions. Quizzes, especially map quizzes in which students show that they have mastered changes in world geography, are a standard feature of the course. Depending on the instructor, a short paper in response to one of the assigned texts might also be assigned.

c. Specific topics of the course will vary somewhat depending on the instructor's particular area of specialization, but for the most part all sections will cover the Atlantic Slave Trade (with The Interesting

Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano as a standard text); global migrations, diasporas, and international labor and trade issues; industrialization and world capitalism; the multitudinous experiences of colonialism around the world and indigenous responses to and critiques of colonial institutions; traditions and changes in gender and the family; postcolonial independence movements, nationalism, and human rights.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: All seven goals of general education can be found to some extent in this course, but the ones receiving particular emphasis are 2 through 6. (2) The course material has great breadth in content since it covers the entire world, but breadth and versatility also permeate the course in (a) the different aspects of people's lives--economics, politics, society, and culture--under consideration, and (b) the use of a variety of documentary texts (autobiographies, novels, speeches, visual images, etc.) that contribute to the course content and that allow students to see world history from multiple perspectives; (3) Students will exercise critical judgement as they learn to read texts for viewpoint, context, and purpose. Exams will test students on their ability to analyze course material: to compare and contrast, think about change over time, assess obvious and subtle relationships between peoples, events, and historical developments across space and time; (4) & (5) By introducing students to the events, worldviews, and developments significant to the histories of Asia, Latin America, and Africa within a global context, students will become more aware of themselves and their place in the world community. Institutions of oppression and inhumanity (slavery, colonialism) as well as attempts to build moral solutions to conflicts and crises (international agreements and organizations, international political and social movements) constitute a significant portion of course material, making moral sensitivity a constant theme in lectures, readings, discussions, and other course material; (6) Diversity is also a constant theme of this course as its main purpose is to introduce students to the diverse cultures and viewpoints that have existed around the world, as people share ideas but also transform or resist the ideas of others.

CA1 Criteria: This course deals with the first and second activities listed under Arts and Humanities criteria. By analyzing the comparative experiences of people around the world while simultaneously studying their rising interconnectedness, this course investigates historical changes through the lens of critical analysis. By studying the flow of ideas between nations and, in particular, the influence of enlightenment, liberal thought on modern political institutions (as in democratic revolutions), social reforms (such as antislavery), and the policies of international agencies and coalitions, this course encompasses all the major political philosophies and economic theories of influence in the modern world.

Role of Grad Students: Graduate students will grade papers and help advise students, under the direction of the Instructor of Record. Advanced graduate students (ABD) will teach their own sections, under the direction of the history dept.'s graduate committee member appointed to serve as the teaching director.