

Course Outline

World Civilizations II (HIS K122)
Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:50
Three Rivers Community College
Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris
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Office Hours:
Mondays and Wednesdays: 2-4 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Or by appointment

Spring 2006

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the evolution of world societies from the year 1500 to the present day, with emphasis given to the following: technological developments; major institutions; the development of intellectual currents; the formation of empires and nation states; and the overall political, social, and economic framework that existed in these societies during this time period. The course will particularly focus on the issues that have an immediate relevancy on the modern world.

Course Objectives:

The overall purpose of this course is to help students gain a solid foundation in understanding the evolution of modern societies. A secondary, yet equally important, goal is the development of a methodology in order to examine and question evidence in order to convey information in a clear and concise manner (this is more commonly known as critical thinking). Finally, I expect students to be active participants in the course and in class discussions. Interrupting me in order to ask questions and taking the initiative to delve deeper into topics is very much encouraged. I can learn as much from you as you can from me, and I look for students to be enthusiastically engaged with the subject matter.

Required Texts:

Bentley, Jerry and Ziegler, Herbert, Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, Volume II: From 1500 To The Present. Third Edition, 2006

Spiegelman, Art. Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History/Here My Troubles Began

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Content</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
January 23	Intro to Course; Encounters and Traditions	Chapter 23
January 30	Transformation of Europe	Chapter 24
February 6	The Americas and Oceania	Chapter 25
February 13	Africa and the Atlantic World	Chapter 26
February 20 – Note: no class on Monday, February 20 th	East Asia	Chapter 27
February 27	East Asia (cont.); Revolutions in the Atlantic World	Chapter 27 Chapter 29
March 6	Revolutions in the Atlantic World (cont.); Societies at Crossroads	Chapter 29 Chapter 32
March 13 – Note: Topic Proposals for final project due by March 15th	The Building of Global Empires	Chapter 33
March 20 – No classes: Spring Break	None	None
March 27	The Great War	Chapter 34
April 3	The Rise of Fascism	Chapter 35
April 10	New Conflagrations: World War II; Discussion of Maus	Chapter 37
April 17	The Bipolar World	Chapter 38
April 24 – Note: Final Projects due on April 26 th	The End of Empire	Chapter 39

May 1 – Note: In-class presentations will be conducted this week	A World Without Borders	Chapter 40
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Method of Evaluation:

This course will focus heavily on reading, writing, and research, and the assignments will be reflective of that.

Exams – At the end of each of the 3 units of material, a take home essay exam will be given out that will test your critical thinking skills. They can be based on lectures, readings, discussions, and videos. Each exam will be worth 10% of your grade, for an overall total of 30%.

Written Assignments – You will be given research and writing exercises on a regular basis that are designed to enhance your understanding of the material. They will be taken from material learned in class, as well as other readings, writings, etc. The combined writing assignments will be worth 30% of your overall grade.

Individual Contribution – This consists of how much your presence in the class enriches the learning environment. Are you involved in discussions about readings and material? Do you ask questions in order to get a deeper understanding of the subject matter? This component is worth 10% of your total grade.

Final Research Project – Near the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a research project that covers an important topic during the course. I will allow students to have a certain amount of freedom to choose how to complete the assignment, but here is a list of *possible* ways to fulfill the assignment:

1. A 5-10 page paper.
2. A 10-15 minute formal in-class presentation.
3. A paper that compares/contrasts books, films, etc.
4. An art project.

The more creative and challenging the assignment is, the more points I will award. There will be a date at roughly the mid-point of the semester where I will ask that you hand in a topic proposal so that I am sure you are on the right track. This component will be worth 30% of your grade.

Grading System:

A = 94-100	C = 74-77
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-73
B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-70
B = 80-83	D = 64-67
B- = 80-83	D- = 60-62
C+ = 78-79	F = Below 60

Paper Information

All written materials that are handed in must be typed and double spaced. If you have any trouble with writing, I strongly advise you visit the writing center in room 106 at Mohegan and TASC in the library at both campuses. They are resources that you should use. Furthermore, the following web site will help answer many, if not all of your questions on writing: http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/writing_center/

Attendance:

Please look at the student handbook regarding the college's attendance policies. I take attendance at the beginning of each class, and it goes without saying that habitual absences or lateness will negatively affect your grade.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require classroom or assignment modifications, you are obligated to come see me as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the college immediately, and may result in the failure of an assignment or the course itself.

Civility in the Classroom:

The classroom is a place of learning. In this setting all ideas and opinions are to be heard and respected, even if you disagree with what is said. Anyone who upsets this environment, or who disrespects anyone in the class, will not be tolerated.