

Course Syllabus

World Civilizations II HIS 122

Tuesdays/Thursdays 6:00 – 9:15 PM

Room E221

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Richard Seckla

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Office Hours:
By appointment

Summer 2009

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 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 evidence in order to convey information in a clear and concise manner (this is more commonly known as critical thinking). Finally, I want students to be active participants in the course and in class discussions. I encourage you to ask questions and take the initiative to delve deeper into topics. I look for students to be enthusiastically engaged with the subject matter.

“Few learn from history who do not bring much with them to its study” - John Stuart Mill

Required Text:

Bentley, Jerry and Herbert Ziegler. *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past, Volume II: From 1500 to the Present*. Fourth Edition, 2006.

In addition to the text, additional readings for class discussion may be assigned on a week-to-week basis.

Class Schedule:

Weeks 1,2	Unit 1: The Early Modern Period	Text Reading
June 2 – June 11	European Exploration Early Modern Europe The Americas and Oceania Africa and the Atlantic World Early Modern East Asia The Islamic Empires Exam #1 Paper Proposal Due	Chapter 23 Chapter 24 Chapter 25 Chapter 26 Chapter 27 Chapter 28
Weeks 3, 4	Unit 2: The 19th Century	Text Reading
June 16 – June 25	Revolutions and National States in the Atlantic World The Industrial Revolution Americas in the Age of Independence Societies at the Crossroads Age of Imperialism Exam #2 Paper Thesis Due	Chapter 29 Chapter 30 Chapter 31 Chapter 32 Chapter 33
Weeks 5, 6	Unit 3: the 20th Century	Text Reading
June 30 – July 9	World War I Age of Anxiety Nationalism in Asia, Africa, Latin America World War II The Bipolar World The End of Empire A World Without Borders Exam #3 Final Paper Due	Chapter 34 Chapter 35 Chapter 36 Chapter 37 Chapter 38 Chapter 39 Chapter 40

Method of Evaluation:

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

Exams-Roughly at the end of the three units of material, an in-class exam will be given that will test your grasp of the material. The exams will consist of identification questions, multiple choice, matching, and essays. Each exam will be worth 20% of your grade for an overall total of 60%. I will issue a study guide prior to each exam so you can focus your studies on those items which will be on the test.

Classroom Participation and Preparation – This consists of how much your presence in the class enriches the learning environment. You are expected to read the chapters in the text and any handouts prior to class to allow you to be prepared for and involved in class discussions. During lectures and discussions I encourage you to ask questions in order to get a deeper understanding of the subject matter. I also expect you to demonstrate commitment by regular attendance. This component is worth 10% of your final grade.

The Term Paper - The paper assignment consists of three components and will constitute 30% of your final grade:

1. Paper proposal *with Works Cited in MLA format*, minimum of four sources required. This is simply a statement of the topic you have chosen to research. See handout for specifics on sources. Due at the end of the first module. 5% of project.
2. Thesis statement *with Works Cited in MLA format*: after you have begun researching your topic, you should be developing some opinions and taking a position based on your readings. The thesis statement is the argument that your paper will be based on supported by the evidence from your research. Due at the end of the second module. 5% of project.
3. The paper portfolio: at the end of the session, you will submit your paper *with your original proposal and thesis statement*. Due at the end of the third module. 20% of project.

Note: If you want your final exam and paper returned, bring a stamped, self-addressed envelope to class at the end of the session. Figure on about \$1 for postage.

Grading System:

A = 94-100	C = 74-77
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-73
B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-69
B = 84-87	D = 64-67
B- = 80-83	D- = 60-63
C+ = 78-79	F = Below 60

Exams	60%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Term Paper Proposal	5%
Term Paper Thesis	5%
Term Paper Portfolio	20%

Late Assignments/Make-Up Exams:

If assignments are not turned in on the due date, your grade will be lowered for each day in which it is not turned in. Late papers must be emailed.

Missed exams must be made up within one week of the original exam date (before I hand back corrected exams). It is your responsibility to contact me to make arrangements for the make-up. Failure to complete the make-up within the one-week window will result in a grade of zero for the exam. I allow one missed exam per semester without penalty. A second missed exam will be penalized by one letter grade. *No make up will be offered on the final.*

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential for success in the course and is expected. Within the College's guidelines and with permission, occasional absences for compelling reasons will be granted. I take attendance at the beginning of each class, and it goes without saying that habitual absences or lateness will negatively affect your individual contribution grade.

Class Lectures:

We will generally cover two chapters in the text each class period. Assuming the equipment in the classroom is operational, I utilize Power-Point presentations for my lecture material. Before each class, I will upload the files to the home page for our course on *Blackboard Vista*. This is course # 50045.

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar's Office. Students who fail to properly withdraw and cease coming to class, will be assigned an "F" for the course. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal when received by the registrar. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities Statement:

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 383-5240. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Cell Phones / Pagers:

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they turned off or in the silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism in any form is a major breach of academic standards. Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the college immediately and may result in an "F" for the assignment or an "F" for the entire course. Remember, you can cite other sources or use quotations from other writers in your papers as long as you use the proper citation – in other words, a footnote.

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. Lively, insightful, and considerate interaction is encouraged – so let's enjoy!

“History is the witness of time, the lamp of truth, the embodied soul of memory, the instructress of life, and the messenger of antiquity” – Marcus Tullius Cicero