

Course Syllabus

World Civilizations II HIS K122

M,W,F 11:00 -11:50 AM

Room D109

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Richard Seckla

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Office: D205

Office Hours:
By appointment

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Course Description:

This course is a survey of the evolution of world societies from the Age of Discovery 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.

Note: *HIS* K121(World Civilizations I) is not a prerequisite course for HIS* K122(World Civilizations II). Course fulfills International/Intercultural Requirement.*

Prerequisite: Placement test score indicating ENG K101 or completion of ENG* K100 with a "C" grade or better.*

Course Objectives:

Learning Goal: At the end of the course, students will understand, articulate and synthesize the development of early modern and modern world societies.

Learning Objectives:

Actively engage in the learning process through demonstrated success on writing assignments

- Identify topics
- Read, assess, summarize and synthesize material
- Articulate central themes

Actively engage in the learning process through demonstrated success on the final project

- Employ correct research skills
- Synthesize information to demonstrate knowledge of subject matter
- Select, design and present data which demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter

In other words, 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*. Fifth Edition, 2011.

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

“Time management is one of the keys to success in college” - Seckla

Tentative Class Schedule:

Class	Class Content	Text Reading
January 20	Introduction to the course	
Week 1 January 23	The World in 1500 The Age of Discovery	Chapter 22
January 25	European Expansion and the First Empires	Chapter 22
January 27	The Impact of European Expansion The Columbian Exchange	Chapter 22
Week 2 January 30	Early Modern Europe The Protestant Reformation	Chapter 23
February 1	Age of Kings Absolutism Constitutionalism	Chapter 23
February 3	European Society Capitalism The Enlightenment The Scientific Revolution	Chapter 23
Week 3 February 6	The Americas: Spanish and Portuguese Colonies	Chapter 24
February 8	The Americas: English and French Colonies	Chapter 24
February 10	North and South American Cultural Contrasts	Chapter 24
Week 4 February 13	Exam #1	
February 15	Africa and European Encounters	Chapter 25

February 17	The African Slave Trade and the African Diaspora	Chapter 25
Week 5 February 22	The Far East China: the Ming and Qing Dynasties Paper Proposal/Sources Due	Chapter 26
February 24	Japan: the Tokugawa Shogunate, Europeans and the Far East	Chapter 26
Week 6 February 27	The Islamic World The Ottoman Empire Reaction Paper #1 Due	Chapter 27
February 29	Iran: The Safavid Empire	Chapter 27
March 2	The Mughal Empire, the Islamic World and the West	Chapter 27
Week 7 March 5	Exam #2	
March 7	Enlightenment Thought, the American Revolution	Chapter 28
March 9	The French Revolution	Chapter 28
Week 8 March 12	The Latin American Revolutions	Chapter 28
March 14	The Rise of Political Ideologies and Nationalism	Chapter 28
March 16	TBD	
Week 9 Spring Break		
Week 10 March 26	The Industrial Revolution	Chapter 29

March 28	Radical Ideologies: Socialism and Marxism	Chapter 29
March 30	Impact of Industrialization	Chapter 29
Week 11 April 2	Exam #3	
April 4	The Ottoman Empire in the 19 th Century	Chapter 31
Week 12 April 9	The Russian Empire in the 19 th Century Thesis Due	Chapter 31
April 11	Late Ming China	Chapter 31
April 13	Meiji Japan	Chapter 31
Week 13 April 16	European Imperialism Reaction Paper #2 Due	Chapter 32
April 18	American and Japanese Imperialism	Chapter 32
April 20	The Impact of Imperialism	Chapter 32
Week 14 April 23	Exam #4	
April 25	The Road to World War I	Chapter 33
April 27	World War I	Chapter 33
Week 15 April 30	Versailles, the League of Nations, Mandates	Chapter 33
May 2	The Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union	Chapters 33, 34
May 4	The Great Depression	Chapter 34
Week 16 May 7	The Rise of Fascism	Chapter 34

May 9	The Road to World War II	Chapter 36
May 11	World War II Term Paper Portfolio Due	Chapter 36
Week 17 May 14	Final Exam #5	

Blackboard Vista: I utilize Blackboard extensively in my courses for communications, web-based readings and other assignments. To access Blackboard, you will need your student ID and your password. If you have difficulties logging on or if you are having compatibility issues with the Blackboard software, contact the IT Help Desk; they can work through any issues with you.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Exams-A total of five in-class exams will be given over the course of the semester. Every attempt will be made to conduct exams on Mondays so you will have weekends to study. 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. The exams *may* consist of identification questions, multiple choice, matching, short-answer essays and formal essays. The average of your exam grades will constitute 45% of your grade.

Classroom Participation, Preparation, In-Class Quizzes, In-Class Writing

Assignments, Homework Assignments – This consists of how much you actively participate in the learning process. Most classes will consist of a lecture component and a student discussion component. You are expected to read the chapters in the text and any additional readings *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. Most weeks, you will be writing ‘minute papers’ or ‘relationship quizzes’ in class reflecting on major themes or concepts

covered during the week. Attendance is crucial, if you miss that day's in-class work, it's no credit. 15% of your final grade.

Reaction Papers (2) – Reaction or response papers are your opportunity to express what you think or feel about something you have read in the text or other sources. Sample responses could revolve around the following questions:

How do you feel about what you have read?

What have you found most surprising? Interesting? Disturbing? Enlightening?

Do you agree or disagree with what you have encountered? Why or why not?

Two reaction papers of 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced are required. This component is worth 15% of your final grade.

The Term Paper - The paper assignment consists of three components and will constitute 25% 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. 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. 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*. 15% 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.

****Stay on track with this! Give careful consideration to your topic. Subsequent requests for topic changes will result in a grade penalty. Work on the paper throughout the semester; don't put it off until the last minute. You will have other major assignments and finals at the end of the semester – plan accordingly!****

Grading System:

A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = Below 60

Exams	45%
Attendance/Participation, In-Class Writing, Homework	15%
Reaction Papers	15%
Term Paper Proposal	5%
Term Paper Thesis	5%
Term Paper Portfolio	15%

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.

Missed exams must be submitted within one week of the original exam date (before I hand back corrected exams). Failure to complete the make-up within the one-week window will result in a grade of zero for the exam. I allow one make-up exam per semester without penalty. A second make-up exam will be penalized by one letter grade.

****In other words, don't make a habit of skipping exam days.****

****No make up will be offered on the final!****

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential for success in the course and is expected. Experience has shown that students who attend class sporadically perform poorly in the course. 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.

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 may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without being in good standing or obtaining prior permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. 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 Support Services:

Chris Scarborough, Learning Disabilities Specialist (Students with learning disabilities or ADHD) (860) 892-5751 cscarborough@trcc.commnet.edu

Kathleen Gray (Students with physical, medical or psychiatric disabilities)
(860) 885-2328 kgray@trcc.commnet.edu.

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 smartphones, cellphones, pagers and other digital devices are allowed in class or only if they turned off or in the silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered nor is texting to take place in class – exceedingly rude. 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. As with books and other class materials, digital devices are not to be accessed during quizzes and exams.

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 parenthetical citation.

****Checking phones during exams will result in an F for the exam and possible expulsion from the course – put ‘em away!****

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 displays disrespect toward 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