

Course Outline

World Civilizations II (HIS K122)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12:00 – 12:50

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris

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Office Phone: (860) 892 - 5703

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Tuesday and Thursday: 10-11;

12:30 – 2:00

Or by appointment

Fall 2008

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 want 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. Fourth Edition, 2008

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

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Class Content</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
September 3 rd and 5 th	Intro to Course; Encounters and Traditions	Chapter 23
September 8 th , 10 th , and 12 th	The Transformation of Europe; Information literacy	Chapter 24
September 15 th , 17 th , and 19 th	The Transformation of Europe (cont.); The Americas and Oceania	Chapter 24; Chapter 25
September 22 nd , 24 th , and 26 th	The Americas and Oceania (cont.); Africa and the Atlantic World	Chapter 25; Chapter 26
September 29 th , October 1 st , October 3 rd	Africa and the Atlantic World; Information literacy	Chapter 26
October 6 th , 8 th , and 10 th	East Asia	Chapter 27
October 15 th and 17 th Note: No class on the 13 th – Columbus Day	Revolutions and National States in the Atlantic World	Chapter 29
October 22 nd , 24 th , and 26 th Note: Final project topic proposals due on the 26 th	Revolutions and National States in the Atlantic World	Chapter 29
October 29 th , 31 st , and November 2 nd	Societies at Crossroads	Chapter 32

November 3 rd , 5 th , and 7 th	The Building of Global Empires	Chapter 33
November 10 th , 12 th , and 14 th	The Great War; Information literacy	Chapter 34
November 17 th , 19 th , and 21 st	The Great War (cont.); The Rise of Fascism	Chapter 34 and 35
November 24 th Note: No class on the 26 th and 28 th – Thanksgiving break	The Rise of Fascism (cont.)	None
December 1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th Note: Final Projects (except presentations) due on December 5 th	The Rise of Fascism (cont.)	Chapter 35
December 8 th , 10 th , and 12 th	Discussion of Maus; In class Presentations	None
December 15 th , 17 th , and 19 th	In-class Presentations (if necessary)	None

Method of Evaluation:

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

Written Assignments – During the course of the semester, you will be given a minimum of five research and writing exercises 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 25% of your overall grade.

Exams – You will be given a midterm and final exam that will cover both material presented in class, and textbook readings. The final exam will not be cumulative. Each exam will be worth 25% of your grade, for a combined 50% total.

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 higher it will be graded. 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 40% of your grade.

Grading System:

A = 94-100	C = 74-77
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-73

B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-70
B = 84-87	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 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.comnet.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 individual contribution grade.

Late Assignments/Make-Up Exams

(Please note that none of following applies if we have made arrangements beforehand.)

My policy on late assignments and make-up exams is as follows: I will accept the first late writing assignment during the same week that it is due, and give you partial credit. The second and subsequent late assignments will be given minimal credit during the same week, with none given afterwards.

A first missed exam must be made up in the same week that it has been given. A second missed exam will be penalized severely.

I will not accept any late final project unless we have arrangements beforehand.

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.