

Modern World History

Christian Raffensperger
History 106C/H – 3W
Spring Semester
MWF 8:00–9:00 A.M.
Hollenbeck 318

As our world grows smaller with each new technological advance, it becomes increasingly important to know and understand that world and our place in it. Modern world history will help you to learn the origins of nations, religions, philosophical systems, and even the conflicts that occupy the world around you. The class begins with the Mongol world empire which controlled the majority of Asia and Europe for over 100 years. Its dissolution led to the creation of a variety of smaller states, vying for power with one another, a phenomenon mirrored at the other end of our class with the breakup of the Soviet Union. Aside from political history, we will also deal with social and cultural history, studying colonization and its effect on both subjects and conquerors, suffrage for a wide variety of groups, as well as the creation of modern political philosophies such as socialism and democracy. This course will provide you with a solid grounding in modern world history and ideally encourage you to pursue further historical interests.

Writing Intensive – No Prerequisites

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Office Phone: 937-327-7843

Office Hours: 10:20 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. or by appointment

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Assignments and Deadlines

The format for this class is largely lecture, and thus attendance is a main requirement of the course (see Attendance Policy below), as is participation when we have discussion.

There will be three exams which will divide up the material of the course. These exams will not be cumulative, with the exception of one overarching essay question on the final exam. That question will expect you to demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of what has been covered over the course of the semester.

You will also be required to write seven papers over the course of the semester. These papers will help you learn about historical method and chiefly about learning how to ask and answer the question – “How do we know what we know?” There will be five primary source analysis papers that will be 2-3 pages each. Nearly each week there will be a primary source reading, you must write on five of these over the course of the semester and turn them in the Friday of the week the reading is assigned for. Do not wait until the end of the semester to do them as they will not be accepted. The other two papers will be similar in style, but longer, 4-5 pages, as they are on the two additional books which we are reading this semester (*Emperor of China*, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*). Their due dates have been specified in the syllabus. For all of these papers you will need to focus on a few main themes, such as what information does the author

provide? How does the author know what he or she knows? How does that information coincide with what you've learned in class and from the textbook? Your analysis should grow and improve over the course of these papers, as should your understanding of history and historical method. For each of the papers, I also expect you to use footnotes to cite your evidence (per Chicago Manual of Style guidelines). But you will not need to use any sources outside of the book/reading, your textbook, and class lecture.

There will also be a number of quizzes spread out (unannounced) over the course of the semester. These quizzes will be on both lecture and reading, and will require you to keep current with both. Focus in particular on the maps in the book, as there will often be a map component to these quizzes.

If you have any questions about any of these assignments, please come see me during my office hours or make an appointment. Finally, this syllabus is subject to change by the instructor, if changed, the students will be informed with sufficient notice to complete assignments.

The grades will be weighted as follows:

Attendance: 5%

Participation: 5%

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 15%

Book Analysis Paper 1 (*Emperor of China*): 7%

Book Analysis Paper 2 (*Ivan Denisovich*): 8%

Short Analysis Papers: 15%

Quizzes: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

Required Books

Robert Tignor et al., eds., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart* (hereafter Tignor)

Jonathan Spence. *Emperor of China*.

Solzhenitsyn. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

There will also be primary source readings from online sources (chiefly the Modern Sourcebook at www.fordham.edu/halsall/source) that you will be expected to read when they are assigned. Follow the syllabus and Moodle for the correct web pages.

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

Week 1 (January 11, 13, 15): The World around 1300

(Tignor, ch. 10)

Introduction to the course; A world apart—the Americas; The Mongol World Empire

Week 2 (January 20, 22, No class January 18): Ibn Battuta and Dar al-Islam

(*The Travels of Ibn Battuta* excerpt [Moodle]; Tignor, 429-33, 478-898)

Sub-Saharan Africa; Islamic Empires

Week 3 (January 25, 27, 29): Western Christendom and Ming China

(Tignor, 446-54, 474-78, 490-507; “Two Sources on the “Black Death” [Moodle])

Eurasia united by Plague; Rise of states in Western Europe; End of Mongol Rule; Ming Dynasty; Renaissance

Week 4 (February 1, 3, 5): Overseas Exploration and Expansion

(Tignor, 505-7, 511-37; “Extracts from Columbus’ journal” [Moodle])

Zheng He; Indian Ocean trade; Rebirth of the Silk Road?; Portuguese Exploration; Christopher Columbus; Conquistadors and the “New World”

Week 5 (February 8, 10, 12): The Changing Face of Europe

(Tignor, 537-43, 553-83, 586-95; “Luther’s 95 Theses” [Moodle])

The Reformation; War in Europe; Exploitation of the colonies; Imperial states; Slave trade

Week 6 (February 15, 17, 19): The Struggle for East Asia (Exam 1 – 2/15)

(*Emperor of China*; Tignor, 543-49, 578-86)

The Rise of the Manchu; Qing Dynasty; Tokugawa Shogunate; European intervention and expansion

Week 7 (February 22, 24, 26): Cultural Change and Interaction (Paper 1 Due Monday, 2/22)

(Tignor, ch. 14; “Colonial Lima from 1748” [Moodle])

Enlightenment; Revitalization of Islamic Culture across Eurasia; The experience of interaction in the Americas

Week 8 (March 1, 3, 5): The Birth of the Modern World?

(Tignor, ch. 15; “Edmund Burke’s Reflections on the French Revolution” [Moodle])

American Revolution; French Revolution; Napoleon and the Napoleonic Wars; The “Old World” revamped

Week 9 (March 15, 17, 19): Nations and Nationalism

(Tignor, 719-39, 751-59; “Russia’s Imperial Destiny” [Moodle])

The construction of modern American states; The birth of Germany and Italy; A new order in Russia and Japan

Week 10 (March 22, 24, 26): Imperialism and its Discontents

(Tignor, 739-51, 762-76; “Yao Chen-Yuan: My Adventures During the Boxer War” [Moodle])

Britain and India—the classic example; Dutch colonial policy; American Empire; Imperialism and rebellion in Africa; the Boxer Rebellion

Week 11 (March 29, 31, No Class April 2): Race, Nation, and Culture (Exam 2 – 3/31)

(Tignor, 776-803; Sun Yat-Sen – “Fundamentals of National Reconstruction [Moodle])

Suffrage for Women; Political and international insecurity; Race and class in conflict; The growing pains of nations

Week 12 (April 5, 7, 9): Total States and Mass Consumption

(Tignor, 809-23; Rosa Luxemburg – “The War and the Workers” [Moodle])
World War I; Total war and total states; Russian Revolution; Mass culture; Mass production and mass consumption; Great Depression

Week 13 (April 12, 14, 16): A New World Order I

(Tignor 823-48; *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*)

The interwar period; Rise of Fascism; The idea of Totalitarianism; Stalinism and the Great Terror

Week 14 (April 19, 21, 23): A New World Order II (Paper 2 Due Monday, 4/19)

(Tignor 853-79; Yalta Conference Proceedings [Moodle])

World War II; The Holocaust; Economic/Political Repercussions; Independence in India and Africa; The Chinese revolution

Week 15 (April 26, 28, 30): The Cold War and Everything After

(Tignor, 873-96; Jawaharlal Nehru – “Marxism, Capitalism, and Non—Alignment” [Moodle])

The Cold War; The Third World as battleground; The Cold War; The End of the Cold War and the Fall of the Soviet Union

Week 16 (May 3, 5): Catch-up and Review as needed

We will most likely have class this week, if we are behind, if not we can use one day for review.

Final Exam – Friday, May 7, 3:30–6:30 P.M.

For More Information:

Tignor has an excellent collection of suggested sources at the end of each chapter. Find a chapter that contains what you are looking for, and search that list; it contains the classics, as well as the most modern scholarship.

Missed Examinations, Papers, and Class Sessions

A good rule of thumb is do not miss anything. However, if you are ill or have a conflict and cannot make a class, notify me in advance or as soon after the class as is possible. *Do not miss examinations!* If you have a conflict, notify me a minimum of one week in advance and we can schedule an exam as close to the normal time as possible. If you miss an examination for reasons that are not discussed with me ahead of time or are not catastrophic you will receive a zero, which is much worse than an F in your overall grade. Late papers are accepted, but the grade will drop one full grade when turned in after class the day it is due. For each additional day thereafter (weekend day or weekday) that it is late, it will drop a fraction of a grade, for example—an A paper handed in after class will be a B paper, handed in the next day will be a B- paper, the next day a C+ paper. Papers will not be accepted after one week has passed from the due date.

Attendance Policy

As part of your grade for this class, and to get the most out of the class, you are required to attend on a regular basis. Attendance in this class is worth 5% of your grade, and attendance will be taken on a regular basis. If you are going to miss class, let me know in advance. If you accumulate 5 absences over the course of the semester, you will receive a grade of F for your attendance. If you miss 10 or more classes over the course of the semester you will receive a grade of zero for your attendance, much worse than an F when calculating your final grade. You are solely responsible for signing the attendance sheet, or notifying me of your absence, as proof of your presence in class.

Special Needs

Wittenberg University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. However, students are responsible for registering with the Academic Services Office, 203 Recitation Hall. If you are eligible for course accommodation due to a disability, please provide me with your self-identification letter from the Academic Services Office and arrange to talk with me about your learning needs as soon as possible. Early identification at the start of the term is essential to ensure timely provision of services. If you have questions about services for students with disabilities, please contact Vancenja Rutherford, assistant provost for academic services, 203 Recitation Hall, extension 7924.

Weather-Related Concerns

Whenever weather becomes a problem, I shall do my best to adhere to the university guidelines. If the university cancels classes, there will be no class. If the university has not cancelled class, but I am unable or unwilling to risk traveling, I will do my best to post a notice to this effect on Moodle as early as possible. I will do my best not to cancel class if at all possible.

If there is an exam scheduled or a deadline for a written assignment on a day when class is cancelled, you may assume that the exam or assignment will be due on the following class session.

Academic Honesty

Students in this course are expected to uphold the standards of Wittenberg's Code of Academic Integrity. At its most basic level, this means that you will not turn in someone else's writing as your own, quote from a source without proper acknowledgment, or provide a classmate with inappropriate help. You will be asked to submit papers and exams with the following statement followed by your signature: "I affirm that my work upholds the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity at Wittenberg, and that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance." Sanctions for violating these rules range from receiving no credit for a particular assignment to failing the course for a significant act of academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about any of these rules, please talk to me before submitting your work.

Paper Rewrite Policy

Quantity:

You will be allowed to rewrite each of the two book analysis papers that you are required to submit this semester. You do not have to rewrite any, this is entirely optional.

Any paper from a B downward is eligible to be rewritten. No B+ or higher papers may be rewritten, you did well.

Timing:

Rewritten papers must be turned in, no later than, one week after the original paper has been handed back in class. Any paper turned in after that time period will not be accepted.

Substance:

To gain credit for a rewritten paper the paper must actually be rewritten. Correcting grammar, spelling, footnotes, or adding a paragraph are not considered adequate. You must rethink your paper, and rewrite your paper. When you turn the rewritten paper in, it must be accompanied by your original paper, the one marked and graded by me. Rewrites turned in without the originals will not be accepted.

Grades:

A rewritten paper can raise your grade a maximum of one full letter grade (for example, C+ to B+), but that is a maximum. Your rewrite may actually not improve your grade at all, though it will not lower your grade.