



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

HI926 20th-21st Century World History

Term: May 29-June 23

Instructor: Miles L. Bradbury

Home Institution: University of Maryland College Park

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Office Hours: 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Faculty Room, #505, Main Building

Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day

Discussion session: 2.5 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 66 contact hours (45 minutes each, 3000 minutes in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

The history of the peoples of the world can be studied in many interpretive rubrics—for example, as global history, world history, transnational history, international history, and universal history, to name some of the most common variants. All overlap to some degree and yet have important differences. The merits and deficiencies of each have been hotly contested by historians. This course does not commit to a single interpretive point of view, though because of its introductory nature it does adopt an approach that emphasizes chronology and the importance of nation states and their relations with each other. The lectures, section discussions, and readings are intended to complement each other in this undertaking, and none should be neglected.

Course Goals

The course will introduce students to a broad overview of world history in the 20th-21st century and help them to develop the analytical and critical tools necessary to understand it, as well as lay a foundation for students who wish to undertake a more advanced study of the period or to go on in history generally. It will also help them to cultivate a historical understanding of some of the dimensions of the human experience. We do not study the past to illuminate the present, nor to predict the future, but to train our minds to be better able to react to the challenges of the present. As historians, we are not nostalgic about the past, but we do find it an infinitely fascinating reservoir of dilemmas, wisdom, and folly.

Required Texts

1. Textbook: Anthony Best, et al., *International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond*, 3rd edn. ISBN: 978-0-415-65642-9. Available as an e-book.



Grading Policy

1. Grades will be based on:

a. The mid-term examination to be given on June 9. It will be 90 minutes in length.

The

examination will consist of two essay questions and possibly some identification questions. It will cover the lectures and required readings from May 29-June 8. Study questions will be made available in advance, and the examination will be based on them.

b. The final examination to be given on June 23. It will be 90 minutes in length. The examination will consist of two essay questions and possibly some identification questions. It will cover the lectures and required readings from June 12-22. Study questions will be made available in advance, and the examination will be based on them.

2. Determination of final grade:

Mid-term examination	35%
Final examination	45%
Class participation	20%

3. Number/letter grade and GPA breakdowns:

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Course Schedule

The course schedule gives the date, subject, and chronological range of a given lecture. All are subject to change, if necessary.

May 29. Introduction. What Is World History?

May 30. The Great Powers and the Concert of Europe, 1900-1917.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 6-34.

May 31. A World at War, 1917-29.



Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 35-62.

June 1. Rising Empires and Waning Colonies, 1900-45.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 63-114.

June 2. Zionism and Its Consequences, 1900-48.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 115-42.

June 5. The Origins of the American Century, 1900-41.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 143-64.

June 6. The New Dictators, 1930-39.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 165-98.

June 7. A World at War Again, 1940-45.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 199-228.

June 8. Cold War and Peaceful Co-existence, 1945-79.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 229-310.

June 9. Mid-term Examination.

June 12. The Vietnam Wars, 1945-75.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 311-32.

June 13. The Third World and Its Orders, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 333-60.

June 14. Asia and the Great Transformation, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 361-410.

June 15. Latin American Rumblings and the United States, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 411-38.

June 16. Africa: The Lost Continent, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 439-66.

June 19. Political Islam and the Middle East, 1928-2014.

Required reading:



Best, et al., pp.467-532.

June 20. The End of the Cold War and Yet Another World Order, 1980-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 533-78.

June 21. The Human Rights Interlude.

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 579-604.

June 22. The End of the American Century and the Rise of the Populist States?

Required reading:

Best, et al., pp. 605-32.

June 23. Final Examination.

Related Matters

1. The use of cell phones lap tops, and similar devices is not permitted during the class without the permission of the instructor.
2. Class attendance is a primary and required form of class participation. Class participation grades will reflect any unexcused absences. Students who wish an absence from class to be excused must meet with the teaching assistant to establish that it was related to medical or similar academically legitimate reasons.