



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

HI926 20th-21st Century World History

Term: July 3 – August 3, 2017

Instructor: Miles L. Bradbury

Home Institution: University of Maryland College Park

Email: BRADBUML@UMD.EDU

Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in Faculty Room, #505, Main Building

Class Hours: M-Th, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total) Discussion session: 2 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 and readings are intended to complement each other in this undertaking, and neither 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 Text

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 first essay quiz to be given on July 11. The question will be made available in advance.

b. The mid-term examination to be given on July 18. The examination will consist of 2 essay questions (from a total of 4) and 25 multiple-choice questions. It will cover the lectures and required readings from July 3-17. The exam questions will be taken from the daily study guides in the course.

c. The second essay quiz to be given on July 25. The question will be made available in advance.

b. The final examination to be given on August 3. The examination will consist of 2 essay questions (from a total of 4) and 25 multiple-choice questions. It will cover the lectures and required readings from July 19-August 2. The exam questions will be taken from the daily study guides in the course.

2. Determination of final grade:

First essay quiz	10%
Mid-term examination	30%
Second essay quiz	10%
Final examination	40%
Class participation	10%

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.

July 3. Introduction. What Is World History?

July 4. The Great Powers and the Concert of Europe, 1900-1917.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 1.

July 5. A World at War, 1917-29.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 2.

July 6. Rising Empires and Waning Colonies, 1900-45.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chaps. 3-4.

July 10. Zionism and Its Consequences, 1900-48.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 5.

July 11. The Origins of the American Century, 1900-41.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 6.

First Essay Quiz.

July 12. The New Dictators, 1930-39.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 7.

July 13. A World at War Again, 1940-45.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap 8.

July 17. Cold War and Peaceful Co-existence, 1945-79.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chaps. 9-11.

July 18. Mid-term Examination.

July 19. The Vietnam Wars, 1945-75.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 12.

July 20. The Third World and Its Orders, 1945-2014.

Required reading:



Best, et al., chap. 13.

July 24. Asia and the Great Transformation, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chaps. 14-15.

July 25. Latin American Rumbblings and the United States, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 16.

Second Essay Quiz.

July 26. Africa: The Lost Continent, 1945-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 17.

July 27. Political Islam and the Middle East, 1928-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chaps. 18-19.

July 31. The End of the Cold War and Yet Another World Order, 1980-2014.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chaps. 20-21.

August 1. The Human Rights Interlude.

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 22.

August 2. The End of the American Century and the Rise of the Populist States?

Required reading:

Best, et al., chap. 23.

August 3. 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.