

SYLLABUS
HIST 3801/001 - Contemporary World History Since 1945
CRN 2135
Southern Polytechnic State University
Spring Semester 2007
M W F 9:00 - 9:50 J-109

Instructor: Mr. Mark D. Vickrey
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Office: J-314
Office Hours: M W F: 11:00-12:00;
 M W: 3:00-4:00;
 T Th: 2:30-3:30;
 other times by appointment

TEXTS:

Required:

Reynolds, David. One World Divisible: A Global History Since 1945.
Scruton, Roger. The West and the Rest: Globalization and the Terrorist Threat.
Other brief readings and maps will be handed out during the semester.

Recommended:

- _ A daily newspaper, a weekly newsmagazine, and a magazine of commentary and analysis.
- _ A dictionary: If you don't already have one, a good dictionary is an excellent investment (*The American Heritage College Edition* is a good choice). Look up words and terms you aren't familiar with as you read.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OUTCOMES, AND OBJECTIVES:

Description:

Through class discussions, readings, student presentations, lectures, films, and other presentations we will survey world history from the final year of World War II through the present.

Outcomes:

After successfully completing HIST 3801, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the most important themes in contemporary world history.
2. Point out the greatest problems facing the world's regions/states over the past sixty years.
3. Assess the impact of major political, economic, and religious ideologies on the contemporary world.
4. Illustrate the consequences – both intended and unintended – of major post-1945 technological developments.

Further Objectives:

History 3801 will encourage the student to develop a greater awareness of our past as well as an understanding of how ideas, institutions, and societies have evolved into their present forms. Additional objectives include developing an understanding of, and familiarity with, the most important themes in recent world history including, but not limited to:

- a. the impact of ideologies and religions on the world in recent times
- b. the development of political thought
- c. the Cold War and its effect on the world

- d. diplomacy, war, and terrorism
- e. globalization, its advantages and disadvantages
- f. basic world geography over the past 59 years
- g. the impact of imperialism and the colonial experience on the world

Further objectives will be to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills and develop an awareness of how past events influence the present (and future).

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Course materials will be divided into four units; each unit will conclude with an examination. The final exam will be comprehensive.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Four examinations worth 65 points each (260 points total). Exams will be made up of some combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, identification questions, and/or essays, but will emphasize questions requiring written responses. Formats will be announced prior to each exam.

Four map exams. Blank maps will be handed out each unit along with lists of items that need to be located on the maps. Students will locate the items on their copies of the maps and then learn the maps. Tests will feature blank maps with certain items identified (or questions asked about the items). The map exams are worth 15 points (60 points total).

A major research project and paper. Each student will conduct a research effort and write a paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. Near the end of the semester each student will present his/her findings with the class, indicating how the research was conducted, what was discovered about the topic, and where the best information on the topic is available. More information will be forthcoming. The research paper is worth 180 points.

The four examinations and the research paper are all required to complete the course.

Failure to take Exam I will result in the instructor withdrawing the student from the course.

Failure to take Exam II, III, or Exam III (Final), or complete the research paper, will result in an F on the course.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Grading scale for individual assignments:
- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| A | 90-100% | B | 80-89.99% | C | 70-79.99% |
| D | 60-69.99% | F | below 60% | | |

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- Course Grade Calculations: notes:
- a. Grades **will not** be curved.
 - b. No extra credit.
 - c. All examinations must be taken (see statement above).
 - d. Final averages will be based on the number of points earned divided by 500 (total points possible on exams, map exams, and research paper). An attendance adjustment will be made if necessary (see below).

The total point/grade breakdown for the semester is:

A 450 - 500

D 300 - 349.99

B 400 - 449.99

F Below 300

C 350 - 399.99

2. Attendance Policy. Attendance is required. The final course grade will be lowered one letter grade for each five (5) absences.
3. Make every effort to get to class on time. Exams and map exams will be given at the beginning of class and will be timed. If you are late you will not be given extra time, nor will you be able to take the exam or quiz at another time. **A grade penalty will be imposed for being late for the final exam (the unit III exam): once the instructor finishes handing out this exam, a five-minute grace period goes into effect. Students will be penalized one point for each minute late they arrive following the expiration of the five-minute grace period.**
4. If you must leave class before its scheduled completion (9:50), tell the instructor before class begins. If you leave class after taking a map exam (presentations will follow those exercises) without prior permission from the instructor, 5 points will be subtracted from your grade on that exercise and you will be counted as absent for that day.
5. Preparation: **Students are EXPECTED to read the One World Divisible, The West and the Rest, and all instructor-provided reading assignments.** All readings should be completed prior to their assigned date. Inadequate preparation will compromise class discussions. Reading materials will be tested on exams. **Likewise, students are expected to have all research assignments completed by the assigned dates.** The grade of zero will be assigned if any of these assignment dates are missed.
6. Absence from an Exam: Permission to take one of the exams after its assigned date can be given **only** if the instructor is contacted **prior** to the exam and gives his permission for a make-up, or in cases of a **documented** medical, family, or job **emergency**. Absence from any exam without permission will result in a **0** on that exam and a **F** on the course. (See "Assignments" above) Students are responsible for scheduling a make-up as soon as possible following the excused absence. Class attendance is required on the day a make-up is scheduled, failure to show up for class that day will result in a 10 point penalty assessed on the make-up.
7. Absence from Map Exam: Permission to take one of the map exams after its assigned date can be given **only** if the instructor is contacted **prior** to the map exam and gives his permission for a make-up, or in cases of a **documented** medical, family, or job **emergency**. Absence from any map exam without permission will result in a **0** on that map exam. Students are responsible for scheduling a make-up as soon as possible following the excused absence. Class attendance is required on the day a make-up is scheduled, failure to show up for class that day will result in a 5 point penalty assessed on the make-up.

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8. Disruptive Behavior: Should any student or students engage in any behavior which disrupts the conduct of class that student or those students will be contacted by the instructor and will discuss the situation. Disruptive behavior can result in the student's (or students') removal from the course or the grade of **F** for the course, or both. See the Southern Polytechnic State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2007 page 62 (on-line), ("Disruptive Behavior and Academic Dishonesty"), and the on-line Student Handbook, both Selected Academic Regulations ("Disruptive Behavior and Academic Dishonesty") and Student Life - (Section outlining "Student Conduct Code": "Academic Dishonesty," "Non-academic Misconduct") and Disciplinary Administration (especially the "Regents' Statement of Disruptive Behavior").

These four things are disruptive:

- a.) Cellular and satellite phones, beepers, and other similar electronic devices are **not** to be used in any way in class. Audible rings from cellular or satellite phones or beepers are disruptive. If you must carry one of these devices either turn it off or select the vibrate option. Phones may **not** be answered in class. Keep you cell phones, Blackberries, and beepers out of hand, out of sight, and off your desk during class. The instructor will stop class to remind anyone who forgets this policy. Additional violations of this policy will result in removal from the class.
- b.) Sleeping in class is unacceptable. Anyone sleeping will receive one verbal warning, then will be asked to leave class.

- c.) Homework, projects, and other assignments for this and other classes are to be done outside of class. Any student doing such work will be asked to stop.
- d.) Listening to materials on computers, iPods, and other such devices in class is unacceptable.

Repetition of a, b, c, or d following a discussion with the instructor can lead to the student's (or students') removal from the course or the grade of F for the course, or both.

When you are in class you should be paying attention to class materials.

- 9. Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a F on the course. Plagiarism, a type of cheating, is defined as the presentation of the words, ideas, or work of another person as one's own work. Within the framework of this course presenting memorized passages from the text, outside readings, passages from the test itself, or other materials on an examination as one's own work constitutes plagiarism. Do your own work and writing, using your own words. Students should be familiar with Southern Polytechnic's policies on academic dishonesty, disciplinary procedures, and appeals process. See the Southern Polytechnic State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2007 page 62 (on-line), ("Disruptive Behavior and Academic Dishonesty"), and the on-line Student Handbook, both Selected Academic Regulations ("Disruptive Behavior and Academic Dishonesty") and Student Life – (Section outlining "Student Conduct Code": "Academic Dishonesty," "Non-academic Misconduct") and Disciplinary Administration (especially the "Regents' Statement of Disruptive Behavior").

The instructor reserves the right to assign seats, or move a student or students from one seat to another, during any exam or map exam.

TIPS FOR DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE:

- 1. **Attend class.**
- 2. **Pay attention in class and ask questions.** See the instructor if you have a question about the material or need clarification on something presented in class or in the assigned readings.
- 3. **Read all assigned materials.**
- 4. Read over your notes shortly after class each day. If you have any questions about the materials contained in your notes, look through your reading assignments and/or see the instructor.

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- 5. Think about the materials. How do the readings fit together with the presentations? What insights do the readings provide? How do ideologies contribute to actions?

Be sure you are familiar with these course policies and have a copy of this syllabus. If needed, additional copies are available from Mr. Vickrey and from Mr. Vickrey's web site (<http://www.spsu.edu/sis/vickrey>).

Important note on Communication: Mr. Vickrey has a hearing impairment. When speaking to him or answering questions in class, please speak clearly and loudly (but do not shout!) while facing him. Those measures should enable Mr. Vickrey to hear you. It is also difficult for him to hear when more than one person is speaking at once – please speak when you are recognized. If you are asked to repeat something, Mr. Vickrey is not picking on you, he simply didn't understand what you said. Please forgive any inconvenience this may cause during the semester.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the dates of exams, and map exams as needed. These dates will appear on unit schedule sheets. Dates for research paper events will be forthcoming

- January 15 M **No Class - Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday**
- February 2 F **Exam I**
- February 27 T Last day to withdraw with grade of W

February 28	W	Exam II
March 6	M	
March 8	W	No Class - Spring Break!!!
March 10	F	
April 2	M	Exam III
April 25	W	Last day of class
TBA	TBA	Final Exam (Exam IV)