

## **History 212**

### **World History since 1500**

#### **Course Description**

All history is about human beings who are rational and make logical decisions within the context of their society. This last point is important, because humans are also inveterate travelers, and both individuals and societies are constantly coming into contact with one another. The purpose of this course is to explain the development and growth of human civilization to 1500. It is heavily weighted toward understanding the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It will focus around three basic themes: the formation of identity; the relationship of the individual to the state; and finally, the emergence of Europe as a global power.

#### **Course Objectives**

At the end of this course the student will be able to A) describe the major stages of world history since the European discovery of the Americas; B) write explanations for the causes and consequences of the major political and social conflicts during the period in question; and C) develop and improve reading and writing skills in dealing with historical events and documentation.

#### **Examinations**

There will be two in-class written examinations—the midterm and the final—and one paper, of approximately 7-10 pages, in which you will be required to analyze three movies (a list of which is attached). The midterm will be weighted at 30% of your grade, the final 40%, and the paper 30%.

#### **Readings:**

*Documents in World History* Volume II ed. Stearns, Gosch and Grieshaber [*Documents*]

#### **Class Outline**

- 1/23 Introduction
  
- 1/30 An ordered world—the Scientific Revolution  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 1-5  
Pontiac's Conspiracy and the American Revolution  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 6-10
- 2/6 The French Revolution and Napoleon  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 18-21
- 2/13 European wars and Social Darwinism  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 22, 23, 26, 31, 33.
- 2/20 World War One  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 34, 35, 37, 41, 43
- 2/27 The war against the Jews  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 38, 41, 42,
- 3/6 Midterm

- 3/13 Superpower relations  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 47, 52, 56
- 3/27 The 1967 war and the making of the modern Middle East  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 42, 44
- 4/3 The rising tide  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 36,44
- 4/10 The Iranian Revolution  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 48, 53
- 4/17 Crisis 1979  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 46, 51
- 4/24 The fall of the USSR  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 38, 39, 54, 55
- 5/1 Jews and Crusaders  
Reading: *Documents* chapters 57, 58
- 5/8 Makeup/Review

**Final Exam: Tuesday 15 May, 1:00-3:00pm**

#### Movie Assignment

For the purposes of this assignment, the student will be required to watch and analyze **three** movies (of the student's choice). The student will then be required to write a paper of 5-10 pages in length comparing and contrasting the three movies. The plot of each movie is irrelevant and should not be considered in your analysis. Rather, choose some theme that each movie deals with (or impacts a specific character in each movie) and compare the ways in which different characters respond to these themes. A few sample themes are listed next to some of the movies below, but the student is free to choose other themes around which to base their paper. Of the three movies used for this assignment, at least two **MUST** come from this list. A third movie not on this list may be chosen by the student with the instructor's permission. The paper will be due the last day of lecture.