

World History

2010 – 2011

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History is supposed to be that instrument for keeping the significance of the past, viewing the whole page or genealogy or growth pattern without losing sight of the present. Clearly there is something lacking in a tradition of history that fails to unify, to bring the past alive into the present.

~ Paul Shepard

Course Description

The world's history from the European Renaissance to the present is the subject of this year-long course. To better understand ourselves and our own time, the present state of our world and how it came to be will be an ongoing focus of our study. We will examine the multicultural history of humanity as "the West" came to dominant power. We will engage with changing and often clashing ideas. We will encounter the powers and resistance that shape humanity and the world we are a part of.

Course Topics

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exams <input type="checkbox"/> Research Project
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Fall Semester:

Physical Geography ☀

Ecological Footprint □

From the Paleolithic to the End of the Middle Ages

The European Renaissance and Reformation ☀

The Balance of the World in 1491: Islam, Asia, Africa and the Americas □

Exploration and Empires

The Enlightenment

The French Revolution and Napoleon ☀

Industrialization □

Imperialism ☀

Imperialism, a classroom simulation

World War 1 and the Russian Revolution

Political and Economic Systems ☀

Spring Semester:

Political Geography ☀

Faces of the Enemy: How Propaganda Works

World War 2 and Holocaust ☀

The Cold War 1945 – 1990 ☀ □

Post Cold War 1990 - the Present ☀

The Thingamabob Game

**The Present: Area Studies and Political, Social, Economic and
Ecosystem Issues □**

Global Economics

Climate Change

Material and Assignments

You will need to keep a section of a binder specifically used for just this course. It will be taken out and turned in periodically, usually twice the first semester and once in the second. A three ring binder is best. The binder section will be for organizing your notes taken and expository writing done both in class and as homework. There are also many handouts that will need to be filed so you can access them easily. It is important you bring this to class each day. As the year progresses, you should take out the sections we have already covered and keep them in another binder at home to study from for the end of the semester cumulative final exams.

We will be using the textbook, World History (National Geographic) for much of the survey breadth in the course. It will be kept at home. There will be numerous other reading materials given as handouts to give us depth that the text book lacks.

There will be several exams and a final exam in each semester. The exams are marked as ☀ in Course Topics above. They will be one way to assess your knowledge and thinking about the topics encountered.

The exams frequently have a significant essay, several smaller single paragraph responses and objective questions such as multiple choice and matching.

There will be a comprehensive three hour final exam at the end of each semester that includes at least one large and several small essays.

We will participate in two simulations this year. One will concern the Imperialism that builds to World War 1 and a second is about Free Trade Economics and Ecology.

There will be numerous films watched, with attention to frequent critical discussion and writing about what we are watching.

Classroom discussion is a very important element in this course. To share your astute insights and ask important questions is always valued.

There is an escalating emphasis on research that develops during the course. These assignments are marked as □ in Course Topics above.

Evaluation

Each semester, your final grade will come from:

25% Exams

25% Research assignments

25% Notebook/Writing: Expository writing to prompts both in class and as homework in addition to analytic writing assignments and notes taken.

15% Final exam

10% In class participation, projects and discussion

Practices

I hope you feel welcome in this class and help make others feel welcome too. It should be an intriguing study – we will be encountering some serious issues. I hope you have a positive, rewarding and even exciting time this semester in our class. If not, please let me know. Never hesitate to talk with me before or after class, during office hours or any other time we can arrange. My email is at the top of this syllabus for you to use.

Always remember: understanding something is not necessarily agreeing with it. With this in mind, our primary rule in class is: *Everyone, everything treated with RESPECT.*

Out of this comes the following common sense practices:

- No personal put downs or purposefully hurtful comments.
- You can sit next to who you want to unless you get distracted.
- Do not disrupt the class. Comments on topic are cool – conversations off to the side and random comments are not.
- No one should have to raise their voice to be heard.
- Take care of the room and of each other.

Another way of mutual respect is to come to class prepared.

- This means come to class with your notebook, a blue or black pen, your homework and homework log.
- It also means go to the bathroom, eat snacks and get a drink before or after class. Our time together is limited and leaving the class will be disruptive and will often mean missing something important.