Modern World: Global Interactions 1500-Present

History 306N, 39117

Meeting: M, W 3:30-4:45, Parlin 201

Professor: Tracie Matysik

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-2:00, Garrison 3.402

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This course will concentrate on the themes and methodologies necessary to thinking about the history of the planet, roughly 1500-present. It will not provide a synthetic, chronological overview of everything that has happened in the last 500 years. Rather, it will concentrate on the movements of technology, ideas, and persons that have made possible something like a globalized, interconnected – albeit differentiated – human and material world. Attention will be given to the interplay between universalizing forces and local specificities, to shifting conceptions of the universal and of difference, and to instabilities of boundaries and borders – geographical, political, and conceptual – that result from and regulate the tensions between broadly planetary and locally distinct developments. In the course we will devote as much time to the concepts and methodologies of global history as we will to the content of empirical historical developments.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Reading: Students are expected to complete all of the assigned reading. Reading should be completed prior to the class session under which the reading is listed. Each week there will be a combination of primary source reading and textbook reading. Individual books are available for purchase at the University Co-op include:

- •Robert Strayer, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History, Vol. 2 (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's (2009).
- •Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (New York: Dover, 1990).
- •Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano; or, Gustavus Vassa, the African* (New York: Modern Library, 2004).
- •Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*, trans. Denys Johnson-Davies (New York: New York Review Books, 1969).
- •Jonathan Spence, *The Question of Hu* (New York: Vintage, 1989).

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Participation: All enrolled students are expected to attend class regularly, to do the reading according to the Course Schedule, and to participate constructively in class discussion.

Quizzes: Each week - excluding weeks in which we have an exam - short-answer Quizzes will be administered. These are aimed at motivating you to keep up with the readings and lecture materials. Accordingly, they will generally cover the most recent week(s) material. That is, they will not be comprehensive. There will be no make-ups for the quizzes without a documented excuse of medical or family emergency (doctor's note, obituary, etc.). You will, however, be allowed to drop two quiz results from your overall quiz grade. (N.B. Use this option wisely! There will be **no exceptions** to the "no make-up policy.")

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. The exams will all consist of two parts, one short take-home essay and a brief in-class identification test. Essays will be due the day of the exam, and will incur a full-grade penalty for each calendar day that they are late. Make-up exams will be given only in the case of documented medical or family emergency (doctor's note, obituary, etc.).

GRADING:

First Exam: 25% Second Exam: 25% Final Exam: 30% Weekly Quizzes: 10% Participation: 10%

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: Absences for religious holidays are excused. I would be grateful, however, if you would alert me in advance in these cases. University policy requires two-weeks notice.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students who need special accommodations should notify me at the beginning of the semester (or as soon as possible), and such accommodations will be made. Students with such requests should secure a letter from the Services for Students with Disabilities Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

GLOBAL CULTURES: This class qualifies for a Global Cultures flag. The majority of your grade will thus pertain to assignments dealing with non-U.S. cultural groups and histories.

SCHEDULE (subject to change depending on pace of discussion):

Week 1:

W 8/29: Introduction, Syllabus

Week 2:

M 9/3: Labor Day, no class

W 9/5: What is Global History? Methods, Concepts

Reading: Osterhammel and Petersson, *Globalization*, pp. 1-29 (on Blackboard)

Strayer, Ch. 14

Week 3:

M 9/10: 1500: A World on the Move

Reading: Strayer, Ch. 15

Equiano, 1-42

W 9/12: The Americas: Indigenous Societies, Immigrants Voluntary and Enslaved

Reading: Equiano, 43-105

Week 4:

M 9/17: Global Slavery, Global Subjectivity (full discussion of Equiano)

Reading: Equiano, 106-254

W 9/19: Science and Religion on the Cusp of Modernity

Reading: Spence, pp. 1-43

Optional Reading: Strayer, Chapter 16

Week 5:

M 9/24: Migration and Global Identities

Reading: Spence, pp. 44-134

W 9/26: Atlantic Revolutions

Week 6:

M 10/1: Exam #1

W 10/3: Atlantic Revolutions

Reading: Strayer, Chapter 17

Hunt, Human Rights, selections (on Blackboard)

Week 7:

M 10/8: Empires and Nation-States, formation of modern identities in a global context

Reading: Strayer, Chapters 18-19

W 10/10: Industrial Revolution and the Great Departure

Reading: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party"

(on Blackboard)

Week 8:

M 10/15: "Free trade"

Reading: Strayer, Documents, pp. 905-913

W 10/17: Imperial Expansion

Reading: Strayer, Chapter 20

Conrad, Heart of Darkness, pp. tba

Week 9:

M 10/22: Subjectivity Between Metropole and Colony

Reading: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, pp. tba

W 10/24: Global Civil Society

Reading: Selections from the Universal Races Congress (on Blackboard)

Week 10:

M 10/29: World War as global war

Reading: Strayer, Chapter 21

Reading: Lines of Fire, selections (on Blackboard)

W 10/31: Exam #2

Week 11:

M 11/5: Mass migrations, invention of the camp

Viewing: The Road to Treblinka

W 11/7: Cold War

Reading: Strayer, Chapter 22

Ho Chi Minh, selections (on Blackboard)

Week 12:

M 11/12: Decolonization

Reading: Strayer, Chapter 23

Bandung Conference Readings (on Blackboard)

W 11/14: Decolonization and the Postcolonial Condition

Reading: Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, selections (on Blackboard)

Week 13:

M 11/19: Continued

Reading: Strayer, Chapter 24

Viewing: Battle of Algiers (we will arrange a session to view the film as a group;

you may also watch alone at home or in the library)

W 11/21: The Postcolonial World (cont.)

Reading: Tayeb Salih, Season of Migration to the North, pp. 3-50 (I recommend

reading the introduction too.)

Week 14:

M 11/26: Migration, Knowledge, and Violence

Reading: Salih, *Season*, pp. 51-139

W 11/28: Globalization in a New Key

Viewing (on your own): This is what democracy looks like at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBUZH2vCD k

Week 15:

M 12/3: Wrap-up, The Global and the Local

W 12/5: Third Exam