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
Email: matysik@austin.utexas.edu
Office Phone: 512-475-7251

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:


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