HIST112

The Modern World

3 Credits

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Reviewer: Kelly Mutter

Created: 01/03/2001
Revised: 28/08/2018
Approval: 27/09/2018

The Implementation Date for this Outline is 01/09/2018
The Modern World

Calendar Description

This course explores the history of the modern world in the aftermath of the French Revolution to the present. It is intended to provide a general introduction to the most crucial political, economic, social, and cultural developments over the history of two centuries and recent past. It provides a combination of thematic and area studies with a particular focus on revolutions and imperialism, colonialism and decolonization, nationalism, fascism, and communism. Students are given the necessary background for an exploration of the nation- and state-building, the two world wars, the Cold War, globalization, and modern separatism.

Rationale

This course may contribute to the fulfillment of many degree requirements in Arts, Education and Science.

This course also introduces learners to the skills and attitudes of the Historian. Historians produce expert, reasoned judgments about the past from a wide range of sometimes conflicting evidence. Historians are problem solvers, researchers, effective communicators, and have a sincere interest and empathy for other people. As outlined below, these abilities and attitudes are useful in a broad range of career and life pursuits.

Prerequisites

English 30-1 or equivalent.

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

demonstrate and apply the knowledge and skills of a beginning historian in Modern World History. More specifically, the student will be able to:
1. demonstrate basic field knowledge by
   (a) telling in outline some of the story of the World in the period from 1815 to the present.
   (b) recognizing and talking about some of the key individuals, events, issues and ideas extant in Modern times.
2. apply some research skills such as
   (a) locating and using appropriate sources.
   (b) collecting and organizing research data.
   (c) deriving generalizations and conclusions from a broad range of sometimes contradictory data.
   (d) constructing a thesis and defending it with a line of argument supported by evidence from adequately cited sources.
3. apply the appropriate writing skills by
   (a) using language correctly, concisely and convincingly.
   (b) employing the conventions of format and style such that the work could be accepted for publication in a scholarly journal.
4. practice as a beginning historian by writing history by
   (a) writing a thoughtful, well styled book review.
   (b) writing original essays on historical topics from the field which call for synthesis and evaluation.
   (c) writing a thoughtful, well-structured research paper on a topic using a variety of sources.
5. apply the knowledge and skills acquired by
   (a) relating some of the topics and ideas covered to situations and events in the present day world.
   (b) relating some of the topics and ideas covered to situations and events in his/her personal life.

Resource Materials

Required Text(s):

Peter von Sivers, Charles A. Desnoyers, and George B. Stow. Patterns of World History:


Conduct of Course

This is a 3 credit course with 3 hours of lecture per week. (3-0-0).

Students acquire general field knowledge by doing the assigned, suggested, and other readings. Classroom instruction is largely in lecture form (3 hours per week). The course requires substantial time and effort and students are expected to meet those demands. Class discussion is emphasized and encouraged. Throughout the term students are required to write one film evaluation, a major research paper, and to do a mid-term examination. The course ends with a final examination.
Evaluation Procedures

The final grade is an aggregate of the following components:

- Reading Quizzes (4 X 5% each)  20%
- Critical Film Review  10%
- Research Paper (Essay)  20%
- Discussion Assignment  14%
- Midterm Examination  18%
- Final Examination  18%
- Total  100%

No supplemental assignments or examination re-writes are permitted in this course.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

*An minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.*

| Letter | F | D | D+ | C- | C | C+ | B- | B | B+ | A- | A | A+ |
|--------|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|---|----|
| Percent Range | 0-49 | 50-52 | 53-56 | 57-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-89 | 90-94 | 95-100 |
| Points | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.30 | 1.70 | 2.00 | 2.30 | 2.70 | 3.00 | 3.30 | 3.70 | 4.00 | 4.00 |

*Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.*

Attendance

Attendance is not taken in this course. Students are encouraged to manage their time and govern themselves accordingly. Regular, punctual presence is expected.

Course Units/Topics

1. Introduction to the Course
2. The Rise of the Nation-States in the 19th Century
3. Industrialism: Origins, Growth and Impact
4. Modernity and Transformation: East Asia and Latin America:
5. The New Imperialism, Colonialism, and the Alliance System
6. The Great War and Russian Revolution
7. The Great War and Beyond
8. The Interwar Europe and World
10. The Cold War Era: Geopolitics, Decolonization, Propaganda
11. The Collapse of the USSR and the Fall of Communism
12. The World Today: Globalization, Terrorism, and Separatist Movements

Course Policy and Assignments

For more details about the policies, regulations, and other components of this course check the “Syllabus” available on the D2L.