

Modern World

Professor Ewing

Norris 206, MWF 11:15-12:05 (CRN 12665)

Office hours: Monday 4:00-5:00, Wednesday 9:00-10:00, Friday 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

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Course website: http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/syllabi/Modern_World/Syllabus2002.htm

This course in Modern World history covers important developments in the major regions of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas, during the twentieth century.

This course is designed to encourage students to pursue three objectives:

- to become familiar with the most significant events, people, and processes of world history in the twentieth century;
- to understand the causal relationship between these events, people, and processes and the problems and patterns of the contemporary world;
- to develop the analytical skills necessary to understand globalization as a process of making individuals part of the broader world system and human community.

Modern World is a course in Area 7 of the university Core Curriculum. As such, it is designed to develop a broad and informed understanding of critical issues involving societies, cultures, and geographical locations of the entire world. Moreover, this course explicitly encourages students to examine controversial issues from a variety of perspectives, based on relevant and substantive information drawn from a wide range of sources. Students who take Modern World to fulfill the requirements of the Core Curriculum are thus expected to enter into a sustained and constructive engagement with the complex process of becoming an informed member of the contemporary global society.

Course requirements:	Date due	Percentage
Exam	February 11	20%
Exam	March 15	20%
Exam	April 19	20%
Papers (4 papers, 2-3 pages each)	February 1, February 20, March 27, and April 10	20%
Final Essay	April 29	20%

Required books:

Findley and Rothney, *Twentieth Century World* (5th edition)

Reilly, *Worlds of History. A Comparative Reader* (vol. 2 Since 1400)

Required readings from newspapers are available online from the page, "Newspapers around the World": http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/syllabi/Modern_World/Global_newspapers.htm.

These readings will be announced prior to classes through the class email list, and should be read for the next class session. Materials from the articles will appear on tests. Articles from these newspapers will also be the basis for the required papers, as specified in the attached paper assignment.

This course is designed to encourage active learning, in which students' engagement with the material, with the instructor, and with each other is essential to the process of learning. Most of the course will be taught in a lecture format, but with occasional time for discussions. In all classes, ample time will be provided for questions. In order to understand the lectures, ask questions, and participate in discussions, students should do the reading ahead of time, following the schedule outlined below. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class, either to clarify readings or to explore connections between

class materials and contemporary events. Students are also welcome to ask questions and pursue further discussion with the instructor during office hours.

Tests will include multiple choice, short answer, and analytical essays. Materials on tests will be drawn from assigned readings, lectures, discussions, videos, and other instructional materials presented in class. Approximately one-half of the materials will come from *both* readings and lectures, one-quarter will come from readings *alone*, and one-quarter will come from lectures and other in-class exercises *alone*. Completion of assigned readings and regular attendance are both necessary to succeeding in this class. Additional materials will be posted on the course website *after* class sessions.

Date	Topics	Assignments	Required Readings
January 14	Global interrelatedness		
January 16	Thinking Historically		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 1
January 18	Cultural Interactions		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 2
January 21	Origins of the Modern World		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 2
January 23	Capitalism		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 6
January 25	Imperialism		
January 28	European Powers		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 3
January 30	Total War		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 10
February 1	Post-war Settlements	Paper due	
February 4	Russian Revolution		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 4
February 6	Defining “Normalcy”		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 5
February 8	The Great Depression		
February 11	Exam		
February 13	Rise of Fascism		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 6
February 15	Nazism and Stalinism		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 11
February 18	Introduction to Latin America		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch.7
February 20	Problems of Independence	Paper due	
February 22	Introduction to Africa		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 8
February 25	Contesting European Hegemony		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 8

February 27	Introduction to Asia		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 9
March 1	Modernization		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 9
March 11	Aggression and Appeasement		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 10
March 13	Global conflict		
March 15	Exam		
March 18	Cold War		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 11
March 20	Post-war Worlds		
March 22	Democracy and Markets		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 12
March 25	Women and Feminism		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 13
March 27	Communism in Europe	Paper due	<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 13
March 29	Challenges of Reform		
April 1	Latin American Authoritarianism		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 14
April 3	Contesting Democracy		
April 5	African Development		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 15
April 8	Arabs and Israelis		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 16
April 10	Asian Resurgence	Paper due	<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 17
April 12	Struggles for Independence		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 12
April 15	Models of Change		
April 17	Responses to the West		
April 19	Exam		
April 22	Identity Politics		<i>Twentieth Century World</i> , ch. 18
April 24	Debating Globalization		<i>Worlds of History</i> ch. 14
April 26	Consuming Culture		
April 29	Environmental Consequences	Final essay due	
May 1	Into the New Millenium		