

## **The World since 1400 HIST/INST 106 – Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Michał J. Wilczewski, PhD

**Email:** mwilcz5@uic.edu

**Office Hours:** UH 916, M 12:00-1:00pm, T 3:30-4:30pm

**Class Times:** MW 11:00-11:50am, Lecture Center C, Room 3

### **Teaching Assistants:**

Hashim Ali

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**Office Hours:** UH 1002, F 11am-1pm

**Sections:** F 9-9:50am ETMSW 2417 and  
10-10:50am LH 101

Katy Evans

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**Office Hours:** UH 1002, T, Th 1pm-2pm

**Sections:** F 9-9:50am ETMSW 2233 and  
10-10:50am ETMSW 2435

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Today, we live in a world that is globalized – one in which we can access information almost instantaneously, travel to other parts of the world in a matter of hours, and even embrace and encounter new cultures without leaving our homes. But how did this happen? What were/are the origins of such cultural interactions? And more importantly, how did these contacts affect global politics and culture? This course examines major global trends and phenomena that resulted from the increasing globalization of human societies from the period of about 1400 to the present.

In a course of this breadth, it is nearly impossible to provide full coverage of all global developments. As a result, this course will focus on three major themes, specifically, slavery, imperialism, and socialism. Our class begins with the understanding that Europe, prior to the period in question, was a global backwater, existing on the periphery of expansive empires in East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. To comprehend early civilizational and cultural exchanges, we will examine the interactions of European explorers and missionaries with the leaders and citizens of these empires. From there, our focus will shift to the Slave Trade's impact on Africa and the Atlantic World. Students will see the interconnectedness of the world economy through the worldwide trade of goods and humans. Next, we will study the strengths and limitations of the Enlightenment. As a result, we analyze how the concept of "human rights" and civilization hierarchies were born and challenged globally in the French and Haitian Revolutions. We will continue our course with an analysis of the global long nineteenth century, taking particular interest in the Enlightenment's justification for imperialism around the world. In turning to the twentieth century, we will study the global context of the First and Second World Wars, understanding the wars as watershed moments that allowed for the rise of global communism and decolonization. We will end the course analyzing the end of communism in Eastern Europe and considering the future of the world.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Andrea Stuart, *Sugar in the Blood: A Family's Story of Slavery and Empire*

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Slavenka Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

**There is no textbook for this course, though students may want to consult the following:**

Peter von Sivers, et. al. *Patterns of World History*, vol. 2

**Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard and are marked in the course schedule below. Required books are available in the UIC Bookstore, though they are all easily available from other vendors. Please complete readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss them. Please feel free to bring articles that you think are interesting to discuss to class and recitation sections.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION:** Students will be evaluated on the quality of their performance on the following required assignments:

- Paper #1 (20%) due February 18
- Midterm Exam (20%) on March 4
- Paper #2 (20%) due April 3
- Final Exam (20%) on May 9
- Attendance and Participation (20%)

**GRADES:** Students' final grades will be rendered according to the following:

A = 90% – 100%

B = 80% – 89%

C = 70% – 79%

D = 60% – 69%

F = 0% – 59%

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- 1. Plagiarism:** Please make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. If you take words from any source, you must use quotation marks and acknowledge the sources with proper citations. Even when you use your own words, but have borrowed an idea from another source, you must reference it. Presenting someone else's work as your own can result in the disqualification of your work and a failing grade for this class. It can also result in suspension from the University. This is a very serious offense and should be treated that way. If you are ever unsure of whether you are at risk of plagiarizing, please ask. Students are required to produce original work for each assignment for this course. Reusing parts of papers written for this

or other courses is considered self-plagiarism and will also result in the disqualification of that assignment.

2. **Blackboard and SafeAssign:** This course will require that students access Blackboard (uic.blackboard.com) to read additional readings. Please make sure that you have access to Blackboard from the beginning of the semester. If for some reason you do not, please write to the instructor immediately. All papers must be submitted electronically through SafeAssign via Blackboard before the beginning of the class on the due date **AND** turned in in hard copy in class.
3. **Late Papers:** Late papers drop one letter grade per day after the deadline. An A becomes a B, then a C, and so on. If you cannot complete the assignment on time and need an extension, please contact the instructor or your TA ahead of the due date.
4. **Cell Phones:** Please come to class on time with cell phones set to silent and stored away. Please refrain from texting or reading text messages during class. Such behavior is extremely disruptive for both you and those around you. Students who are active on their phones **will** be called out in class. Continued use of your phone will result in being counted as absent for the day.
5. **Use of Technology:** The use of computers to take notes during lecture is permitted **ONLY** if students have the self-discipline to stay off various websites and messaging applications. Again, this is distracting to those around you. Please do not abuse this privilege. Students who are found surfing the internet during class will not be able to use their laptops in the future. Those who wish to record lectures must receive permission to do so from the instructor first. This refers only to audio recordings; video recordings are not allowed.
6. **Common Courtesy:** Students are expected to respect, though certainly not always agree with, others' ideas, interpretations, and comments. Healthy and respectful debate is expected and encouraged. Students are also expected to respect the diversity of their classmates. Everyone is encouraged to help create and sustain a healthy, safe, and productive learning environment. Racism, sexism, homophobia, and other sort of disruptive and abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who regularly come in late, leave to take phone calls, chat with their neighbors during lecture, and are otherwise disrespectful will also have their participation grade severely diminished.
7. **Attendance and Participation:** Regular attendance and thoughtful participation are crucial if students want to perform well in this class. Attendance will be taken daily and students are allowed a total of **TWO** absences before their grade is negatively affected. An absence will only be excused if proper documentation is provided. Students who cannot attend class due to religious observances should communicate their absence with both the instructor and TA. Students are responsible for any work and announcements that they may miss during their absence. Every day a student misses without acceptable documentation beyond their two absence allowance will result in 5 point deduction from their attendance and participation grade.

8. **Friday Recitation:** Fridays are reserved for class discussion days that will be administered by your individual TAs. Students are encouraged to participate regularly in these sections to get the most out of the course and to ensure a solid participation grade. Please complete the assigned readings prior to your Friday section. If you do not complete the assigned readings, TAs may choose to mark you absent for the day.
9. **E-mailing the Instructor and TAs:** Please make sure that your e-mails to the instructor and TAs are written carefully and completely with a greeting, message, and signature that identifies yourself. You should use this as an opportunity to building your professional communication skills.
10. **Office Hours:** The instructor is available to meet with students during office hours. Please feel free to stop by. If you cannot attend the scheduled office hours, students can also ask to make an appointment to meet. Office hours are an excellent time to discuss paper drafts, your performance in the class, or to clarify any additional questions you may have. Students who want to go over drafts of their papers must meet with the instructor in person; paper drafts will not be reviewed over e-mail.
11. **Students with Disabilities:** The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 773-649-4535 (VP/Relay) and consult the following: <http://drc.uic.edu/guide-to-accommodations>.

#### **SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

**\*This course outline is tentative and subject to change during the semester. Students are responsible for all changes announced in class.\***

#### **Week 1 (Jan 14, 16, 18) – What is World History?**

- Reading: Sebastian Conrad, Introduction to *What is Global History?* (Blackboard)

#### **Week 2 (Jan 21, 23, 25) – The Columbian Exchange**

Jan 21 – **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! NO CLASS**

- Reading: Excerpts of Christopher Columbus Letters, Excerpts of Bernal Diaz del Castillo Letters, and Bartolome de las Casas, “Persecutor Turns Protector,” and “The ‘Black Legend’ of Spain” (Blackboard)

#### **Week 3 (Jan 28, 30, Feb 1) – The Atlantic World: Colonization in the New World**

- Reading: Andrea Stuart, *Sugar in the Blood*, 3-125

#### **Week 4 (Feb 4, 6, 8) – The Atlantic World: Slavery**

- Reading: Andrea Stuart, *Sugar in the Blood*, 126-324

**Week 5 (Feb 11, 13, 15) – The Enlightenment and Revolution**

- Reading: Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?,” “Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen,” “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen,” John Locke, “Two Treatises on Government” (Blackboard)

**Week 6 (Feb 18, 20, 22) – Revolution and the New World**

**Feb 18 – Paper #1 due in class and on Blackboard**

- Reading: Laurent Dubois, “‘Our Three Colors’: The King, the Republic and the Political Culture of Slave Revolution in Saint-Domingue,” *Historical Reflections* vol. 29, no. 1 (2003): 83-102 and “Slave Letters to the Governor from Martinique” (Blackboard)

**Week 7 (Feb 25, 27, Mar 1) – The Scramble for Africa**

- No reading; Review for Midterm

**Week 8 (Mar 4, 6, 8) – High Imperialism**

**Mar 4 – Midterm Examination**

- Reading: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

**Week 9 (Mar 11, 13, 15) – The Creation of the Savage**

- Reading: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

**Week 10 (Mar 18, 20, 22) – The Global First World War**

**Mar 20 – Film: The First World War: Global War, Episode 3**

- Reading: Tan Tai-Yong, “An Imperial Home-Front: Punjab and the First World War,” *The Journal of Military History* vol. 64, no. 2 (April, 2000): 371-410. (Blackboard)

**\*Spring Break - March 25-29 – NO CLASS\***

**Week 11 (Apr 1, 3, 5) – The Global Second World War**

**Apr 1 – No Class!**

**Apr 3 – Paper #2 due in class and on Blackboard**

- Reading: Yasmin Khan, “Sex in an Imperial War Zone: Transnational Encounters in Second World War India,” *History Workshop Journal* vol. 73, no. 1 (2012): 240-258 and Ashley Jackson, “African Soldiers and Imperial Authorities: Tensions and Unrest during the Service of High Commission Territories Soldiers in the British Army, 1941-1946,” *Journal of South African Studies* vol. 25, no. 4 (Dec, 1999): 645-665. (Blackboard)

**Week 12 (Apr 8, 10, 12) – Decolonization and the End of Empire**

- Reading: Mohandas K. Gandhi, Excerpts from *Hind Swaraj*, Jawaharlal Nehru, "Ghandi and Nehru: 'Two Utterly Different Standpoints,'" Franz Fanon, excerpts from *The Wretched of the Earth*," Kwame Nkrumah, "I Speak of Freedom: A Statement of African Ideology," (Blackboard)

**Week 13 (Apr 15, 17, 19) – The Global Cold War**

- Reading: Slavenka Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, xi-103

**Week 14 (Apr 22, 24, 26) – The End of Communism**

- Reading: Slavenka Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, 104-195

**Week 15 (Apr 29, May 1, 3) – The World Today**

- Reading: No reading, Review for Final Exam

**\*Final Exam: Thursday May 9, 2018 from 10:30-12:30\***