

Department of History
Description of Themes for
HIS 1040 and HIS 1050
Spring 2010

General Descriptions:

HIS 1040 Themes in Pre-Modern World History

An exploration of significant historical themes in the development of several world civilizations up to the 18th century. The course will examine points of contact among these classical civilizations and investigate the dynamics of cultural interaction in the pre-modern world. Through the analysis of primary historical sources, both literary and visual, the course will look at the multi-faceted ways these world cultures expressed themselves through art, literature, architecture, and socio-political institutions. The latter may include a broad spectrum of social formations, from family and marriage to urbanization, class structure, and state formation.

HIS 1040-001 Themes in Pre-Modern World History
CRN 33654 MWF 11:30 am-12:20 pm **Dr. Winer**

“The Power of Faiths: Religion and Authority in Pre-Modern World History”
The World Religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism had all developed and spread globally by about 1200 AD. The different forms they took were greatly shaped by who their original leaders were, both spiritual and political, as well as the needs of the people of the different regions to which they spread. In Christianity an extended “church” hierarchy often developed and the monastic life was held to be especially holy. For Islam a dedicated moral life lived within the world, as a married person engaged in earning one’s livelihood, was often considered to be most pleasing to Gd. For some Christians and Buddhists saints populated the universe exerting intercessory influence for humanity, while for some other religions the worship of saint-like figures smacked of heresy.

Some spiritual leaders were utterly distinct from temporal authorities, popes and bishops from emperors and kings, others, like the caliphs, were equally supreme religious leaders and commanders of the faithful and still others, like the Chinese emperors, were understood as incarnations of the divine itself. Indeed it is often difficult to even make the distinction between Church and State before the modern period—something perhaps strange to us as university students in the 21st century US where the separation between Church and State is a defining feature of our nation. The global faiths also displayed remarkable similarities: pilgrimage was a powerful form of devotion for many and universities grew up to train, Christian, Muslim and Chinese spiritual leaders. This course will explore the world religions of Europe, Africa, and Asia and how and why they espoused the values and took the forms they did.

General Descriptions:

HIS 1050

Themes in Modern World History

This course introduces students to some of the major historical moments and themes in the political, economic, and cultural transformation of diverse nations and regions of the world during the past several centuries. Rather than seeking to be a comprehensive world history or western history course, the course adopts a topical and interpretive approach. Recent centuries have witnessed extraordinary historical change and conflict. Agricultural, peasant-based economies became capitalist, industrial and post-industrial economic systems. Political movements arose to challenge kings or despots, or to seek ways to include or mobilize the common people in politics. Intellectual revolutions transformed the ways people understood the natural world, human society, and the individual. Groups searching for a national identity gave rise to nationalist movements and conflicts. War, imperialism, colonialism and decolonization have altered the balance of power and global politics. Modern urban society, mass culture, changes in gender roles and attitudes redefined the relationship between individuals and their society. Recognizing that no course can adequately cover such a broad field, this course selects some of these major themes for in-depth and cross-cultural examination. Its goal is to provide students with a

historical context as they explore the origins and implications of the changes that have come to characterize the "modern" world.

HIS 1050-001
CRN 33655

Themes in Modern World History

TR 8:30-9:45 am

Prof. Sena

This course will explore cultural, political, economic, ideological, religious, technological, and social developments in world history through the lens of consumption. We will compare and contrast different regions and times, beginning with the growth of trade as the vehicle for bringing worlds together. We will also strive to understand the causes and effects of world events, especially in light of our central theme, consumption. You will also be asked to consider your own role in the global community and brainstorm ideas for ameliorating some of the negative consequences of excessive consumption. This course is designed to give you a snapshot of different times and places, while keeping central some fundamental questions, such as how and why do individuals identify themselves and others of the basis of race, class, gender or religion. How do groups maintain control and power, and how have people resisted forces of exploitation? What accounts for the differences between the ideology and the reality of different forms of government? Your own questions will be paramount to this course. You will provide natural curiosity and you will learn how to analyze various sources to draw and defend your own conclusions.

HIS 1050-002
CRN 33656

Themes in Modern World History

MWF 10:30-11:20 am

Staff

HIS 1050-003
CRN 33657

Themes in Modern World History
TR 10:00-11:15 am

Dr. Varias

The focus of this course will be on modernity as connected to the dramatic social, cultural, economic, and military transformations of recent centuries. Students will confront changing perceptions of modernity both in terms of its allure and promise and in its disappointing and problematic aspects. Among the subjects to be explored are: social and political revolutions, industrialization, modern war, genocide, intellectual and artistic transformations, and changes in transportation, travel, and the movement of people.

HIS 1050-004
CRN 33658

Themes in Modern World History
TR 10:00-11:15 am

Prof. Lowendorf

This course will introduce you to modern history from a global perspective with an emphasis on cultural encounters and cultural conflict. It emphasizes the vital role history plays in helping us to understand the present. We will explore different ideas of culture through a wide range of primary and secondary sources from Columbus to the post-9/11 world. At the same time, this course takes a thematic approach and makes no effort to comprehensively cover world history. Thus it will not offer a single “master narrative” and makes no apology for omitting certain events from the period we will be exploring.

HIS 1050-005
CRN 33659

Themes in Modern World History
MWF 9:30-10:20 am

Dr. Johnson

Theme: Science and Technology in the Modern World

This course will cover a variety of topics relating to the interaction between world history and the development of science and technology over the past four centuries, including perceptions of and efforts to control nature in various historical contexts and cultural traditions; the impact of environmental crises;

scientific and industrial revolutions in Europe and the shifting balance of global power; conflicts emerging from the cultural and social impact of the development of science and technology, from Galileo through Darwin to the Holocaust and World Wars of the 20th century; and the emergence of scientific nationalism as well as a global scientific and technological culture in the 21st century.

To address these topics, we will use a text plus some appropriate readings (documents and short articles as well as 2-3 longer works)

HIS 1050-006
CRN 33660

Themes in Modern World History
TR 11:30 am -12:45 pm

Dr. Sanders

This course surveys themes in modern world history, with a particular emphasis on world trade and empire-building. Throughout the course students will consider the multitude of the peaceful and violent forms of contact that brought peoples across the world together, as well as the exchanges that drove those interactions: of ideas, goods, and persons. Building upon the insights of the new subfield of world history, we will explore how disease, geography, and environmental factors contributed to the modern world in the first half of the course. In the latter half, we will examine how empire-building forged new connections and disconnections worldwide.

Class time will be divided between lectures and discussion of reading materials, which will include both a textbook and several primary sources.

The class materials and assignments are designed in order to help you develop an understanding of historical practice (how to analyze primary sources and identify elements of continuity and change in the past) and an ability to recognize the factors that shaped the choices people made throughout time.

HIS 1050-007 Themes in Modern World History
CRN 33661

MWF 12:30-1:20 pm
Dr Bailey

Theme: Narratives of Modern World History

Simply put, a narrative is a story. History is often presented in a narrative format and in this course we will be considering some of the different stories that have been told about modern world history. Until relatively recently, the predominant way of telling this story has been from the western perspective, or what might be called the “Euro-centric” view. In this course we will remind ourselves of the different chapters of this particular story, for example: the Reformation, the European Age of Exploration, the Age of Enlightenment, the Age of Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Empire. We will think about how these different “chapters” have been linked together to tell a story about the “Western Miracle”, in other words, the argument that western societies ushered in the modern world. As we do so, we will also consider more recent historical scholarship that explores non-western perspectives of world history. We will use this non-western scholarship as a tool, to help us critique the Euro-centric view and the idea of a “Western Miracle”. This course serves as an introduction to the field of history and places particular emphasis on the meaning of diversity and why diversity matters, as well as on the development of transferable skills such as critical thinking.

HIS 1050-008 Themes in Modern World History
CRN 33662

MWF 1:30-2:20 pm
Dr. Steege

Theme: Violence

This course will explore the centrality of violence in the modern world. Subthemes will include industrialization, imperialism, and war. In addition to considering the how violence becomes normal, we will also explore possibilities for resistance to and an ethics of opposition in the face of these destructive forces.

HIS 1050-009

Themes in Modern World History
Power, Oppression and Revolution

CRN 33663

TR 2:30-3:45 pm

Dr. Hartnett

Through lectures, discussion, and analysis of primary sources, this course is designed to introduce students to the issue of power, the exercise of power, and the attempts of certain individuals, parties, and societies to resist the manifestations of said power. During the semester, the course will examine power structures in politics, economies, society and culture. As a class, we will explore cases that illustrate abuses of power and the efforts of some to dramatically reconfigure power structures. Some of the topics that the course will cover include religious reformation, absolute monarchy, slavery, the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, China's Communist Revolution, Stalin's Russia, European Imperialism, the Anglo-Irish conflict, the Women's Suffrage Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, late 20th century social protest movements, decolonization, and the Eastern European Revolutions in the late twentieth century.

HIS 1050-010

Themes in Modern World History

CRN 33664

TR 4:00-5:15 pm

Staff

HIS 1050-011
CRN 33665

Themes in Modern World History
MW 4:30-5:45 pm

Dr. Ricci

During the past three hundred years, many events have shaped the modern world. The Enlightenment elevated reason and science to an unprecedented level in Europe.

The American Revolution ended British colonial control of North America, resulting in the creation of an independent and sovereign United States. Italy and Germany, fragmented and divided territories since the Middle Ages, eventually became unified nation-states. By the middle of the twentieth century, modern nationalism, a secular ideology originating in the French Revolution, emerged forcefully in Africa and the Middle East to forge new independent states and to give national identity to people once under European colonial rule.

These topics will be studied extensively through textbook readings, primary sources, and class lectures. The theme underlying each of these major topics is modernity: how these developments contributed to shaping the modern world. While patterns of continuity and change can be seen in all of these topics, the result was the formation of modern thought and the creation of modern nation-states.

Besides studying these major topics, students will be introduced to the field of historiography. To analyze and understand each course theme, students will write three short critical essays. In addition, there will be a Mid-Term Examination and a Final Examination

HIS 1050-100
CRN 33666

Themes in Modern World History
MW 6:00-7:15 pm

Dr. Huss

Theme: the emergence and diffusion of modernity

The modern period (seventeenth to twentieth centuries) of western history is surveyed along with considerations of its influences upon, and interactions with, other parts of the world. Stress is placed upon ideas and institutions and how they defined, developed, and expanded the tenets of modernity, rather than on names, dates, kings, and battles (although these topics are also covered).

This course aims to help the student appreciate the important political, intellectual, social, and cultural developments of modern world civilizations, as well as the interactions of western and non-western cultures, and to encourage interest in, and develop the necessary skills for, further historical study.

Students will read one textbook and a book of outside readings. Course requirements include two quizzes (15% each), a response paper based on primary documents (15%), a mid-term exam (25%), and a final exam (30%).

HIS 1050-101
CRN 33667

Themes in Modern World History
TR 6:00-7:15 pm

Dr. Foster

While modern world history has been defined variously as beginning 200 to 600 years ago, and has been examined through various combinations of political, social, cultural, economic, intellectual, and gender paradigms, we will content ourselves with a slightly less expansive view. With a more narrowed approach, we will look at modern world history beginning with the Enlightenment and Revolution, and continuing with the emergence of strong nation-states and imperialism, the catastrophes of world wars, the emergence of nuclear super powers and non-Western nationalism, and a post 9/11 world. Along the way, we will explore the question of how we understand history, and how fresh perspectives can broaden that understanding.

HIS 1050-102
CRN 33668

Themes in Modern World History
M 6:10-8:50 pm

Dr. Casino

****Must be enrolled in Part-Time Studies. Full-time A&S students require permission of the Dean.***

The events of September 11, 2001, and after have awakened us to the realization that not everyone in the world sees things the same way we do here in the United States. In the wake of the demise of Communism, a new global conflict has become evident: that between those who fear and those who embrace globalism. This course introduces you to some of the major historical moments and themes in the political, economic, and cultural transformation of diverse

nations and regions of the world during the past several centuries that have led to this dichotomy. Rather than seeking to be a comprehensive world history or western history survey, the course adopts a topical and interpretive approach. Its goal is to provide you with a historical and cross-cultural context as you explore the origins and implications of the changes that have come to characterize the "modern" world, and a better understanding of those who long for a more "traditional" society.

One of the major themes of this course is focused on the expansion of populations from their traditional homelands into other corners of the world. Globalism emanated from the movement of peoples and the trade and communication advances necessitated by those movements. Our readings, and the discussions based upon those readings, will focus on what happened when people of one culture met and interacted with people of another culture during this period of expansion. What were the biological, religious, political, economic, social, and psychological dimensions and consequences of cultural contact and interaction? Essentially, we will be exploring the nature of so-called "traditional" cultures and what happens to them when faced with the intrusion of unknown elements.

A second theme is related to the first. We will be asking what happens to the relationship between the interests of the individual and the interests of the community when so-called "traditional" cultures are brought under stress from outside forces.

The third theme is best expressed in the title of Benjamin Barber's book, Jihad vs. McWorld. We will be examining the shaping of modern society through the dynamic interaction of the old with the new.

These themes will be fitted into the general context of world historical development from the fifteenth through the twentieth centuries during lecture and discussion classes. "Deep reading" of historical documents from people on both sides of the interaction will teach us to look for verbal "culture clues" in the ways people describe those of an alien and unfamiliar culture. Viewing modern film treatments of the same interactions will show us, through visual juxtaposition, the differences and similarities between two cultures on first meeting.