Reinterpreting Empire, Colonizing Processes, and Cross Cultural Exchange in “Modern” World History

This course is an introduction to modern global history. We will examine the history of the world from the middle of the 15th century to the present by studying the diverse nature of its peoples and geography temporally and thematically. In particular, we will investigate human migrations, changing notions of empire, and colonizing processes while considering how cross cultural exchange has shaped and affected historical change. The intention is to lay the foundation for upper division regional and thematic classes. Scholars often teach world history by highlighting Europe’s relationship with peoples in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. This is a useful approach insofar as it demonstrates the struggles Europeans had with colonized peoples. It often neglects, however, the roles non-Europeans played in the making of a “modern” world. Lectures will introduce key historical themes and take into account the views of both Europeans and non-Europeans. In discussion sections, students will focus on course readings and primary source materials as a means to advance their understanding of complex historical processes outlined in lectures. Students should complete assigned weekly readings in advance of discussion sections. In addition to engaging in sections and lectures, students will complete two 1000-1250 word (four to five page) written papers designed to demonstrate their understanding of historical context and test their ability to think critically about sources assigned in class and take a comprehensive final exam.

Required Books (available at the UWM.ecampus.com virtual bookstore):


*There will also be a small sample of selected readings on the course D2L Website.*
Course Requirements and Grading:

- Participation and attendance in discussion sections (25%)
- Participation and attendance in lecture (10%)
- First paper due 2/28 (15%)
- Second paper due 4/11 (25%)
- Take home final exam due 5/17 (25%)

Course Expectations:

1. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Likewise, participation in class discussions constitutes a key component of this course. Please remain attentive and turn off your cell phones. I also ask you to be respectful to your TA, your classmates, and me.

2. Reading is a necessary element of this course. Comprehension and writing cannot flow without reading the material. You must complete all the assigned readings for each discussion section. In particular, sections are designed to address approaches to reading and using a variety of primary sources. You should read carefully, placing emphasis on themes and historical change. The assessments in this class will feature names, places and dates, but the emphasis will be on your understanding of how things change over time. If you have any difficulty completing or understanding the readings, please tell me. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all readings for the class.

3. Writing also represents an important component of this course. Clear, original, intelligent and coherent writing is a useful skill. This means that academic honesty is essential and plagiarism is totally unacceptable. Citations are required for all papers. Likewise, the paper assignments and exams are not “research” assignments, meaning you should rely solely on assigned course readings and lecture materials.

4. Office hours are provided for you to raise questions and discuss course materials. They also provide the TA and me with an opportunity to assess your progress in the class and suggest improvement.

5. In general, we do not grant extensions on assignments and exams. Exceptions may be made for those on official university business, sporting engagements, or a medical condition, provided we are informed before the event and/or in written form from the relevant authority. All papers must be turned in on time. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS.

6. The course will be available online on D2L. Please visit the site regularly for updates to the syllabus, lecture slides, and information on assignments.

7. This is a three-credit course. As such, I expect students to devote an average of nine hours per week (135 hours over the course of what amounts to a fifteen week semester) attending class, completing assigned readings, and working on or studying for assignments.

8. For university policies concerning students with disabilities, religious observances, students called to military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, complaint procedures, grade appeal procedures, and final exams, go to: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

9. If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.
SEGMENT ONE: EARLY COLONIZING PROCESSES

Week One (1/24 and 1/26): Migration, Contact, and Perception

   NOTE: SECTIONS WILL MEET THIS WEEK

Week Two (1/31 and 2/2): The “New World” and Early Colonializing Processes

   READINGS: Discovering the Global Past, Chapter One (pp. 1-34) AND
   Selected chapters listed below from The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the
   Conquest of Mexico, edited by Miguel Leon-Portilla (ON THE COURSE D2L
   SITE)

   ➢ Chapter Six, “The Gifts of Gold: The God Tezcatlipoca Appears,” (pp. 50-55)
   ➢ Chapter Eight, “The Spaniards Arrive in Tenochtitlan,” (pp. 62-69)

Week Three (2/7 and 2/9): Sugar, Slavery, and the Atlantic World

   READINGS: Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Five (pp. 129-166)

Week Four (2/14 and 2/16): Enlightenment, Race, and Revolution

   READINGS: Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Six (pp. 167-204)

Week Five (2/21 and 2/23): Liberation

   READINGS: None this week (SECTIONS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING PAPER
   EXPECTATIONS)

SEGMENT TWO: MODERNITY

Week Six (2/28 and 3/2): Introducing Modernity

   READINGS: Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Nine (pp. 281-318)
   2/28:  FIRST PAPER DUE BY 2PM ON D2L COURSE SITE DROPBOX
Week Seven (3/7 and 3/9): Industrialization and Nationality

**READINGS:** Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Eight (pp. 242-280)

Week Eight (3/14 and 3/16): Responses to “Formal” Modern Colonial Rule

**READINGS:** Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History, Parts I to III (pp. 1-111)

Week Nine (3/21 and 3/23): SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Week Ten (3/28 and 3/30): Gendered Responses to the “New” Nation

**READINGS:** Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Ten (pp. 319-346)

**SEGMENT THREE: MOBILITY AND MIGRATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Week Eleven (4/4 and 4/6): An End to a “Long” Nineteenth Century

**READINGS:** None this week (SECTIONS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING PAPER EXPECTATIONS)

Week Twelve (4/11 and 4/13): Global War, Depression, and Political Change

**READINGS:** Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Twelve (pp. 368-404)

4/11:  SECOND PAPER DUE BY 2PM ON D2L COURSE SITE DROPBOX

Week Thirteen (4/18 and 4/20): Global War, Depression, and Political Change (cont.)

**READINGS:** Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Eleven (pp. 347-367)

Week Fourteen (4/25 and 4/27): Cold War, Independence, and Decolonization

**READINGS:** Discovering the Global Past, Chapter Thirteen (pp. 405-438)
Week Fifteen (5/2 and 5/4): Protest and Reform

**READINGS:** Selected chapter listed below from *The Hole in the Flag: A Romanian Exile’s Story of Return and Revolution* by Andrei Codrescu (ON THE COURSE D2L SITE)

- “New Year’s 1990 in Bucharest,” (pp. 15-24)
- “Death of a Dictator,” (pp. 25-50)
- “The Revolution is Televised: Seize the Means of Projection!” (pp. 95-111)

Week Sixteen (5/9 and 5/11): “Globalization”

**READINGS:** None this week (SECTIONS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING THE FINAL EXAM)

**FINAL EXAM:** TAKE HOME EXAM DUE ON D2L COURSE SITE DROPBOX BY 2:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th