

History 106.
Twentieth Century World I – 1900-1945.
Section 1 – Autumn Semester 2004.

Course Outline.

1. Instructor Information.

Dr. Steve Koerner.
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2. Intended Learning Outcomes.

Through reading textbooks and primary source materials, hearing faculty lectures, participating in seminars, writing papers, making presentations, and performing tests, students will:

1. Gain an international perspective on critical events, themes and issues of this period, including modernization, westernization, war, revolution and counter-revolution, economic development and barriers to it, economic systems such as capitalism and socialism, ideologies and ideological conflict, national culture and the impact on it of global culture and economics, colonization and decolonisation, technological change and its impact on society, and the human impact on the world environment.
2. Reassess and challenge Western perspectives on critical events and issues during this period.
3. Compare, contrast and integrate Western and non-Western outlooks and perspectives on critical events and issues in this period, such as those mentioned above.

By the end of the course, through exposure to the above material and ideas, the student should be able to:

1. Think critically about historical issues and writing by evaluating the arguments put forward by historians, weighing the evidence they present and making judgements about the strength of their arguments.
2. Appreciate history as a distinct academic discipline, understanding its unique outlook, scope and methods and what distinguishes it from other disciplines.
3. Use history to confront the issues of today's world, establishing a context for the present and comprehending the accomplishments, failures, tensions and issues of the present era.
4. Have increased skills in research, writing and written and oral communication.

3. Required Texts:

Sally Marks, *The Ebbing of European Ascendancy: An International History of the World, 1914-1945*.
James Overfield, *Sources of Twentieth Century Global History*.

4. Course Content and Class Schedule.

The class will be conducted on the basis of a combination of lectures and seminars. During the course we will seminars each class based on the assigned readings from James Overfield's collection of primary sources. The purpose of these sessions is to foster wide ranging critical discussion. The class will be divided into smaller groups, one meeting before and the other after the lecture, in order to facilitate vigorous debate and encourage every student to participate. Each seminar shall have several students assigned to bring 5 questions designed to provoke and sustain discussion. These questions should be sent out, via an e-mail message, no later than 24 hours before the seminar.

Students will be marked based on the quality and frequency of their contributions to the class debate. Please bear in mind that attendance alone does not constitute participation. Students will also be responsible for reading the contextual chapters in the Marks book prior to each class.

Schedule of Lectures and Seminars.

9 September

- **Introduction.**
- **Europe Ascendant – The World in 1900**
- Readings: Marks, Chapter 1.

16 September

- **'Isms' in the early Twentieth Century.**
- **Reading primary Sources.**
- **Seminar: Nationalism and feminism.**
- Readings: Marks, Chapter 2; Overfield, pages xv-xx, 37-43, 50-58.

23 September

- **The Great War.**
- **Seminar – Justifying Imperialism.**
- Readings: Marks, chapter 3, 5 & 6; Overfield, pages 1-20 and 160-176.

30 September

- **The Russian Revolution**
- **Seminar – Why Russia, Why Bolshevism, Why in 1917?**
- Readings: Marks, Chapter 4, Overfield, pages 43-47 and 91-98.

7 October (Document Analysis Assignment Due).

- **East Asia – Rising Japan and Faltering China to 1937.**
- **Seminar: The Dragon at Bay.**
- Readings: Marks, Chapter 10, Overfield, pages 21-24, 39-43, 221-234.

14 October **Zionism, Arab Nationalism and the Middle East to 1945.**

- **Seminar – Creating the Middle East.**
- Readings: Marks, Chapter 9; Overfield, pages 103-105, 195-211.

21 October - **The Peace and the West in the 1920s.**

- **Seminar – Return to 'Normalcy'?**
- Readings: Marks – Chapters 12 & 13, Overfield pages 98-102, 111-119.

- 28 October - **India and the British Empire.**
 - **Seminar – Jewel in the Crown?**
 - Readings: Marks, Chapter 7, Overfield, pages 24-27, 211-218, 277-84.
- 4 November – **Mid-term exam.**
 - Video afterwards.
- 18 November - **The Global Economic Crisis of the 1930s.**
 - **Seminar – Blundering in and out of the Depression.**
 - Reading: Marks, Chapter 14, Overfield, pages 119-126, 135-142.
- 25 November - **The Rise of Fascism and the Descent into War.**
 - **Seminar – The 1930s as the 'Dirty Decade'.**
 - Reading: Marks, Chapter 15, Overfield, pages 126-134, 235-247.
- 2 December - (Article Analysis Assignment Due).
 - **The Second World War in Europe.**
 - **Seminar – Roots of the Cold War**
 - Readings: Marks, Chapters 16 & 17, Overfield pages 248-253, 266-275.
- 9 December - **The Pacific War, the Dawn of the Atomic Age.**
 - **Seminar – The Decision to Drop the Bomb.**
 - Readings: Marks, Chapter 18; Overfield, pages 256-66.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting).

Your final grade will be based on a combination of written work and class participation as listed below. Written assignments will be assessed based on the quality of content, analysis and presentation (including grammar, punctuation and structure).

Seminar participation	20%
Document analysis assignment	20%
Article analysis assignment	20%
Mid-term exam	10%
Final examination	30%
Total	100%

There will be two written assignments due during the course. The first will be a primary source analysis of 3-5 pages. The second will be an article analysis of the same length. More information will be provided about these assignments once class begins. There will be a mid-term exam on 4 November and a final exam at the end of the semester.

6. Grading System. Same as standard.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course. Same as standard.