

**HISTORY 103**  
**WORLD HISTORY 1815-PRESENT**  
**"THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD"**

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Pablo Picasso, "Guernica"

"It is the invisible characters, hovering in obscurity about the edges of the scene, who complicate and thus complete the historical record."

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to introduce you to some of the big themes, broad concepts and crucial events and developments that shaped what we know as the "modern" world. The class is structured chronologically and thematically; key topics to be addressed will include nationalism, colonialism and imperialism, industrialization, technological and environmental change and the interpenetration of diverse cultures and political systems. Beginning with a brief consideration of the "early" modern world, we will explore how ideas, practices, beliefs and humans traveled across a global circuitry and, along with technologies and products, transformed existing social, political and economic structures.

Be prepared to challenge yourself and to critique the narratives of European and "Western" dominance with which you may be familiar.

Using case studies and examples from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, we will look more carefully at how different regions were brought into sustained contact and how the nature of that contact and the power relationships it produced (or altered) shaped the modern world .

Because the amount of material to be covered is vast and therefore daunting while the time we have together is brief, the focus will be on "big" questions. This will require the sacrifice of detail, and some regions and countries will receive more attention than others. We can compensate for the disadvantages of this approach--which is that some interesting and important details will get lost--by paying more careful attention to larger patterns that we might otherwise have missed. And we will not entirely abandon detail, since an important part of this course involves taking seriously how "ordinary" people experienced the dramatic upheavals of the 19th and 20th centuries which we will accomplish by reading and discussing primary sources such as memoirs, two graphic novels and a work of literary fiction.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students who successfully complete this class will be able to:

- Identify and describe key events, turning points, persons, and places in modern world history;
- Develop an understanding of history as a discipline, learn to think chronologically and recognize the operation of multiple perspectives in the crafting of historical knowledge;
- Identify, describe and analyze relationships between broader trends and developments and discrete events;
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources and cultivate an awareness of how historians use sources to arrive at conclusions about past experience;
- Cultivate the historian's craft of empathy and respect for our predecessors;
- Read critically and analytically; and
- Write clear expository prose.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** (Available at CWU Bookstore)

1. Robert W. Strayer, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*. Volume 2: Since 1500

**Students should also purchase any TWO of the following:**

1. Art Spiegelman. *Maus I*
2. Keiji Nakazawa *Barefoot Gen Volume 3: Life After The Bomb*
3. Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*
4. Kiran Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Primary Source Analyses (2@15%)	30%
Group Presentation	15%
Class Participation	15%

\*\*\*Notwithstanding the foregoing, you MUST complete each of the requirements listed above to earn a passing grade in the course.

**ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS**

**Examinations.** There will be two in-class, closed-book exams, both of which will combine essays and identifications. You will receive a study guide one week prior to the exams from which the essay questions and identification terms will be chosen. See course calendar for dates.

**Primary Source Analysis.** Your core writing assignments will consist of two 3-4 page essays in each of which you will analyze **one** of the assigned primary sources in depth. A more detailed description of this assignment will be posted to the Blackboard Site under the "Assignments" Tab.

**Group Presentation.** Working as a group, students will prepare a presentation on one of the two regional accounts (novels/memoirs) in which they engage the class by showing how the reading they have selected illustrates one of the core themes or issues that animates the

course as a whole. Students will sign up in the second week of class and are required to meet with me at least once to discuss how they plan to proceed. The presentations will be scheduled throughout the last half of the term and should be timed to take up the full class meeting (approximately 45-50 minutes). This can include time budgeted for questions and answers. See course schedule for information on when presentations will take place. Your individual contributions to this are worth 15% of your total course grade

**Class Participation.** Given the challenging nature of the material, consistent attendance and constructive participation are essential to your success in this course. I use a variety of methods to assess the quality of your participation, which may include random questions to determine how you are managing the reading and staging in-class discussions and debates. You are expected to contribute to all discussions. A detailed description of how I assess your contributions can be found on Blackboard under the Assignments Tab.

**ADA Statement:** Students with disabilities who require academic adjustments in this class need to 1) ensure that I receive, **electronically**, notification of your "Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments" from the Center for Disability Services and 2) meet with me immediately to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented. Students with disabilities who have not yet arranged to have the form sent electronically must contact the Center for Disability Services immediately. The address is Bouillon 205, email: [dssrecept@cwu.edu](mailto:dssrecept@cwu.edu), phone: 963-2171, web site <http://www.cwu.edu/~dss>



***Schedule of Lecture Topics, Readings and Assignments***

[The following is a statement of my current intentions; I reserve the right to make alterations as necessary.]

**WEEK 1**

READ: Strayer, pp 697-698 and 770-805 (Part V, Chapter 17)

Skim primary sources on pages 806-823

Course Introduction: The Making of the Modern World.

Lecture Topics: Enlightenment; Liberal Revolutions in the Atlantic World  
Film: *Danton*

**WEEK 2**

READ: Strayer, Chapter 18

Lecture Topics: Atlantic Revolutions; Nationalism and the nation-state; Industrialization

**WEEK 3**

READ: Strayer, Chapter 19

Lecture Topics: Early Imperial Expansion in Asia

**Friday: Primary Source Analysis Workshop**

**WEEK 4**

READ: Strayer, Chapter 20

Lecture Topics: The Age of High Imperialism in Asia and Africa; the Mexican Revolution of 1910

**Primary Source Analysis #1 due.**

**WEEK 5**

READ: Strayer, pp. 969-985 (Part VI)

Lecture Topics: The Great War, Global Depression  
Film: *Gallipoli*

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**WEEK 6**

READ: Strayer, pp. 985-1009 (Chapter 21)

Lecture Topics: Rise of Fascism, WWII, the Nuclear World.

**Student Presentations on *Maus* and *Barefoot Gen, Vol. 3***

Film: *Black Rain* (dir. Shohei Imamura, 123 min), 1989.

**WEEK 7**

READ: Strayer, Chapter 22

Lecture Topics: The Cold War and the "bi-polar" world—Iran, Guatemala, Vietnam and Chile

Film: *Nostalgia for the Light* (Dir. Patricio Guzmán, 90 min.), 2011

**WEEK 8**

READ: Strayer, Chapter 23

Lecture Topics: Decolonization and Development in the Global South

Film: *Life and Debt*

**Student Presentations on *A Small Place***

**WEEK 9**

READ: Strayer, Chapter 24

Lecture Topics: Postcolonialism/Globalization

**Student Presentations on *The Inheritance of Loss***

**Primary Source Analysis #2 due \_\_\_\_\_**

**WEEK 10**

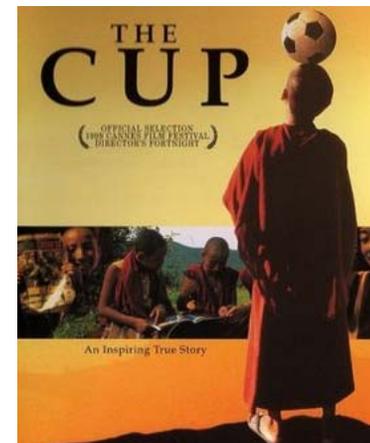
NO READING ASSIGNED FOR THIS WEEK

Lecture Topics: Globalization--Problems and Prospects

Film: *The Cup/Phörpa* (Dir. Khyentse Norbu, 93 minutes)

**FINAL EXAMINATION \_\_\_\_\_**

**BRING EXAM BOOKS!**





*Waltz with Bashir*

## THE FINE PRINT: COURSE POLICIES

**1) Plagiarism.** Ironically, the Internet has led to an increase in the incidence of plagiarism while making it much easier to detect. Plagiarism is a serious offense. It is intellectual theft and ranges from using the words or ideas of others without proper attribution (i.e. failing to cite the source and give credit where credit is due) to wholesale copying and turning in work that is not your own. If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please come see me. Please **do not consider it**. Sanctions range from receiving a grade of "F" in the course to being dismissed from the University.

**2) Please do not bring your laptop computer to class. The use of laptop computers and other electronic devices impairs your ability to listen carefully, contribute to discussion and interact with other members of the class. Please turn OFF all other electronics before class begins. This extends to PDAs, cell phones, camera phones, Blackberries, iphones, ipods, ipads, MP3 players, gaming devices, recording devices and whatever else the industry invents between now and the final day of class. [NB: This policy does not apply to students with CDS Accommodations who require assistive learning devices nor to students working as paid note-takers for said students.]**

**3) Grading Policy and Academic Standards.** For a detailed description of the standards I use to assess your work and calculate your grades, see the document titled "Assessment Standards" under the "Assignments" tab on the Blackboard site for this course.

**4) Attendance.** Your consistent attendance and constructive participation are mandatory and integral to your success in this course. Missing five class meetings over the course of the term will result in your final course grade being lowered one full letter grade. Students who miss ten class meetings will automatically fail this course. If you fall severely ill or have a bona fide emergency, you need to provide me with professional documentation.

**5) Absences and Exam Policy.** There are two examinations scheduled and they will be given once and only once on the dates specified in the schedule. Do not make airline reservations, travel plans or commitments that conflict with those dates.

**6) Late Policy and email.** You have two formal writing assignments in this class. Papers turned in after the dates specified on the course schedule will be penalized one full grade for each day past the due date, and I will not accept any papers after Monday, March 7th. I will not accept papers submitted via email **under any circumstances**.

**6) Blackboard (Bb).** I will be using the Blackboard system to communicate with you via email and to post documents and announcements throughout the term. **Check your cwu email account daily!** I will notify you when new items have been posted to the site. Items which will be available soon include:

- A. Course Syllabus
- B. Tips for Success
- C. Assessment Standards
- D. Basic Elements of a Good Composition
- E. Discussion Participation Guidelines
- F. Approaching Primary Sources

**7) Citizenship and Academic Code of Conduct.** Citizenship consists of each student's recognition that they have an obligation to treat each other, and me, with respect. This includes coming to class on time, remaining in class until the end of lecture, listening carefully, **taking notes during lectures**, turning off and stowing away **ALL** electronic devices prior to entering the class, and making meaningful contributions to group discussions. I believe that learning is a collaborative and cooperative process, but effective learning requires that we work together to create a harmonious and pleasant environment in which we can

engage each other in a respectful manner. Students in violation of the Academic Code of Conduct will be dismissed from the course.

**8) Reading.** Disciplines in the Social Science and Humanities tend to be reading intensive. This is an introductory class and the reading load is light. I expect you to have done the week's reading PRIOR to class, since it provides necessary context and background for the lectures.

**9) Writing.** If you need help with writing mechanics (sentence and paragraph structure, coherence, formulating a thesis, grammar, syntax, etc.) please make an appointment at the Writing Center. Make an appointment at 963-1296 or see their website at [www.cwu.edu/~writingcenter/](http://www.cwu.edu/~writingcenter/) for more information.



Sebastião Salgado, Serra Pelada Gold Mine, Brazil

“Ages and generations never have the right to be the judges of all previous ages and generations; only to the rarest men in them can that difficult mission fall. Who compels you to judge? If it is your wish – you must prove first that you are capable of justice. As judges, you must stand higher than that which is to be judged; as it is, you have only come later.”

Friedrich Nietzsche