
THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD in Spring 2021 (HI1003)

Course Code	HI1003	Professor(s)	Albert Wu
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-008
Class Schedule	F: 13:45-15:05 in C-102 T: 09:00-10:20 in C-102	Office Hours	T 14h30-16h30
Credits	4	Email	awu@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	705

Course Description

Beginning with the bipolar world of the Cold War, focuses on ideological struggles of the West, East, and Third World and the reactions of nations to the politics of the superpowers. Topics range from decolonization to the rise of the new Asia, African independence, the reemergence of the Muslim world, the collapse of communism, globalization and clash of world cultures.

Course Learning Outcomes

Different approaches to studying history, ranging from cultural, intellectual, social, and political movements

How to think of our contemporary world globally, spatially, and chronologically

To analyse, critique and interpret both secondary and primary sources, through individual reading and writing and through group seminar discussion

Local and Global Perspectives: Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate. (LO1CCI)

Exploring and Engaging Difference: Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class. (LO3CCI)

Civic and Ethical Engagement: Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical considerations relating to specific societal problems, values, or practices (historical or contemporary; global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become engaged actors at various levels in our interconnected world. (LO4CCI)

General Education

Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC):

This course can be used to fulfill the Integrative Inquiry requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

- *Local and Global Perspectives*: You will enhance your intercultural understanding of languages, cultures and the histories of local societies, and the global issues to which these relate.
- *Exploring and Engaging Difference*: You will think critically about cultural and social difference. You will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities relating to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion or class.
- *Civic and Ethical Engagement*: You will demonstrate awareness of ethical considerations relating to specific societal problems, values or practices (whether historical or contemporary, global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become an engaged actor across various levels of our interconnected world.

Course Outline

Week I 1/21

Monday - Session I

TOPICS Orientations / World War II

READINGS

Thursday - Session II

TOPICS The End of the War and the Origins of U. S. Power

READINGS Stimson, "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb"; Hersey, "Hiroshima" Selections.

January 27 / Last Day to Add/Drop

Week II 1/28

Monday

TOPICS Victor's Justice?

READINGS John Dower, "Victor's Justice, Loser's Justice."

Thursday

TOPICS The Origins of the "Cold War"

READINGS Kennan, "Long Telegram"; Churchill, "Iron Curtain Speech."

Week III 2/4

Monday

TOPICS Decolonization and Southeast Asia

READINGS Tan Malaka, *Gerpolek*.

Thursday

TOPICS Decolonization, Partition, and India

READINGS Nehru, *Glimpses of World History*.

Week IV - 2/11

Monday

TOPICS Decolonization, Partition, and the Middle East:

READINGS

Thursday

TOPICS "Third Worldism"

READINGS Sukarno, Speech at the Opening of the Bandung Conference

First 3-5 Page Short Source Analysis Due

Week V – 2/18

Monday

TOPICS Decolonization: Algeria

READINGS Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

Thursday

TOPICS Decolonization

READINGS Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

Peer Review due via Peergrade.io

Week VI - 2/25

Monday

TOPICS Battle for Algiers

READINGS Watch Battle for Algiers

Thursday

TOPICS Battle for Algiers

READINGS Watch Battle for Algiers

SPRING BREAK!!

Week VII - 3/18

Monday

TOPICS The Global 1960s: Civil Rights

READINGS King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

Thursday

TOPICS The Global 1960s: Feminism

READINGS Friedan, *Feminine Mystique*, selections.

Midterm Due

Week VIII – 3/25

Monday

TOPICS The Global 1960s: 1968

READINGS SDS Port Huron Statement; Prague Spring; May 1968

Thursday

TOPICS The Global 1960s: The Vietnam War Movement

READINGS Le Ly Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*

Week IX - 4/1

Monday

TOPICS The Chinese Cultural Revolution

READINGS Ji Xianlin, *The Cowshed*

Thursday

TOPICS The Chinese Cultural Revolution

READINGS Ji Xianlin, *The Cowshed*

Second 3-5 Page Short Source Analysis

Week X - 4/8

Monday

TOPICS The Iranian Revolution

READINGS Marjane Strapani, *Persepolis*

Thursday

TOPICS The Iranian Revolution

READINGS Marjane Strapani, *Persepolis*

Second Peer Review Due

Choose Book for Final Book Review Project

Week XI 4/15

Monday

TOPICS Central America and the Limits on American Power

READINGS *I, Rigoberta Menchu*

Thursday

TOPICS Central America and the Limits on American Power

READINGS *I, Rigoberta Menchu*

Week XII 4/22

Monday

TOPICS The End of the Cold War

READINGS Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless."

Thursday

TOPICS The Return of History

READINGS Lawrence Wright, *Looming Tower*

Week XIII 4/29

Monday

TOPICS The Return of History

READINGS Lawrence Wright, *Looming Tower*

Thursday

TOPICS The 2008 Financial Crisis

READINGS Martin Wolf, *The Shifts and the Shocks*, excerpts.

Week XIV 5/6

Monday

TOPICS Global Populism

READINGS Jan Werner Müller, *What is Populism*, excerpts.

May 8th, last day of classes, May 9th -12th, reading days

May 13 Final Exam 8:30

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

Participation (Attendance, Quizzes, Participation in Discussions) 20%

Reading Journal 20%

- For each class, choose one quote from the reading and respond with three to five sentences. These sentences should reflect your own thoughts and attention to elegant, concise prose. Some suggestions: Choose a quote (one to three sentences) that is surprising, thought-provoking, or that inspires comparisons with other countries or contemporary situations. Can you connect an idea to your own experiences, to a different time period, or to another work that we have read? What words, images, or examples does the writer use to convey his argument? At the beginning of each class, you will share your sentences with another person in class, and I may ask you to read your sentences aloud. Please keep your reading journal together in a notebook or folder. If you choose to handwrite, make sure the writing is legible.

Short 3-5 Page Source Analyses -- 10 %

Peer Review Assignment -- 5%

Mid-Term Exam – 15%

Final Paper (5-8 page Book Review Assignment) 15%

Final Exam 15%

Other
