

HIST 112-5: *The Modern World*

Spring Semester 2019

Instructor:	David Stenner
CRN/Section:	8294
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Office hours:	Tuesday 13:30-14:30 & 16:30-17:30 Wednesday 9:30-10:15 Thursday 13:30-14:45
Class days and times:	TR 11:00-12:15
Classroom:	MCM 112

Course Description: This is a course in the history of the world that will highlight eight themes: the Enlightenment and the rise of the “modern;” global formations of capitalism and industrialism; Empire and state-formation; science, progress, and racism; warfare and technopolitics; the rival ideologies of liberalism, fascism, and communism; Third World nationalism, decolonization and revolutionary struggles; and globalization. In particular, the course appreciates the role of non-Europeans in the making of the modern world and will encourage students to think historically about global structures of inequality. Our focus will be on modernity as a process of *creative destruction*. In order to do so, we will not only study the written word, but also analyze photos, paintings, and movies. We will begin with the global world of the 18th century and end with contemporary warfare and the Occupy Wall Street movement. The emphasis will be on understanding conceptual connections across multiple societies rather than comprehensive coverage.

Required Books:

Robert Tignor et. al., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World, 1750-Present* (4th edition, ISBN: 9780393922127)

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Domitila Barrios de Chungara with Moema Viezzer, *Let me speak—Domitila, Testimony of Domitila, A Woman of the Bolivian Mines*

Readings available through the course website [CW]

Assignments: Students will be graded as follows:

15% Essay #1 (due on 16 February @ 19:00)

35% Essay #2 (due on 23 April @ 13:30)

20% Online Exam (4 April, starts @ 11:00 and ends @ 12:15)

30% In-class readings responses

Grading Scale: A=93-100, A-=90-92.99, B+=87-89.99, B=83-86.99, B-=80-82.99, C+=77-79.99, C=73-76.99, C-=70-72.99, D+=67-69.99, D=63-66.99, D-=60-62.99

Week 1: Enlightenment & Modernity

1/8: Course Introduction - What is modernity?

1/10: The Enlightenment

Readings:

P. Hyland (ed.), *The Enlightenment – A sourcebook and reader* [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 535-542 [CW]

Week 2: “All that is Solid Melts into Air:” Genealogies of Capitalist Modernity

1/15: Industrializing Europe

1/17: Sugar

Readings:

K. Marx, *Estranged Labor* (1844) [CW]

W. Fox, *An Address to the People of Great Britain on the Utility of Refraining from the Use of West India Sugar and Rum* (1791) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 573-583

Week 3: “Enlightened” Revolutions

1/22: French Revolution

1/24: Haitian Revolution

Film Clip: *Bitter Cane*, dir. J. Arcelin (1983)

Readings:

L. Hunt (ed.), *The French Revolution and Human rights* (excerpts) [CW]

A. Grégoire, *Letter to the Citizens of Color and Free Negroes of Saint-Domingue* (1791) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 554-573

Week 4: “Moral and Material Improvement:” Colonialism and Civilizing Missions

1/29: British Liberalism, India, and Horror: The Cases of Hook-Swinging

1/31: The Sepoy Rebellion

Film Clips: *Pandey: The Rising*, dir. Ketan Mehta (2005)

Readings:

E. Burke, *Speech on Mr. Fox’s East India Bill* (1783) [CW]

T. B. Macaulay, *Minute on Indian Education* (1835) [CW]

J.S. Mills, *On Liberty* (1859) [CW]

R. Kipling, *The White Man’s Burden* (1899) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 583-641

Week 5: Railroad and Steamboat: Twins of progress

2/5: Railroads: “Chariots of Civilization”

Film Clip: CNN’s *Millennium – The 19th century, Century of the Machine* (1999)

2/7: Rubber Trade: Belgian Congo

Film Clip: *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*, dir. P. Bate (2003)

Readings:

B. Harlow ed., *Archives of Empire: The Congo* [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 642-663

Week 6: Drugs, Race & Trade

2/12: The Opium Trade: Britain, China and India

Film Clip: *The Opium War*, dir. Xie Jin (1997)

2/14: Race, Racism, and Science

Readings:

L. Zexu, *Letter to Queen Victoria* (1839)

T. Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1826)

J. Jackson, Jr. and N. Weidman (eds.) *Race, Racism, and Science* (excerpts) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 668-679 & 692-701

Week 7: Revolutionizing the World, Weaponizing Life

2/19: Mass Culture and Mass Production

Film clip: *Metropolis*, dir. Fritz Lang (1927)

2/21: Gas! – Life in the Trenches

Film Clip: *All Quiet on the Western Front*, dir. L. Milestone (1930)

Readings:

E. M. Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 679-688 & 704-718

Week 8: The End of Liberalism?

2/26: The Russian Revolution

Film Clip: *Battleship Potemkin*, dir. Sergei Eisenstein (1925)

2/28: Global Art in an Age of Rupture

Readings:

V. Lenin, *Bourgeois and Proletarian Democracy* (1918) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 688-692 & 718-724

F. Marinetti, *Futurist Manifesto* (1909) [CW]

T. Tzara, *Dada Manifesto* (1918) [CW]

Week 9: Mass Politics and World War II

3/12: The Aesthetics of Fascism

Film Clip: *Triumph of the Will*, dir. Leni Riefenstahl (1935)

3/14: Hitler's Empire

Film Clip: *Night and Fog*, dir. Alain Resnais (1956)

Readings:

P. Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (1947)

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 724-739

Week 10: Postwar Struggles, Cold War Fronts

3/19: A New World Order

3/21: Decolonization

Readings:

A. Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (1955) [CW]

M.L. King, *Letters from a Birmingham Jail* (1963) [CW]

Black Panther Party, *The Ten Point Program* (1966) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 742-756 & 760-774

Week 11: Cold War Latin America

3/26: The Cuban Revolution

Film Clip: *The Godfather II*, dir. Francis F. Coppola (1972)

3/28: Resisting Exploitation and Imperialism

Film Clip: *The Forgotten Revolution*, dir. Glenn Gebhard (2015)

Readings:

D. Barrios de Chungara, *Let me speak – Domitila, Testimony of Domitila, A Woman of the Bolivian Mine* (1978), pp. 15-104 & 112-165

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 775-781

Week 12: Markets as “Freedom”

4/2: Neoliberal Hegemony

4/4: **ONLINE EXAM**

Readings:

N. Klein, *The Shock Doctrine*, chs. 3-4 (2008) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 785-821

B. Hanna et. al. (eds), *The Bhopal Reader* (2005) [CW]

Week 13: The Post-Modern Age

4/9: From State-Control to Corporate Rule

Film clip: *The Corporation*, dir. M. Achbar and J. Abbott (2003)

4/11: Liquid Modernity

Readings:

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* (2015) [CW]

Subcomandante Marcos, *The Fourth World War Has Begun* (1997) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 785-821

Week 14: War & Protest

4/16: Drones

4/18: A Global Uprising: From Istanbul to Rio de Janeiro

Readings:

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, "Memo: Additional Information about Blackwater USA." October 2007. [CW]

Citibank, *Plutonomy Symposium* (2006) [CW]

S. Hessel, *Indignez-vous!* (2010) [CW]

R. Tignor et al., *Worlds Together*, pp. 824-847