

# Syllabus

WORLD HISTORY 1500–PRESENT  
HIST 112 WILSON FALL 2009

## HIST 112: WORLD HISTORY FROM 1500 TO THE PRESENT

#1519 / Section 001

T, F 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Room HW 507

Office Hours

T only 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Room HW 1545

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The transition from relatively isolated individual cultures to an interrelated global network; the impact of the democratic and scientific revolutions; the development of nationalism and internationalism among the nations of the world.

This course is also about the shaping of the modern world—the events and movements that created our world. We are looking at how and why the world we know—the modern world around us—has developed the way it has over the last few centuries. Our experiences take on new meanings in a global context.

## CONTACT INFO

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HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Office: Room HW 1512

Phone: (212) 772-5480

Web: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/history/>

I have a mail box in the history dept. you can use to drop off assignments.

- ▶ Do not hesitate to email me with any question.
- ▶ If you email course requirements to me, it doesn't "count" unless you get a reply from me. We both need to know the email was received. If you don't get a reply from me, resend the email.

## MATERIALS

Tignor, R. L. (2008). *Worlds together, worlds apart: A history of the world from the beginnings of humankind to the present*. (2nd. ed., vol. 2). New York: W. W. Norton. ISBN 0-393-92549-8.

\*Achebe, C. (1996). *Things fall apart*. Oxford: Heinemann Educational. ISBN 0-435-90525-2.

\*Azuela, M. (1996). *The underdogs: A novel of the Mexican Revolution*. New York: Signet. ISBN 0-451-52625-2.

## AVAILABILITY

These books are available new and used from:

- ▶ The Hunter Bookstore in West Building,
- ▶ Shakespeare & Co., 939 Lex. Ave., betw. 68th and 69th, and
- ▶ Online bookstores — links are on the web site.

\* The two short novels are both available in several versions from different publishers. You may use any (complete) version.



## **COURSE GRADE**

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Your grade will be based on these components (details on each will be discussed shortly):

- ▶ Quizzes: 15%
- ▶ Primary Source Papers: 5% each
- ▶ Research Project: 20%
- ▶ Midterm: 20%
- ▶ Final: 35%

### *A NOTE ON GRADING*

In this course, you should know that “A” does not mean average. “C” means average, and average work will get a C. Higher grades are reserved for work that is above average (B) and exceptional (A).

I do not grade on a curve, accept independent extra-credit work, or give incompletes.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

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- ▶ I expect you to arrive on time and prepared for class. By prepared, I mean that you’ve done the readings and you’re ready to talk about your reactions to them and the questions they raised in your mind.
- ▶ Class attendance is mandatory; missing classes will damage your grade. You are expected to participate in discussions by raising questions and ideas as well as answering questions.
- ▶ Cell phones and all other electronic equipment must be kept *stowed and off* during class meetings.
- ▶ Make note of deadlines. Late submissions will be downgraded a full letter grade for every class meeting they are late.
- ▶ Missed quizzes are not made up. Exams are made up for emergencies only at my discretion.
- ▶ Plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and/or the course. (See “Academic Honesty,” below.)
- ▶ Please get an email account if you do not have one. Check it regularly; I give updates and info by email.
- ▶ If you are struggling or concerned, come to me early before it’s too late to turn things around.

### *ACADEMIC DISHONESTY*

Academic dishonesty of any type, including cheating and plagiarism, is unacceptable at Hunter College. Cheating is any misrepresentation in academic work. Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s work, words, or ideas as your own. Students should consult the Hunter College Student Handbook for a fuller, more specific discussion of related academic integrity standards. Academic dishonesty is punishable by failure of the test, examination, term paper, or other assignment on which cheating occurred. In addition, disciplinary proceedings in cases of academic dishonesty may result in penalties of admonition, warning, censure, disciplinary probation, restitution, suspension, expulsion, complaint to authorities, or ejection.

### *STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES*

Students with disabilities who need individual accommodations in order to participate more fully in college programs or services should contact the Office of AccessABILITY, Room 1214B East Building (telephone: 212-772-4857). The Office of AccessABILITY serves as the primary program for assisting students with disabilities to integrate successfully into the Brooklyn College community and for making determinations of what will constitute appropriate academic adjustments. For more email AccessABILITY@hunter.cuny.edu or visit <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/student-services/access/>.

## COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE

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### (1) QUIZZES

We will have occasional, very brief, five-minute quizzes to help gauge our relationship with the material in the readings and discussions. Quizzes are ALWAYS based on the readings due for that class meeting (even if I'm behind the syllabus). Therefore you should always do the assigned readings for that day.

### (2) EXAMS

The first half of the course culminates in a midterm. At the end there will be a comprehensive final. All course material will be relevant to the final. The College schedules the final exam and I cannot reschedule it for any reason, so note the date and time when they are announced and make your travel and work plans accordingly. Study aids to help you review and sample questions will be available before exams.

### (3) TWO PRIMARY SOURCE ESSAYS

For both of the short novels assigned for this course, you will write an essay relating the events depicted in the story to the world events against which they are set. Details of these assignments will be distributed later.

- ▶ **YOU WILL TURN IN:** Two essays, one for each of the short novels.

### (4) RESEARCH PROJECT

You will write a 5–7 page position paper, based on research you've done to answer one of a number of historical questions.

The most important part of this assignment is for you to:

- ▶ Develop a thesis, that is, a position that someone could disagree with, and then
- ▶ Convince the reader or the listener of your position using both (a) your own reasoning and analysis and (b) the facts and ideas you discover from your research.

Requirements and available topics will be distributed in a separate handout.

An optional draft may be submitted by the due date specified on the schedule. This is a chance for you to get guidance from me on the direction you're taking. Drafts turned in on time earn an extra 5 points on top of the grade for the project.

- ▶ **YOU WILL TURN IN:**
  - A proposal (an initial bibliography and basic outline);
  - A preliminary draft (optional); and
  - Your final paper.