

Grande Prairie Regional College  
Department of Arts and Education  
HI1120 TC: Modern World History  
Instructor: Duff W Crerar, PhD.

Winter 2009

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Time: Monday, 11:30-1:00; Friday, 10-11:30

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**Introduction:** The course is an introduction to global history, covering the major political, cultural, intellectual and economic development of the world from 1815 to 2008. Its goal is to provide a foundation for advanced study in history and related disciplines. Students will encounter a variety of historical documents, critical issues for investigation, and research methods, as well as construct and write their own critical and research essays. Keeping caught up with the readings and consistent attendance is essential for success in this course. Students will also acquire better research and essay writing skills by paying close attention to both the written and spoken comments made on their writing, and applying them to the craft of the historical writer.

**Transfer:** UofA, UC , UL, AU, AF, CUC, KUC Other

Text: Armesto, Felipe, *The World: A History*, Vol. II. (Prentice Hall, Pearson 2007)

NB: There is also a Student's Guide to History writing available from Oxford U. Press. If you don't have one of these on your shelves by now, I recommend you pick up this one now.

**Outline:** (Page references are for *The World: A History*, unless otherwise noted.)

9 January: Transitions and Portents

12 January: People, Food, Fat and Industry and War (771-789)

16 January: Industrialization: Blessing and Curse (789-807)

19 January: Workers, Cities, Farmers and Miners (809-824)

23 January: Labour: Exploitation and Protest (825-841)

26 January: Imperialism, Gunboats and Gatling Guns (843-860)

30 January: Imperialism: The Sense of Power (860-875)

2 February: Nationalism, Constitutionalism and Militarism (878-893)

6 February: Militant Identities: Religion, Political Radicalism (893-913)

**NB: Article Review Due**

9 February: The New Science and the Decline of Certainty (917-939)

13 February: Social Science, and its Rivals (939-951)

**Research Proposal Due!!**

**16-22: Family Day and Reading Week**

23 February: **Mid Term Test!!!**

27 February TBA

2 March: Deadliest Century, Part I (953-968)

6 March: February: Deadliest Century, Part II (968-969)

9 March: Totalitarianism (969-979)

13 March: Decolonization and the New World Order (979-991)

16 March: The Hell of Utopianism (993-1011)

**p.s.:** last day to withdraw without failing the course! Not that you want to, right?

20 March: Globalization: the new Utopia (1011-1023)

**NB: Research Essay Due!**

23 March: Home World at its Limits (1025-1040)

27 March: Plagues and Rumours of Plagues (1041-1051)

30 March: Human Security: the Dilemma

2 April: Human Security: Failures

6 April: Hope

13 April: The Wrap

16 April-27 April: Exam period. Our Exam TBA

### **Requirements and Grading:**

Mid-term Test: written in class	20
Historical Article Review	20
Major Research Essay (approximately 2000 words)	30
Final Exam: written in April during exam sessions	30

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**Warning:** Late assignments will be penalized *heavily*. You will be given 5 coupons (better known as “Duff Bucks” at the beginning of term. **Each** one counts for 1 Day extension. You can use them any time. **You cannot earn or receive any more!** Get it?

**Article Review Essay:** You will find in the Library a variety of historical periodicals (academic magazines or journals) filled with articles on a wide variety of topics in the history of the planet. Choose ONE of these articles (on a topic AFTER 1800) and submit a ten-page, double-spaced, typed critical analysis of the thesis, argument and use of evidence by the historian who wrote the article. Your paper should identify the historical problem, its key elements, and how this

historian improves our knowledge of that problem. You also should include why or why not you would recommend that I suggest this article to future students for their research essays. I must have assignments handed in on time, **or else I will not provide a mark for this part of the course**. So take this very seriously: it's worth 20% of your final grade.

***Research Paper:***

There are plenty of cold cases to solve in the court of History. Every scholar wants to solve one. Your mission is to identify some important controversy or issue on which you want to understand, then research and write your own results in the form of an essay. To do this you will need to read and make good notes on ***at least 5 authors*** (historical books or peer-reviewed articles). You will need to come up with some background, how perhaps some other historians have offered their solutions, and how your proposition (your THESIS), backed by your research, relates or not to their work. Or you may simply decide (and PROVE) that one or more historians already have demonstrated an adequate solution, and you will defend them from other critics who have attacked their thesis. You must have your topic proposal, a sample bibliography and a working hypothesis ready for my approval. ***No essay will be accepted without my pre-approval!***