

Grande Prairie Regional College
Dept. of Arts, Commerce and Education
HI120: The Modern World (3 Credits)
Section: A

Winter, 2004

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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 the present. Its goal is to provide a foundation for advanced study in history and related disciplines. Students will encounter a variety of historical documents (including original sources), critical issues for investigation, and research methods, as well as construct and write their own critical and research essays.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 as acquire better research and essay writing skills by paying close attention to both the written and spoken comments on this subject, and applying them to the craft of academic writing.

Texts: [Check the GPRC Bookstore]

Brummett, Edgar, Hackett, etc., **Civilization: Past and Present, Vol. 2: from 1300**. Tenth Edition: Longman, 2003. (this is a NEW text). It is packaged with Marius and Page's, **Short Guide to Writing About History**, a valuable guide to understanding both historical research and writing. You will be using **both** texts on a regular and frequent basis.

Course Outline: *(page references are to Brummett, unless otherwise noted)*

January 6: Revolutionary Legacies (pp. 637-651)

8: Liberalism or Nationalism? (pp. 671-665; also *Short Guide*, pp. 1-15)

January 13: Europe: Age of the Middle Class -- and the Masses (pp. 667-680)

15: Machines or People? (pp. 680-691; also *Short Guide*, pp. 16-57)

January 20: Imperial Africa (pp.693-708; also *Short Guide* pp. 57-84; 209-220)

22: Middle East and Empire (pp. 708-725)

January 27: Old Empires in the Far East (pp. 727-739; also *Short Guide*, pp. 85-114)

- 29: New Imperialists: Japan and America (pp. 739-752)
- February 3: Marching as to War (pp. 752-773)
 5: The Mighty Continent Falter (pp. 774-794; *also Short Guide, pp. 114-153*)
- February 10: Counting the Costs (pp. 794-813)
 12: Democracy in Crisis (815-843)
- February 16-22: READING WEEK**
- February 24: Nationalism East of Suez (pp. 844-858; *also Short Guide, pp. 153-192*)
 26: Arabs and Africans Arise (pp. 858-879)
- March 2: Peace at Any Price (pp. 881-893)
 4: Hell let Loose (pp. 893-907; *also Short Guide, pp. 193-208*)
- March 9: **Mid-Term Test!**
 11: Cold Wars (pp. 911-933)
- March 16: New Global Trends (pp. 935-942)
 18: The Next Empire (pp. 942-947)
- March 23: Western Europe - Relevant? (pp. 947-959)
NBBB: Last day to accept Research Papers! (Without my permission, that is!)
 25: Eastern Europe - Escaping From History? (pp. 959-967)
- March 30: Militant Islamic World (pp. 969-982)
 April 1: Africa: Still the Dark Continent (pp. 982-995)
- April 6: Latin America: Escape from Tyranny? (pp. 993-1003)
 8: Pacific Power (1005-1019)
- April 13: Central Asia: New World Battleground? Pp. 1019-1028)
 15: Review and Wrap-up

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%

Warning: Late assignments will be penalized *heavily* for each week they are late unless there is a compelling written reason.

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 (from the time period and the regions of the planet which we cover in the course) 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 whether or not I should 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:

History has plenty of mysteries. Every scholar wants to solve at least one of them and try to understand that part of the past more completely. Your mission is to identify some topic of interest, the key mystery or controversy that confronts you about it, and to research and write your own solution in the form of an essay. To do this you will need to read and make good notes on **at least 5** historical books or articles, as well as other sources your professor may suggest. You will need to come up with some background on the mystery, how perhaps some other historians have offered their solutions, and how your proposition (your THESIS), backed by your research, improves on theirs. 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, handed in on the Wednesday class of THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY! **No essay will be accepted without my pre-approval!**