

Course Outline: War, Revolution, and Society in the Twentieth Century

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

AP/HISTORY 1010 6.0A

Course Description

In this course we explore the most violent century in human history. We will pay special attention to the two defining wars of the 20th century, World Wars I and II, and we also aim to contextualize and understand the world-changing revolutions in Russia, China and Latin America. We will discuss the crucial development of colonialism and the consequences of decolonization, the impact of the Cold War, and the roots of horrific genocides such as the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, and the Killing Fields of Cambodia. We will also explore the ways in which societies have sought to deal with the impact of the traumas they have faced and discuss how concepts of human rights have developed and changed as a result of the horrors of the twentieth century.

As we learn about the major social, political, and economic upheavals of the twentieth century, we will also hone our historical skills, with an emphasis on reading primary and secondary materials, learning the basics of historical research, and preparing essays and other written assignments.

Course Delivery

LECT

This course is structured as follows: There are two lectures per week, each on a different topic, and a one-hour tutorial that you will have with 24 fellow students and a Teaching Assistant who has expertise in the course subject matter. Attendance is mandatory for both lectures and tutorials. All of the meetings are in person unless otherwise stated for a particular week.

Course Materials

- 1) **Daniel R. Brower and Thomas Saunders, *The World in the Twentieth Century: From Empires to Nations, Seventh Edition*.** The e-textbook is approx. \$57.99 new, and you can buy used copies online (just be sure to get the 7th edition from 2013).

- 2) **Sean Kennedy, *The Shock of War. Civilian Experiences, 1937-1945*.** The book costs approx. \$34.95 new and has been ordered for the campus bookstore. You can find used copies as well, as this book has been used in HIST1010 for many years.

Sample Tutorial Readings (please read/listen in advance of your weekly tutorial):

- 1) Listen to the podcast “Why History Needs to be Rewritten,” **minute 23 to the end**. Available at <https://www.transformingsociety.co.uk/2024/05/16/podcast-why-historyneeds-to-be-rewritten/>

- 2) Jules Ferry, “On French Colonial Expansion,” <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1884ferry.asp>

- 3) A.E. Scrivener, “Private Company Rule in the Congo” 1903, at onlinecampus.fcps.edu, https://onlinecampus.fcps.edu/media2/Social_Studies/WHGII_2010/WHGII_Topic15/Resources/Congo.pdf

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Participation	10	In-person	
In-tutorial work	10	In-person	
Map Quizzes	5	In-person	
Fall Mini-paper	10		NOV 26 2026
	100%		

Midterm test	15	In-person	DEC
Major term Assignment	10	PT 1	FEB 4 2027
Major term Assignment	20	PT 2	MARCH 30/27
Final Exam	20	In-person	APRIL 2027