



HIST 140

The World

Since 1945

General Description

Overview

This course will examine global issues in the post-World War II period, from the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, to the complex, high-tech, evolving world of today. We will, as much as possible, view changes in the postwar period from the point of view of those undergoing them, including students in this course. Everyone has an “historical consciousness,” an understanding of the way the world became what it is today, and the main purpose of this course is to introduce you to alternative ways of interpreting history by weighing the merits of differing points of view.

We will examine the world by regions with a number of themes in mind: the Cold War; the rise and fall of communism; nationalism; de-colonization/neo-colonialism; the international economy; racial, ethnic, and religious conflict; gender; class; and environmental issues.

By the end of the course, you should understand, firstly, that history is not just memorizing dates and events, but rather interpreting the past; and, secondly, that we tend to see the world through a number of basic assumptions that are not always accurate. You should take from the course the skills to critically appraise varying historical arguments and to clearly express your own interpretations.

Course Materials

Required

Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*
Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*
Heng and Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*
Ngugi, *Matigari*
Greider, *One World, Ready or Not*
Menchu and Burgos-Debray, *I, Rigoberta Menchu*
Coursepack for correspondence version of HIST 18

You can purchase your texts from the Higher Grounds bookstore at the Friday Center either in person or by using the book order form at the end of this General Description.

Optional

- Vadney, *The World Since 1945*
- Historical Atlas—it is recommended that you have access to a historical atlas of your choice. You may purchase one or check one out from the library.
- Web Resources—A number of Web sites relate to your assignments in the course and URLs are provided in some of the lessons. We encourage you to visit these Web resources as you work on the course. However, this is not a requirement of the course.

Course Requirements and Procedures

The course has seventeen lessons. You will be required to read roughly a chapter of text for each lesson. As a complement to this reading, there will be some original source material for you to study.

You will have a written assignment to submit to your instructor for each lesson. All essays and assignments will be graded on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Level of analysis/argumentation.** You must present a thoughtful argument and interpretation, not a mere summary of facts. (Note: It does not matter which side of an issue you argue, only how well or how poorly you make the argument.)
- **Use of evidence.** The material you select to support your thesis must be relevant and must clearly back up your argument.

- **Clarity of communication.** You must present the evidence and express your argument in a clear, comprehensible manner.

You should also read “Guidelines for Paper Assignments” (pages 4–7). This will give you an idea how to approach the paper assignments and essay questions on the exam. Read through the Guidelines before doing the first paper assignment. You should also refer to it as you work on each of your assignments.

Grading and Exams

Your work will be evaluated as follows:

- A = excellent performance overall
- B = above average overall, or excellent on some aspects tempered by flaws in others
- C = average across the board, or above average in part but with significant flaws
- D = below average overall performance.

Your grades will be given the following weight:

Paper assignments (total):	80 points
Final exam:	20 points

Your final exam will consist of identifications of important people and concepts and a comprehensive essay question. The exam must be supervised at UNC-CH or at another approved site. You must pass the final exam to receive credit for the course.

Honor Code

Remember that as a student of UNC-Chapel Hill, you are bound by the University’s Honor Code: “It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University students or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.” An especially serious Honor Code violation is plagiarism. If you are uncertain about what is considered plagiarism, please talk to your course instructor.