

## The World in the Twentieth Century

Hist 369  
3 hours  
AB-4, 220  
8-8:50am  
Spring 08

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Office Hours: MWF 9-10, Thurs. by appt.

This course acquaints students with developments in world history of the last century, touching many topics, but giving special treatment to the great tyrannies and to financial history. A main objective of the course is to help students become conversant in, and be able to speak and write in an informed manner about, such things as the Bolshevik and Maoist “experiments,” the Japanese perspective in World War II, the paroxysms of the gold standard, the tossing and turning of Arabia by events, the *Wirtschaftswunder*.

Reading is essential and must be done by the date assigned. A schedule of reading for the first month of class is on this syllabus. Schedules for the remainder will be available as the semester progresses and we see where we are. We are fortunate to have as a textbook one of the superlative works of late-twentieth century letters, Paul Johnson’s *Modern Times*. The following books are required:

- Paul Johnson, *Modern Times: The World from the Twenties to the Nineties* (Harper Perennial)
- Akira Iriye, *The Origins of the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific* (Pearson Longman)
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale*, 2 vols. (Pantheon)

N.B., if you cannot get all the books at once, you need only get the Johnson to start. We shall not be using the Iriye until Feb. and the Spiegelman until March.

The two midterm exams and the final will be mainly essay. There will be multiple-choice pop quizzes. An extra credit possibility will be offered to those students doing A or near-A work.

The grading breakdown:

2 midterms: 25% each  
Final: 35%  
Attendance and participation: 15%

N.B.: Regular attendance and completion of all course requirements are requisite to passing the course.

Topic and reading schedule through Feb. 11:

Part I

Jan. 16      The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> industrial revolutions

Jan. 18      The state system

Jan. 23      The coming of the Great War

                Optional: skim Johnson, Ch. 1

Jan. 25      The Battlefields of the Great War

Jan. 28      The Eastern Front

Jan. 30      Bolshevism I

                Johnson, 49-72

Feb. 1        Versailles

                Johnson, 17-28

Feb. 4        Bolshevism II

                Johnson, 72-95

Feb. 6        Versailles consequences

Feb. 11      Mandates, Mussolini, Weimar

                Johnson, 95-103; skim Ch. 3

Feb. 13      MIDTERM #1

Parts II- III conspectus of readings and lecture provided after Midterm #1.

Fine print:

University Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty

According to the administration's guidelines: "All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives

may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.”

#### University Policy Regarding Classroom Rules of Conduct

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

“Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, [chewing gum], using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy.”

The full policy for “Code of Student Conduct and Discipline” is found at the following link:  
<<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>>

#### Visitors in the Classroom

According to the Administration’s guidelines: “Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.”

#### Student Absences on Religious Holy Days\* Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

\* Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

#### Policy Regarding Disabled Students

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

#### Additional Notes

You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.