



**Faculty of Arts
Department of History
Course Outline
Spring 2023**

**HTST 307
The Contemporary World**

Instructor: Dr. Avram Lytton

Email: avram.lytton@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours and Location/Method: By Appointment in SS 656 or by Zoom

Class Room Location, Days and Times: Tues/Thurs 4:00pm - 6:45pm ES 054

Course Delivery: In-person

Description

This course introduces students to the main historical themes that influenced the development of the modern world from roughly the sixteenth century to the late twentieth century. By doing so, students will appreciate how the present is often shaped by the past, and how ideas, culture, politics, conflict, economics, technology, and institutions have contributed to the construction of the “modern” globalized world.

Learning Outcomes

This course will familiarize students with important interpretations of world history and give them insight into the interconnectedness of the world and its history with the present. It will also develop their ability to interpret historical sources and make arguments within historical debates. Finally, it will further develop students’ skills in analysis, source comprehension, communication, critical thinking, and argumentation.

Reading Material

There is no textbook for this course. Reading material will be made available on D2L by the instructor.

Assessment

Method	Date	Weight
Group Work	Ongoing Beginning May 9	10%
Midterm Exam	In Class May 25	20%
Film Analysis	Due June 7 (upload to D2L folder)	40%
Final Exam	Scheduled by Registrar	30%

Grading Policies

Grades will be marked out of a number based on the percentage weight of the assignment (thus, an assignment worth 20% of the overall grade, will be marked out of 20 points). **Late assignments** may be penalized up to the equivalent of one third of a letter grade per day.

Extensions may be granted upon request. Assignments should be placed in the Dropbox on the course D2L on the day they are due.

Details on Methods of Assessment

Group Work: For the last part of every class, students will discuss readings that have been posted by the instructor on D2L. Students will form into small groups to discuss questions about the sources they have read, before joining in a general class discussion. There will be eleven class discussions, participation in each is worth one percent of the final grade, for a maximum total of 10%. Participation will be assessed via the group work assignments. **If you anticipate missing more than one group work, please let me know and alternative arrangements can be made, at the discretion of the instructor.**

The Midterm examination will be written for one hour during class on **Thursday May 25, 2023**. It will consist of identification questions and one essay question based on the course lectures and readings. More information will be provided by the instructor in class and on D2L.

Film Analysis: Students will submit a film analysis of approximately 2,500 words in length on a film from a list supplied by the instructor. The purpose of the assignment is for students to assess a film as a portrayal of history, engage with academic literature and debate on the subject, and understand history as a tool of memory and a reflection of society. Papers should utilize at least eight *academic* sources and follow proper formatting for a history paper. **This paper is due June 7, 2023 and should be uploaded to the appropriate folder on D2L in Word or PDF format.** Detailed instructions will be provided in class and on D2L.

See the History Student's Handbook for more information on paper writing:

[https://arts.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/29/History%20Student's%20Handbook%](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/29/History%20Student's%20Handbook%202023.pdf)

[20\(2022\).pdf](#)

The Final Examination will follow the same format as the Midterm: identification questions and one essay question based on the course lectures and readings. **The exam will *not* be cumulative**, and will only cover material discussed after the midterm. This exam is scheduled by the Registrar and will be two hours long.

Academic Integrity Statement

All work must be the student's own, done independently and without collaboration or AI assistance. Evidence to the contrary may be considered academic misconduct and treated accordingly.

Learning Technologies Requirements

There is a D2L site for this course that contains required readings and other resources and materials. Please *carefully* consult all materials on the D2L site as they contain instructions and resources required for the course assignments. A computer with access to the internet is required.

Accommodation, Privacy, and Conduct

I am committed to making reasonable accommodations so as to give every student the best chance for success. As there are many reasons a student may require accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Services and myself by email to discuss any requests and concerns you may have.

To protect the privacy of others, students may not record classroom activity unless given permission in conjunction with Student Accessibility Services.

Schedule

Date	Topic & Reading	Important Dates
May 4	Introduction. What is “Modernity”?	
May 9	New European Horizons	
May 11	The Atlantic World	
May 16	Divergent Eurasia	
May 18	Revolutions and the Nation State	
May 23	The Industrial Revolution	
May 25	Midterm and Film Analysis Instructions	
May 30	The Triumph of Liberalism	

June 1	Empires and the First Globalization	
June 6	WWI and the Tumultuous 20th Century	
June 8	The World Remade: The WWII Era	
June 13	The Cold War and Decolonization	
June 15	Discontent and the New Globalization	

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar and will take place during the exam period (June 19-21).

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPEARS ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY COURSE OUTLINES

Departmental Grading System

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200. See the university grading system in the calendar: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Please Note: Students are expected to reach the grade range to receive that letter grade (ie. to receive an A- a student will have earned an 80 or 3.7 in the course). Assume that there will be no rounding up unless a faculty member announces otherwise.

Writing

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in [The History Student's Handbook](#).

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For more information, please see the University of Calgary [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) documents, and visit the [Academic Integrity Website](#).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when students submit or present the ideas and/or writing of others as if they were their own or when they submit their own work to two different classes. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#) for more details, but to summarize, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in [the university calendar](#).

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the [Student Accommodations policy](#). Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the [Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [Student Accessibility Services](#).

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human participants – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the [Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board](#) or the [Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board](#). In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required. Some courses will include assignments that involve conducting research with human participants; in these cases, the instructor will have applied for and received ethics approval for the course assignment. The instructor will discuss the ethical requirements for the assignment with the students.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright](#) and requirements of [the Copyright Act](#) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under [the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

Copyright of Educational Materials

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. Please see the [University of Calgary copyright page](#).

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard.

MEDIA RECORDING IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Media Recording for Study Purposes (Students)

Students who wish to audio record lectures for personal study purposes need to follow the guidelines outlined in [Section E.6 of the University Calendar](#). Unless the audio recording of lectures is part of a student accessibility requirement, permission must be sought by the course instructor to audio record lectures.

Media recording for lesson capture

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Recordings will be posted on D2L for student use and will normally be deleted at the end of term. Students are responsible for turning off their camera and/or microphone if they do not wish to be recorded.

Media recording for assessment of student learning

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and

will not be shared or used for any other purpose. The recording will be destroyed as specified by [retention rule 2000.01](#) “Examinations and Student Assignments.”

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. The recording will be destroyed as specified by [retention rule 98.0011](#) “Draft Documents & Working Materials.”

Sexual Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary’s sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see [the sexual and gender-based violence policy](#).

Other Useful Information

Please see the Registrar’s [Course Outline Student Support and Resources](#) page for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk
- Campus Security 220-5333

Department of History Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Updated November 2022