This course surveys and examines the social, cultural, and political history of the age of empire, from 1500-2000. We evaluate this age utilizing a comparative framework that highlights both the colonizers as well as the peoples colonized in Asia and Africa through key historical events. In addition, we analyze broader themes, including Asia and Africa before Europe, the rise of European influence, the impact of imperialism on Asian, Middle Eastern, and African societies, and war and genocide in the twentieth century. To help us to understand and evaluate these developments from various perspectives, we read and utilize a variety of primary sources, including literature, memoirs, images, and films.

The following books are available for purchase at the College of Charleston Bookstore.


The remaining readings are on reserve at the Addlestone Library. They are available electronically through e-reserve (under my name on the library e-reserve webpage), WebCT, and hardcopies are available in the library as well. Other readings may be assigned, and additional handouts and supplements may be distributed later in the semester. This syllabus, including the lecture schedule, readings, and assigned work and exams, is subject to change as necessary. It is the responsibility of each student to keep up with all readings and assignments.
Course Goals:
We live in a world that is extremely complex and at times rather dangerous, a world that we cannot ignore. As a result, the objectives of this course include:
1) providing you with material and a framework to understand modern global history, 2) helping you become more globally aware of our world, 3) Utilizing primary and secondary sources to evaluate the historical experience, and 4) developing your ability to critique, read, write, listen, and speak about these topics, through written and oral assignments.

I will announce important events around Charleston that take place during the semester. If you know about an event, please bring it to my attention.

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:
- Mid-term – 25%
- Short Paper 1 – 15%
- Short Paper 2 – 15%
- Final – 25%
- Map quiz – 5% - bonus for exam
- Contemporary World project – 10%
- Participation and quizzes – 10%

The Mid-term and Final consist of questions drawn from the course lectures, readings, and discussions. Prior to these examinations, a study guide will be distributed to help you prepare for them, and the format will be explained in class as well. They are not multiple choice examinations.

There also are two short papers required for this course. The essay topics will ask you to examine and compare themes and ideas from literature and readings that we discuss in class. The first is a 600 word essay that will analyze the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The second is a 600 word essay that will evaluate the experiences of colonialism in Africa. The lectures and our class discussions will help prepare you for these papers, but you will have to be able to use the assigned readings to illustrate your critical understanding and analysis of the subject matter. The topics will be distributed during our discussions and analysis of the relevant readings. You also will receive a guide that will help you with writing these short papers.

The Contemporary World Project is to be completed in groups that I will assign shortly. You will be asked to locate, research, and then present to the class a conflict, crisis, or success story in our world that you believe has not received enough media attention. Your subject should have some relation to the issues that we will address in this course. The topic must be approved by the instructor, and the presentation will take place closer to the conclusion of the semester. Please see the presentation guide for further information.

In addition, there is an emphasis on class and group discussions to help elucidate various issues. You are expected to have completed the assigned reading prior to each class, and you should be prepared to discuss the reading in class. Your participation is based upon
these discussions as well the reading quizzes. This course offers a special opportunity to examine history through provocative and accessible readings, please take advantage of it. Attendance is required and participation is considered in your final grade. Your grade will be lowered if you have more than 2 unexcused absences (undocumented), and excessive absences will result in further penalties. You also are responsible for all material, including readings, films, and lectures, whether you are present or absent from class. Extensions are not normally granted for assignments and late assignments will be penalized.

If you would like additional guidance about the course or have any questions or concerns at any time, please speak with me during my office hours, after class, or ask to arrange a separate time for us to meet. I am happy to meet with you.

Your attention is also drawn to the College of Charleston’s Honor Code, especially the sections that forbid cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism. A student found guilty of any of these offenses will face severe penalties.

Final marks will be calculated using the following table:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-66 (minimum grade to pass course)</td>
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**Weekly Schedule:**

R = Reading available on Reserve

24 & 26 August
24 – Introduction

26 - Asking Questions and Utilizing Sources
*Reading:* Christopher Columbus, “A Letter Concerning Recently Discovered Islands.” R

31 August & 2 September
31 – Viewing the ‘Other’: European Visions of Asia and Asian Visions of Europe

2 – Early Empire in the Atlantic World, Africa, and the Slave Trade

7 & 9 September
7 – Discussion: Olaudah Equiano and the Experiences of Slavery.
Debates in the British House of Commons...For the Abolition of the Slave Trade. 

Questions: Analyze how the slave trade was part of British political interests. Examine Equiano’s experiences in relation to the significance of slavery in the Americas. Compare and contrast Equiano’s experiences with the life of Mary Prince.

Film: Slavery and the Making of America, Vol. 1, Selections; Amazing Grace.

9 – The Qing Dynasty: Power and Trade in East Asia
Reading:

14 & 16 September
14 – Muslim Empires: Ottomans and Safavids in the Middle East
Reading:

Map Quiz!

16 – Muslim Empires: Mughals in South Asia
Reading:
Andrea, Human Record, pp. 55-60, 62-65

21 & 23 September
21 – The Age of Revolution
Reading:

23 – Class and the Industrial Revolution
Reading:
Andrea, Human Record, pp. 239-248

Equiano Paper due Today, 23 September, at class

28 and 30 September
28 – Discussion: The Socialist Critique of Industrial and Modern Societies
“A Day in the Life of a Victorian” and, Marx, “International Working Men’s Association.”

30 – Movie – Dickens, Oliver Twist

5 & 7 October
5 – Midterm Exam

7 – The Rise of Europe: Colonial and Imperial Discourses
Reading:
Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden.” R

12 & 14 October
12 – No Classes – Fall Break

14 – Colonialism and Rebellion in India
Reading:

19 & 21 October
19 – Reform and Imperialism in the Middle East
Reading:
Andrea, *Human Record*, pp. 294-298
Sultan Abdul Mejid, “Tanzimat: Noble Rescript.” R

21 – Discussion: The Effects of Colonialism on Africa
Reading:
Soyinka, *Death and the King’s Horseman*.
Questions: How did colonial rule impact families and society in West Africa? Can personal accounts and literature effectively convey the effects of colonialism?

26 & 28 October
26 – The Great War – World War I
Reading:
Movie (excerpts) – *A Very Long Engagement*

28 – Movie (cont.), Game – Imperial Monopoly

2 & 4 November
2 – The Effects of War: Depression, Nationalism, Fascism, and Communism
Reading:
4 – World War II
*Reading:*

9 & 11 November
9 – Historians as Detectives: Uncovering Past Atrocities
Inspector Lynley - 'In the Blink of an Eye'
**Essay** due Today, 9 November, at class.

11 – Discussion: Empire, War, Racism, and Genocide
*Reading:*
Roberts, “Genocide.” R
Hatzfeld, *Life Laid Bare: The Survivors in Rwanda Speak.*
Additional Reading, TBA

Video segment from: Nachtwey, *War Photographer*

16 & 18 April
16 – Film/Discussion – Raoul Peck, *Sometimes in April*
Question: How do different people respond to conflict, and what impact does conflict have on them and their families?

18 – Nationalism and Decolonization
*Reading:*

23 & 25 November
23 – Contemporary World Project presentations

25 – Thanksgiving Break – No Class

30 November & 2 December
30 – Contemporary World Project presentations

2 – The Cold War and the Postcolonial World: Global Contact, Terrorism, Forgiveness
*Reading:*

Video segment from: *Mandela*

Conclusion and Review, Celebrating World Cultures