

**HIST \*1150**  
**The Modern World**  
Department of History  
University of Guelph  
Winter 2016

**Class meetings:** Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 2:30-3:20 p.m.  
Richards Building (RICH) 2520

**Instructor:** Dr Alan McDougall  
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**Introduction:** This course introduces key themes and ideas in the history of the modern world, with a primary focus on twentieth-century Europe and its interaction with other countries and continents. Topics covered will include: the First and Second World Wars; the Cold War; decolonization and Third World revolutions; the rise and fall of fascism and communism; and the Holocaust and other (less widely documented) twentieth century genocides. Although the main focus of the course will be on political events, students will also be introduced to a variety of social, economic, and cultural themes – and will in the course of the semester encounter a diverse range of individuals from Hitler and Stalin to Che Guevara and The Beatles.

**Course textbooks:**

Carter Findley and John Rothney, *Twentieth Century World* (7<sup>th</sup> edn.) (Wadsworth, 2011)  
James Overfield, *Sources of Global History Since 1900* (Wadsworth, 2012)

These books are available to purchase at both the University and Co-Op Bookstores.

**Courselink:**

For up-to-date information on this class, students should regularly consult the **HIST \*1150 Courselink site** at <https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/shared/login/login.html> (log in using your Central LogIn ID and password).

Here you will find, among other things, news updates pertaining to classes, exams, etc.; the course outline; instructions and style sheets for the assignments; and the weekly, lecture-accompanying PowerPoint presentations.

### **Other useful resources:**

The UoG library (<http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/>) contains a number of useful reference resources for twentieth-century history, including:

M. Hawkesworth and M. Kogan (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Government and Politics* (2<sup>nd</sup> vol.) (London, 1996)

J. M. Sharfritz *et al*, *The Dictionary of Twentieth Century Politics* (New York, 1993)

The library also houses the 26-volume PBS video series, *People's Century* (call number: D422.p46v.1-v.26), which provides interesting footage and analysis, based on eyewitness accounts, of many of the key events and themes of the twentieth century.

Please note that there is a **course guide** on the UoG library website for HIST \*1150, which provides tips on how to research and write assignments:

<http://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/HIST1150>

**First: Learning Resources for First-year Students at the Library** is a collection of resources, services, and technologies designed to help make the transition to university learning smooth and successful. Visit the First website to register for workshops, to find out about Supported Learning Groups, and to make individual appointments with staff or peer helpers:

<http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/first/>

### **Breakdown of final grade:**

Mid-term exam:	20%
Assignments (2):	50% (25% each)
Final exam:	30%

**Mid-term paper:** The mid-term exam will take place in class on **Friday of Week 6, 26 February**.

**Assignments (2 in total):** The two research assignments will provide critical analysis of two of the primary historical sources contained in the Overfield textbook. Sign up sheets for sources (approx. 4 students per source – first come, first served) will be posted outside my office (MacKinnon Extension, Room 1013) in advance of each assignment.

Each assignment should be a minimum of 1,000 words (i.e. approximately 4 double-spaced pages) in length. Further information/instructions on the assignments can be found on the HIST \*1150 Courselink site.

The assignments are to be submitted at class on **Wednesday of Week 5 (10 Feb)** and **Wednesday of Week 9 (16 Mar)** respectively.

**Late penalties (please read carefully):**

- Late assignments will be automatically penalized at the rate of **5% per day** (i.e. for every day that the essay is late, **including weekends**, you will lose 5% of your final mark for it: so, for example, a student who submits a paper one week late will automatically lose **35%** of his/her mark).
- Only hard copies of papers will be accepted (no electronic submissions).
- Papers can only be submitted directly to the instructor at class (Mon, Wed, or Fri) or during office hours (Mon, 11 a.m-1 p.m.). No papers are to be submitted to the TAs.
- **No written work whatsoever** will be accepted after the last day of classes (**Friday 8 Apr**).

**Final exam:** A final exam of two hours in length – based upon material from the lectures and the course textbooks – will be held on **Wednesday 20 April, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**, venue to be confirmed.

## Course Learning Outcomes

### 1. Critical and creative thinking

- The ability to undertake critical inquiry and analysis about various aspects of twentieth-century history.
- Depth and breadth of historical understanding, based on a close and integrated reading of the course materials.

### 2. Literacy

- The ability to extract information from historical sources, critically assessing its quality and validity.

### 3. Global understanding

- Familiarity with major individuals, events, themes, and ideas in twentieth-century history.
- Familiarity with a sense of historical development in the twentieth century.
- Engagement with contemporary political, socio-economic, and cultural issues through an understanding of their modern historical context.

### 4. Communication

- The development of written and oral communication skills through assignments, examinations, and class discussions.
- The development of reading comprehension through engagement with a variety of historical texts.

### 5. Professional and ethical behaviour

- An introduction to the practices and methodologies of the historian.

- An understanding of academic integrity as applied to the responsible use of historical sources and the ethical presentation of one's own work.

**Class schedule:**

**Week 1 (11, 13, 15 Jan)**

Origins of the new century: the European-dominated world order, c. 1900-14

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 2.

**Week 2 (18, 20, 22 Jan)**

The First World War

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 3.

**Week 3 (25, 27, 29 Jan)**

The Bolshevik Revolution and international communism, c. 1917-41

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 4.

**Week 4 (1, 3, 5 Feb)**

The rise of fascism in inter-war Europe

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 6.

**Week 5 (8, 10, 12 Feb)**

The Second World War

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 10 (211-27).

**\*\*\* Assignment #1 due for submission at class on Wed 10 Feb\*\*\***

**Reading week, 15-19 Feb: no classes**

**Week 6 (22, 24, 26 Feb)**

Decolonization – an overview

No readings.

**\*\*\* Mid-term exam to take place in class on Fri 26 Feb\*\*\***

**Week 7 (29 Feb, 2, 4 Mar)**

Decolonization and its aftermath: Africa and Asia

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 14, ch. 15 and ch. 16 (regional/continental overviews in each chapter only).

**Week 8 (7, 9, 11 Mar)**

Genocide in the twentieth century: the Holocaust and beyond

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 10 (223).

**Week 9 (14, 16, 18 Mar)**

From Berlin to Vietnam: the Cold War in global perspective

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 10 (227-33) and ch. 11 (236-60); Overfield, 266-75, 368-70.

**\*\*\* Assignment #2 due for submission at class on Weds 16 Mar \*\*\***

**Week 10 (21, 23 Mar)**

'Third World' revolutions: China and Cuba

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 13 (Cuba) and ch. 16 (China).

**\*\*\* No class on Friday 25 March: holiday \*\*\***

**Week 11 (28, 30 Mar, 1 Apr)**

The sixties: political revolt and socio-cultural transformation in the age of affluence

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 11 (260-5).

**Week 12 (4, 6, 8 Apr)**

The rise and fall of the Soviet empire, 1945-91

Reading: Findley and Rothney, ch. 11 (248-52), ch. 12 (273-7), and ch. 17 (419-27).