

Spring 2009

SYLLABUS  
HIS218-01 The World in the Twentieth Century (Since 1945)

Meeting Time/Location: MW 3:30 to 4:45 MHRA 1215

Instructor: Mark Moser Office: MHRA 2104

Office Hours: MW 12:30 to 2:00 --- M 5:00 to 5:30 --- F 9:00 to 9:30 --- (and by appointment)

Email: [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu)

Required Texts:

Brower, Daniel R. *The World since 1945: A Brief History* Second Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005).

Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring* 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (New York: Mariner Books, 2002).

McCauley, Martin. *Russia, America and the Cold War, 1949-1991* Second Edition (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004).

Course Objectives:

Students will be expected to:

- Understand and retain the basic facts and framework of global history since 1945.
- Analyze and synthesize relevant information; i.e., interpret historical facts
- Develop a personal and historical sense of time relevant to recent events in world history
- Think critically and make informed judgments!

Procedures/Assignments:

It will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should have no trouble managing the workload for this class. Discussion of your readings will routinely take up a significant portion of many class sessions. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to the first day of class in any given week. (You should be prepared to be called on EACH and EVERY CLASS SESSION!) Class discussions will be difficult to conduct if you haven't read and class lectures and videos that we will watch will be more understandable if you have read the assigned material ahead of time. You should not find this course difficult provided that you remain current with all your reading. However, students who fall behind will likely find it difficult to catch up.

Note: Please turn off cell phones or set them to vibrate mode *BEFORE* class begins.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a substantial portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here you cannot participate. Excessive absences will result in your being dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of “W” must drop the class on or before Tuesday, March 17. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session.

This class meets two times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to both the class and myself.

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Any student who misses an exam **must contact me** to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. (Makeup exams, if permitted, will have to be taken at a time when I am available)

\*Please note that I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences—you are either here or you are not.

Note: Laptops are not required for this class, but if you wish to use one for taking notes that will be fine. While you are in my class please do not use them for ANYTHING else. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offence will result in your being dropped from the class.

Grading:

Attendance/Class Participation	20%
Response Papers	20%
Portfolio	20%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
- - - - -	- - - - -
Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point scale and I do assign +/- to final grades when warranted.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 21) McCauley, Chapter 1 “Introduction: The Problem”

Week Two—(January 26, 28) McCauley, Chapter 2 “The Cold War in Perspective” and Brower, Chapter 2 “The Cold War and the End of Western Empires”

Week Three—(February 2, 4) McCauley, Chapter 3 “Cold War I: 1949-1953”

Week Four—(February 9, 11) McCauley, Chapter 4 “To the Brink and Back: 1953-1969”

Week Five—(February 16, 18) McCauley, Chapter 5 “Détente: 1969-1979”

Week Six—(February 23, 25) McCauley, Chapter 6 “Cold War II: 1979-1985”  
\*2-3 page Response Paper on primary source document due at the beginning of class Monday, February 23

Week Seven—(March 2, 4) McCauley, Chapter 7 “New Political Thinking and the End of the Cold War: 1985-1991” and Brower, Chapter 7 “The Cold War and the Fall of the Soviet Empire”

\*Spring Break\* --No class March 9, 11

Week Eight—(March 16, 18) Review for Mid-term on Monday, March 16  
\*Mid-term Exam\* --- Wednesday, March 18 (You will need a small format bluebook)

Week Nine—(March 23, 25) Brower, Chapter 3 “Revolutions and Recovery in East Asia, 1950-1990”

Week Ten—(March 30, April 1) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia”  
Begin reading *Silent Spring*

Week Eleven—(April 6, 8) Brower, Chapter 4 “New Nations in South Asia” (cont’d)  
Film: *Gandhi*  
Continue reading *Silent Spring*

Week Twelve—(April 13, 15) Brower, Chapter 5 “Africa and Latin America in the Third World”

Continue reading *Silent Spring*

Week Thirteen—(April 20, 22) Brower, Chapter 6 “Nations at War in the Middle East”

\*2-3 page Response Paper on primary source document due at the beginning of class Monday, April 20

Week Fourteen—(April 27, 29) Brower, Chapter 8 “Local Wars, Global Economy: The World after the Cold War” plus, class discussion of *Silent Spring*

\*Portfolios must be turned in on Wednesday, April 29

Week Fifteen—(May 4) Review for Final Exam

\*FINAL EXAM\* ----- Wednesday, May 13 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Based only on material covered after Mid-term (You will need a small format bluebook)

.

#### Weekly Assignments:

Each week during the semester every student will be required to find and read a contemporary newspaper or magazine article that coincides with that week’s material. These articles—in their entirety—should be saved, printed, and kept in a portfolio (of manageable size since you must bring these with you to class every day). At the beginning of every class session I will randomly call on at least 3 or 4 students who will be asked to discuss their weekly article. Students called upon must provide the title of the article, the name of the source in which it appeared, its date of publication, and a brief synopsis of the article. Each weekly article that you select for your portfolio must be accompanied by a one or two paragraph response which is essentially your assessment of the article. Your typed, double-spaced responses should include things such as: relevance, timeliness, any obvious or perceived bias in the article, etc. Acceptable sources for this ongoing assignment include: The New York Times, Washington Post, The Times of London, Life Magazine, National Geographic, Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report and The Wall Street Journal. During the course of the semester I expect you to retrieve articles from at least five of these nine sources. Jackson Library has each of these available in various formats. If you need help, please seek assistance from library staff.