



**History 115.1: World History Since 1500**

**Instructor: Dr. Maziar Behrooz**

**Fall 2006: MWF 14:10-15:00**

**Office Hours: Science 223; MWF 11-12 or by appointment.**

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**Course Description:** This course is a survey of world history from 1500 to the present. By nature, the course has to be selective in order to be able to present the subject in a general and yet effective manner. Nevertheless, key aspects of human history during the last five hundred years will be examined and analyzed carefully. The main theme of the course is the view that modern world history is a process of increasing contact and interaction between societies, leading eventually to our present age of "global village." Subjects such as modernity vs. traditionalism, nationalism vs. internationalism, colonialism, imperialism, socialism, etc. will be examined throughout the course. Films will be shown as time permit.

**Course Outline:**

**Week 1:** August 30-September 1

Introduction: Collision at Cajamarca and Atahualpa's predicament; the pre-modern world (to 1500s): Medieval Europe; Renaissance and early changes in Europe; Mercantilism and early stages of capitalism.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 16

**Week 2:** September 6-8 (September 4: Labor Day no class)

Early modern non-European world (1500s-1700s): Moslem world: Ottoman Empire, Safavid Iran, and Mughals of India; Imperial China: Ming and Qing dynasties; Shogun Japan.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapters 20&21

**Week 3:** September 11-15

Transformation of Europe (1500s-1700s): Reformation: Catholicism vs. Protestantism; Wars of Religion; English Revolution: Absolutism and Parliament; Emergence of Russia: Reform under Tsar Peter the Great.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 17

**Week 4:** September 18-22

World of Western Dominance: Slave Trade; Atlantic System; Colonial Economy and Expansion of Capitalism.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapters 18&19

**Mid-term exam I: Friday September 22**

**Questions to consider:**

- 1) Compare and contrast two of the following three societies during early modern period: Ottoman Empire; Mughal India; Japan.
- 2) What was the significance of the Renaissance for modern Europe and world history?
- 3) Explain the Reformation and its significance.
- 4) Analyze the English Revolution and described how the problem of royal absolutism vs. constitutional rule was solved.
- 5) Compare and contrast the role of Islam in the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires.

**Week 5:** September 25-29

Revolutionary Eighteenth Century: Europe's "Scientific Revolution"; Enlightenment; England's Industrial Revolution; America's War of Independence; The Great French Revolution and the Birth of the First Republic; The Age of Napoleon Bonaparte and the First Empire; Toward the Nineteenth Century.

**Reading:** Bulliet chapters 22&23

**Week 6:** October 2-6

Impact of Western Dominance: Colonies and Semi-colonies; Independence in Latin America; Emergence of the British Empire; Ottoman Empire and the Age of Tanzimat; Imperial China: the Opium War and Tongzhi Restoration; India: British Colonialism and the End of the Mughals; Rise of Indian Nationalism.

Reading: Bulliet, chapters 24&25

**Week 7:** October 9-13

The "Opening" of Japan: the End of Shogan Age and the Meigi Restoration; Colonialism in Africa; the Boar War.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 26

**Week 8:** October 16-20

Rise of Nationalism and Revolution: European Revolutions and Rise of the Industrial Working Class; the New Power Balance in Europe: Unification of Germany and Italy; Imperialism; Origins of Arab-Israel Conflict and the Birth of Zionism; Toward the New Century: Reflections on Western Intellectual Trends: Liberalism; Socialism; Europe and the World before World War I.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapters 27&28

**Mid-term exam II: Friday October 20**

**Questions to consider:**

- 1) Describe the Atlantic system. How did it operate, what countries were involved, and what were their motivation? What was the system's legacy?
- 2) Describe the racial and social makeup of colonial Latin America.
- 3) Describe French society before the French Revolution. How was society changed by the Revolution? Was the outcome of the Revolution all that the revolutionaries had hoped for? What legacy did it leave to the world? Give specific examples.
- 4) Was Napoleon a child or a betrayer of the Revolution?
- 5) Compare and contrast the impact of European modernization on two of the following three. Use your knowledge to cover various aspects (religion, government, reform, colonial subjugation, etc) of each: India; Ottoman Empire; Mexico
- 6) The French Revolution witnessed a phase call the "Reign of Terror" under the leadership of the Jacobins (1793-94). Use your knowledge to explain this period in terms of its main actors, its major accomplishments as well as shortcomings. What was the outlook of France before and after the Jacobin rule?

**Week 9:** October 23-29

Twentieth Century: World War I; Decline of European powers: End of Russian, Austrian, and Ottoman Empires; Russian Revolution, Birth of the Soviet Union and Rise of Communism, Stalinism; Birth of Yugoslavia.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 29

**Week 10:** October 30-Novemebr 3

Revolution and National Independence: Mexican Revolution, Chinese Revolution; Independence Movement in India; the Middle East during inter-war years.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 31

**Week 11:** November 6-8 (November 10: Veterans Day no class)

Inter-war period: Crisis of Liberal Democracy; Nazism and Fascism in Germany and Italy; Militarization of Japan; the Great Depression; Spanish Civil War; Politics of appeasement and the Road to World War II.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 30

**Week 12:** November 13-17

World War II and its Consequences: Swastika Over Europe; fall of France and the Battle of Britain; Attack on the USSR; United States Enters the War; Advent of Nuclear Age; Holocaust and then War's Human Cost;

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 32

**Week 13:** November 20-24: (Thanksgiving recess)

**Week 14:** November 27-Decemebr 1

Post World War II: Cold War and the Age of Super Powers; End of European

Empires; Rise of the "Third World" and liberation movements.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 33

**Week 15:** December 4-8

Topics in Late Twentieth Century World History: Problems of Nationalism and Liberation; Arab-Israel Conflict; War In Vietnam; Revolt in the Moslem World; End of the Cold War; Collapse of the Soviet Union and its Consequences; End of Apartheid in South Africa; Rise of European Union; Toward a Global Culture.

**Reading:** Bulliet, chapter 34

**Week 16:** December 11-15

The last week will cover the remaining lectures, review for final, and class discussion.

**Questions to consider:**

- 1) What were the causes and consequences of WWI?
- 2) What was the Bolshevik agenda and what did they accomplish?
- 3) Discuss, the significance, causes, major actors, and outcome of one of the following revolutionary or anti-colonial movements: India (1919-1947); China (1911-1949); Mexico (1910-1939).
- 4) How do you explain the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany?
- 5) What were the root causes of WW2? How do you respond to those who suggest that it was rooted in the peace settlement of WWI?

**Books:**

Richard Bulliet, *The Earth and its Peoples* (Volume 2 Third Edition)  
Naghuib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley* (optional)

**Course Requirements:** There will be two mid-term exams (30% each) and a final (40%). **Always have a Blue Book for your exams.** Exams will be in the form of identification and essay questions and you will have choices. Your exams will be based on the required readings and class lectures therefore, class attendance is necessary. Your final grade will be negatively influenced if you miss three or more classes without valid explanation.

**Extra Credit:** You may write a review of the novel *Midaq Alley* for ten point credit toward your final grade. Your review should (1000 words, typed and double space) answer the following question:

**How are "modernity" and "tradition" portrayed in Mahfouz's Midaq Alley? What would you say is Mahfouz's message about change in twentieth-century Egypt?**

**IMPORTANT:** Do not miss any exam unless you have a very good reason and have pre-arranged everything with me.

**Final Exam:** Thursday December 21, 1:30-4:00