

# World History II (1500 – present)

Rutgers University: New Brunswick. Course: 506: 102: H6

Summer Session 3, July 9<sup>th</sup> to Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, Mon and Wed, 6pm – 9.40pm, MU - 207

Instructor: Satyasikha Chakraborty ([satyasikha@gmail.com](mailto:satyasikha@gmail.com)) Office Hours: By appointment



From un-connected continents, with cultures still unaware of each other's existence, how did the world transform into the globalized space we inhabit today? How have notions of the world itself changed in the last five centuries? This course provides a broad survey of the modern world from the 1500s, and tries to curtail Eurocentric assumptions from the narrative of modernity and world history. What is gained by de-centering Europe and broadening our understanding of world history to become more global in perspective, and what are the theoretical and methodological challenges? We will begin by exploring the powerful Aztec, Mali, Ottoman, Saffavid, Mughal and Ming empires, and their struggles with European powers expanding into the Americas, Africa and Asia. What made European colonialism and global hegemony eventually possible and how did various local cultures respond? How were slavery, capitalism and colonialism linked to the so-called "revolutions", like the scientific revolution and the Industrial revolution, or the American Revolution and the Haitian revolution? This course will pay special

attention to the role played by race, gender, class, caste and sexuality in shaping the modern world. How have these ideologies mutated over time? We will examine the role played by colonialism in changing these ideologies and in changing social, cultural, and knowledge structures globally. We will explore how imperialism led to the World Wars and how/why colonized peoples were dragged into the wars. Finally, we will trace the genesis of anti-imperialist peace movements, anti-colonial nationalist movements, civil rights movements, women's movements and workers movements. While the twentieth century witnessed the expansion of rights and liberation to various marginalized groups, it also witnessed terrible human rights violations, fascist dictatorships and genocides. This course will help us think over the relationship between history and memory – why certain events/individuals are remembered and memorialized, while others are forgotten. You do not need any background in history to take this course. Thoughts and perspectives of students from different disciplines are welcome in the classroom!

### **SAS Core Goals:**

This course meets the School of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum Goals

### **Readings and Attendance:**

There is no required text-book. But, you are expected to do daily short readings of primary documents and article/book excerpts, which will be posted on Sakai. Please bring pdfs/printouts of the day's readings to class to facilitate discussion. Part of every class will be devoted to intensive reading of texts to enable you to read historical documents critically. Attendance is mandatory in order to understand key concepts, and develop critical reading skills. If you have special needs, please let me know how I may assist you.

Suggested book:

*Modern Empires: A Reader*, edited by Bonnie G. Smith (Oxford University Press, 2017)

### **Assignments and Grading:**

25 points for Class Participation, including a brief class-presentation

25 points for take-home midterm essay. 5 extra credit points for an article review

25 points for take-home final essay

25 points for in-class final exam (analysis of primary sources)

**Class Schedule** (Detailed syllabus with readings and assignment deadlines is available on sakai)

- 1) Mon, 7/9/2018 – Gunpowder empires and the world in the 1500s
- 2) Wed, 7/11/2018 – Expanding notions of the world
- 3) Mon, 7/16/2018 – Capitalism, slavery and industrialization
- 4) Wed, 7/18/2018 – American Revolution, French Revolution, Haitian Revolution, and Taiping Rebellion: how mass-resistances are remembered/forgotten
- 5) Mon, 7/23/2018 – Gender, sexuality and domestic histories: from the Mughal/Ottoman harem to mixed-race colonial households
- 6) Wed, 7/25/2018 – Science and medicine: colonialism and the production/erasure of knowledge
- 7) Mon, 7/30/2018 – Civilizing missions: “The Black Man’s Burden”
- 8) Wed, 8/1/2018 – World wars: anti-imperial movements and women’s movements
- 9) Mon, 8/6/2018 – Socialist revolutions, anti-colonial nationalisms, and civil rights activisms
- 10) Wed, 8/8/2018 – Jewish Holocaust, Ukrainian Holodomor, Bengal Famine, Atomic bombing, and Indonesian genocide: how mass-murders are remembered/forgotten
- 11) Mon, 8/13/2018 – Nationalisms, globalization, and anti-global movements in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- 12) Wed, 8/15/2018 – History and memory: remembering and contesting the past