

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTER ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

HISTORY 2303F:

**The Crucible of the Modern World: The Great Depression, the Second World War,
the United States, and the International Community, 1935 to the present.**

September – December 2013

Location: UC 286
Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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Office hours: Wednesday - at 11:30 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m.
And by appointment

This course will be designed to probe the extent and limits of United States hegemony over the world order which emerged from the Second Great War. It will be conceptualized around the notion of the United States as, perhaps, the last great Empire. And it will emphasize the fundamental significance of historical sensibility in understanding the present triumphalism and vulnerability of the Americans.

It was of course, and to say the least, not always so. This is but one reason for an opening focus on the Great Depression, which destroyed so much and so many. Cheap lives, hard eyes, and chastened hopes nearly foreclosed opportunity altogether, along with grand designs and reveries of imperial dominance. The Second World War changed all this but never obliterated the memory of the Thirties. Thus, the policy planners who envisioned the post-war world looked regularly and anxiously over their shoulders while trying simultaneously to anticipate and control the future. The furious American assault on the British Empire occurs in this context. So did, at least in part, the fashioning of the World Bank and the I.M.F., along with other institutional arrangements designed ostensibly to promote reconstruction after the war. I would also plan to devote some time to the current and ever-renewing controversy over the dropping of the Atomic bomb. This event, as some might argue, inaugurated the Cold War, whose scars and emblems are very much with us still.

Within the context of these topics, I would also plan to probe a series of issues relating to continental and international social, political, and economic development. The line from GATT to the WTO to the broad range of issues presented by globalization and the evident crises and failures which afflict the contemporary world needs to be traced historically. And, in particular, the impact of these remarkable developments on the lives of ordinary men and women needs to be addressed. It is also my conviction that students should have the chance to assess, even in some limited ways, the nature of the United States's contemporary political economy. This will, of course, necessitate some attention to domestic arrangements in America. Nor shall we overlook the grand contemporary issues of torture and terrorism.

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Finally, I suspect that it will be necessary to preserve among us, and at all times, a tolerant spirit given the deeply contentious issues that we shall encounter.

I plan to use a shorter, essay-ish “text” on the modern period, Norman L. and Emily S. Rosenberg, In Our Times: American Since World War II, 7th edition, 2003. This will be supplemented by a carefully crafted Course Reader, as well as additional readings, which will be distributed in class.

Marking Scheme:

Term Paper: 35% (12-15 pages)

Final Exam: 40%

Participation in

Discussion and

Attendance: 25%

In this course, attendance is taken **VERY SERIOUSLY**. In fact, students should take it as a given that they will be expected to attend each and every meeting of the course. **Without fail and without exception**. And furthermore, it will be understood that all assigned readings will be fully and carefully completed.

There is, in this course, no weekly prescription of readings and topics. This will allow for the maximum of freshness and intensity. Readings will be assigned in class on a weekly basis.

General Considerations

Students absent from class on account of illness who wish to be excused will be expected to provide the appropriate medical documentation.

With respect to medical accommodation generally, please consult the Policy on Medical Illness at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

For all medical and non-medical issues that might warrant accommodation, including all assignments, exams, tests, presentations, and class attendance, please go to academic counselling.

Re: Plagiarism:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Submitting Essay Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted in hardcopy as well as electronically to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Detailed instructions, associated with this process, will be supplied at a later date.

The term paper in this course will be due on November 20, 2013. The penalty for late submission of term papers will be 2% per day, to a maximum of 4%. No papers will be accepted after November 22, 2013, except when justified by appropriate documentation from Academic Counselling.

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Re Turnitin:

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to a licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students will be expected to identify their term paper topics during the week of October 9, 2013. Papers will be due in class on November 20, 2013.

No student will pass this course who fails to submit a term paper.

EXPECTATIONS:

- regular attendance – in fact, attendance should be regarded as mandatory;
- completion of all readings, on a weekly basis, and active participation in discussion based on those readings;
- courtesy and respect toward all members of the course, and also toward its instructor; and
- **BE FULLY PRESENT IN CLASS.** No text messaging or twittering during class. Laptops are permitted, providing that they are used **ONLY** for class purposes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will have:

- acquired a broad familiarity with a principal set of international economic, political, diplomatic, and military issues;
- familiarized themselves with an important body of primary and secondary sources, broadly dealing with the international community from World War II to the present;
- written a solid, thoughtful, and well crafted essay of approximately 2500 words, plus citations and Bibliography, on a topic of their choice, approved after consultation with the instructor; and
- developed presentation and communication skills as a result of classroom discussion and exchange.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

- The website for the UWO Office of the Registrar is: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.
- UWO has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social, and academic needs of students, in a confidential environment.
 - The Student Development Centre (SDC) has trained staff and an array of services to help students achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. See: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>.

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- The Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) has staff members who specialize in assisting students with various disabilities to adjust to the university environment. See: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd>.
- For information related to accessibility, including accessible routes, temporary service disruptions, and university policies related to accessibility issues, see: <http://www.accessibility.uwo.ca/students/index.htm>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

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PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot

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avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca

