Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences
Date: 4/15/15

Course Prefix and Number: HIS 122

Course Name: World History II

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: no pre-requisites or co-requisites
A survey of modern history since 1500, from a truly global perspective. This course charts the rise of the West to a position of political, technological and industrial dominance in the modern era, but the principal focus will be upon major historical developments elsewhere: Africa, the Middle East, India, Latin America and East Asia. Considerable emphasis will be placed upon frequent intersections between the western and non-western worlds during the Age of Imperialism, World Wars I and II, the Cold War and post-1945 decolonization.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will:

Demonstrate knowledge of the broad outline of modern world history.

Demonstrate knowledge of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture etc. of at least one non-western civilization, and obtain the historical knowledge necessary to live interdependently in a diverse global community.

Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings.

Identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of Modern world history, and, in their own writing, will demonstrate well-reasoned arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.

Demonstrate an understanding of the political evolution of western civilization in the modern era (including Enlightenment-era theories of democracy, representative government, social equality, human rights, and individual freedom, and their application during the French and American Revolutions and the 19th century “Age of Reform”), so as to better equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be involved in their communities.

Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published and electronic historical resources.
Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:
May be taken to fulfill the SUNY General Education requirement of 3 credits of a world civilization course, or as a Social Science (HIS 122) elective requirement.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:
☐ writing  X computer literacy
☐ oral communications  ☐ ethics/values
X reading  X citizenship
☐ mathematics  X global concerns
X critical thinking  X information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:
Textbook, published primary source reader (or electronic equivalent), assigned historical monograph, College learning management system.

Methods of Instruction:
Lecture, reading and discussion

IV. Assessment Measures:

Student knowledge of the broad outline of modern world history will be assessed using in-class, closed-book essay examinations (Critical Thinking and Global Concerns competencies).

Quizzes and essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ understanding of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture etc. of at least one non-western civilization (Critical Thinking and Global Concerns competencies).

Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings (Reading competency).

An assigned paper (critical book review or research paper) will be employed to assess students’ ability to gather information from a range of published and electronic historical sources, to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of modern world civilization, and to develop a well-reasoned and evidence-supported historical argument (Critical thinking, Computer Literacy and Information Resources competencies).

Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ understanding of the political evolution of western civilization in the modern era (Citizenship competency).
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Forging of Global Contacts: European Overseas Empires and the Columbian Exchange

The West Forges Ahead: the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment

Africa and the World, 1500-1900

The Islamic World, 1500-1900

China and Japan, 1500-1900

India and the British Connection, 1700-1900

Applying the Enlightenment: French and American Revolutions and the Age of Napoleon

Industrial Revolution, 1750-1900

The West and the World in the Age of New Imperialism

“The Sun Never Sets:” The British Empire

Nation-Building in the Europe and the Western Hemisphere (The U.S.A. and Latin America)

World War I: Origins and Causes

World War I: Total War and the Making of the Modern World

The Paris Peace Treaties and the Failure to Attain a Durable Peace, 1919

Russian Revolution and the Emergence of the Soviet Union

Troubled Times: Global Implications of the Great Depression, Stalinism, and European Fascism

Revisionism and the Road to World War II in Europe and the Pacific

World War II: The Global Perspective

Holocaust and Birth of the Atomic Age

Cold War and a Bipolar World, 1945-1990

Decolonization and Independence in India, Africa and Latin America

East Asia in Transition, 1950-1976 (Mao’s China, Korea and Vietnam)
Arab-Israeli Conflict and the Transformation of the Islamic World

The World at the Turn of the 21st Century