

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	FNDN145		
Course Title	Modern World History		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	LEE, I.Zhuen Clarence	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Foundation Courses	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	<p>How did our modern world come to be as it is? How did important aspects such as nation-states, identity, culture become part and parcel of our everyday lives? How do we understand the rise of science and technology? These are the questions that this course explores. By focusing on specific events, ideas and historical shifts from the 1300s to contemporary times, this course will give students an overview of the basic aspects of our modern society. We will look at the rise of international trade that led to not only cultural exchanges but also the spread of epidemics. We will also attempt to understand how scientific breakthroughs and the creation of nation-states led to shifts in the definition of what it means to be human. We will consider the dark history of colonization and slavery, and how these periods in history had contributed to ideas of race and cultural difference. And lastly, we will investigate the current age of globalism and consumerism in a period of everyday warfare.</p> <p>The course will be mainly lecture-based with a section of each class allocated to discussion. Students are expected to come prepared for discussion by completing the assigned readings before class.</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	In response to students' evaluation, instructor will revamp slides to make content more digestible. Also, lectures will be remodeled to provide students with more opportunity to actively interact with the material at hand.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	None
Learning Goals	<p>At the end of this course, students should possess a broad knowledge of modern world history. They should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify the key aspects and themes of world history and explicate their importance - read and possess insight on daily world news from a historical standpoint - consider and empathize with a wide array of cultural groups in different temporal and geographical settings - possess a historical mindset to critically interact with the world and consider contemporary problems through a historical lens. - interpret historical documents from ideas gleaned from the class

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Flipped Classroom/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	None				
Use of ICT	Powerpoint, Google Docs, Padlet, etc.				
Contents of class preparation and review	How to succeed: Attend, pay attention, take notes at all lectures. Complete each reading assignment by the date of the class meeting for which it is scheduled. Use the discussion questions in the textbook and consider them before each session. Participate in class both when we are in discussion and when posed questions in lecture. There will be texts that are primary sources (actual historical documents) and secondary sources (scholars writing about history), and an excellent student will be able to synthesize ideas from both. In the same way, review how both kinds of sources (on any particular [series of] historical event[s]) speak to each other.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Regular feedbacks will be given to all tests and examinations in the form of comments. Students may approach the instructor at any point in the course to ask for more individualized feedback. Discussion feedback will also be given whenever appropriate.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Participation and Discussion	20%	
Two Small in-class tests	20%	
Mid-Term Exam	20%	
Final Exam	40%	

Required Textbook(s)	Textbook: Smith, Bonnie G., et al. World in the Making: A Global History. Volume Two: Since 1300. Second Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022. (ISBN: 9780197608364)
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Other Reading Materials/URL	All other reading materials will be posted online and/or given in class
Plagiarism Policy	<p>Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. Depending on the nature of plagiarism committed, you may fail the assignment and/or the course. Repeated acts of plagiarism will be reported to the University, which may result in additional penalties.</p> <p>ChatGPT and other AI tools are not replacements for your original and critical thoughts. The ultimate goal of this course and any tool used to submit your assignments is to enhance your own learning and understanding, not to undermine it. Having AI write your paper therefore constitutes plagiarism, and will result in the failure of the assignment and/or the course.</p>
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>- A daily grade will be given to all students based on participation in class discussion, the asking of good questions, and the encouragement of collaborative thinking. Excellent students are those that seek to actively learn and encourage their fellow classmates to add value to the classroom environment. Students that come to class without preparation and participation will easily fail this class.</p> <p>- Lectures are NOT a rehash of readings</p> <p>- Except in the case of an emergency, no make-up exams/tests will be given.</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Why Study World History? -- Course Overview and Expectations
Class 2	Collapse and Revival in Afro-Eurasia, 1300-1450
Class 3	Global Bazaar, World Trade, and Counterpoints
Class 4	Empires, Religion, and the Americas before European Colonization
Class 5	The Inca and the Peoples of North America's Eastern Woodlands
Class 6	The Rise of an Atlantic World: 1450-1600 (I)

Class 7	The Rise of an Atlantic World: 1450–1600 (II)
Class 8	The Atlantic Slave Trade
Class 9	The Expansion of Slave Trade and the rise of trading companies
Class 10	Trade and Empire in the Indian Ocean and South Asia
Class 11	Trade and Colonies in Southeast Asia
Class 12	Conflict in Europe
Class 13	European Innovations in Science and Pirates
Class 14	Rise of Russia and Chinese Empire
Class 15	Transition and Consolidation
Class 16	New World Colonies Mature

Class 17	Growth in French and British North America
Class 18	Atlantic Revolutions and the World
Class 19	Revolution in Latin America and Religious Revivals
Class 20	Industrial Revolution I
Class 21	Industrial Revolution II
Class 22	Rise of Nation States
Class 23	Imperialism and Nationalism
Class 24	The Road to World Wars
Class 25	Post WW-I Global Politics
Class 26	Post WWI Global Depression and the Road to Another War

Class 27	The Second World War
Class 28	Post-WWII and the rise of Cold-War world order
Class 29	World Recovery, Technological Advances, and shifts in Culture
Class 30	Returning to the Global World Final Review of the class