



Mahidol University
International College

ICIR 202 Globalization and International Order in the Twentieth Century: From the First World War to 9/11

Course Description & Aims:

This course covers the twentieth century, running from the outbreak of the First World War to the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States. During this time, key features and institutions of the modern world related to globalization and international governance continued to develop. Particular attention is paid to the two world wars and the intervening period, the emergence of an international order dominated by two superpowers and the ensuing Cold War, decolonization in Asia and Africa, and the socio-economic transformations of societies across the globe resulting from medical and technological developments such as new contraceptive methods and computing. The course develops the historical skills, such as identifying change over time and interpreting primary sources, introduced in **ICIR 201 The Formation of the Modern World**.

Lecturer: Dr. Robin Ramcharan

Office number: **Student hours:**

Email address:

Assessment

Participation	10%
Two (2) written assignments (2 @ 20%)	40%
Mid-term examination	20%
Final examination	30%

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the main events and developments in world history during the twentieth century
2. Recognize and assess how the main events and developments in world history during the twentieth century affect the world today
3. Understand and apply historical concepts and methodologies
4. Compare and contrast the historical development of different countries and parts of the world during the twentieth century
5. Discuss, understand and analyze selected primary sources of significance to world history from the twentieth century

Topic No.	Topic
1	Introduction: World History and the Short Twentieth Century
2	The First World War and its Effects
3	The Rise of Communist and Fascist Regimes
4	The Rise of Japan and Asian and African Nationalist Movements
5	The Second World War and its Effects
6	Review & Midterm Examination
7	Decolonization and the Cold War
8	Modernization and Economic Development: Multinational Corporations and Mass Consumerism
9	Technological Developments and Socio-Economic Transformations: Computers and Contraceptives
10	The End of History? The Fall of Communism
11	A Clash of Civilizations? Ethnic Nationalisms and Islamic Fundamentalism
12	Review
13	Final Examination

Assessment Methods & Criteria

Classroom Participation (10%)

Students will receive 0-10% depending on attendance and active participation in class (contribution to discussions, asking and answering questions). Coming to **student hours**, or meeting to discuss the course at other times, is also encouraged. There will be a **group debate** on a major issues –details will be given early in the course.

What are “student hours”? Student hours (formerly “office hours”) are times a teacher sets aside each week for students to come and ask any questions and discuss any issues they would like. It is time devote solely to student interests and concerns. If you would like to come but cannot make the regular student hours, please contact me to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Two written assignments (20% each):

Students will be asked to consider a historical situation from the point of view of an actor in it. They will explain their understanding of the situation, how it might develop, and possible choices available. An example would be to analyze and give recommendations to the leader of a country. Each assignment should be c 800-1000 words long. **They are due in Weeks 4 and 10.**

Mid-term (20%)

Students will be assessed on weeks 1-5 of the course. The exam will include an essay question, an analysis of a primary source document, and short analytical summaries of key topics..

Short description of Interpret a primary source document

Final exam (30%)

Students will be assessed on the second half of the course. The exam will include an essay question, an analysis of a primary source document, and short analytical summaries of key topics.

Key texts include:

- Willian R. Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History*, 4th edn., (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001)
- J. M Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century* (Penguin, 2000)
- Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrovski, *The World Since 1945*, 7th edn (Lynne Rienr, 2009)
- Michael H Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the present* (Oxford University Press, 2014). 2 vols.: the first is a historical overview, the second a documentary reader
- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: the short twentieth century, 1914-1991* (Michael Joseph, 1994)
- CNN Series, “The Cold War”
- Selected documents will also be distributed for reading and discussion

Introduction: World History and the Short Twentieth Century

Topic description: Introduction and course overview, and expectations/requirements for successful completion of the course. Review of the world in 1914 and causes of First World War (reminder/refresher of ICIR 201). Summary of key themes of 20th century history, and how these have prepared the world in which the students now live. Focus on themes of change and transformation.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand the expectations of them in this course. They will understand the key themes that unify it, and be ready to identify them. They will understand the structures of world politics in 1914 that were to be profoundly disrupted by the First World War and its aftermath. They will understand, and be able to explain, the origins of the War, and its course, outcome and aftermath.

Activities.

Group discussion: what do we mean by “war”? Why do wars break out?

Exercise: what were the interests and fears of each great power in 1914?

Readings:

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History* Prologue
- J. M Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century*, chapters 1 and 8
- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*
- Selections of First World War Poetry

The First World War and it Effects

Topic description: Key developments of First World War, and why it bears this name. Political, economic and social consequences. Peace-making and its problems. The rise of “new diplomacy” and the League of Nations. Locarno and the illusory stability of the 1920s. The “German problem” and how it was understood and tackled.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand the most important aspects of the course and outcome of the First World War. They will understand the outcomes of Versailles and other key treaties, and their weaknesses. They will be able to distinguish the apparent stability of the 1920s from the deeper causes of change and instability that underlay this period.

Activities:

Group discussion: what effects do wars have?

Group exercise: what were the priorities of each major power in 1919

Readings:

- J. M Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century*, chs. 9-10
- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History*, chapter 1

The Rise of Communist and Fascist Regimes

Topic description: The origins of communism and fascism as ideas and movements. How they took power. Their domestic and foreign policies, and implications for international order. The Great Depression: causes and consequences. Its impact on politics and ideas.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand the principles and appeal of communist and fascist movements, how they took power, and the challenge they posed to democratic systems and values. They will compare and contrast the policies of totalitarian governments and evaluate their effects on international stability. They will describe and explain the impact of the Great Depression on international politics.

Activities:

Group debate: the appeal of extremism. What did fascists and communists argue for in the 1930s, and how could democrats respond?

Readings:

- Archie Brown, *The Rise and Fall of Communism* (Bodley Head, 2009)
- R. O. Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism*, chapter 1, 5
- Moshé Lewin (1985) *The Making of The Soviet System: Essays In The Social History of Interwar Russia*, Introduction

The Rise of Japan and Asian and African Nationalist Movements

First written assignment due

Topic description: Impact of the First World War and post-war peace on colonial rule and anti-colonial movements. The Balfour Declaration and the Middle East. Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. The rise of Japanese militarism and the “co-prosperity sphere”.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand how the First World War impacted colonial rule and anti-colonial movements. They will understand the ideas and appeal of key nationalist leaders. They will examine the origins of conflict in the Middle East and East Asia.

Activities:

Group exercise: imagine you are one of the key players: Britain, Zionist campaigners, Palestinian Arabs, Asian and African nationalists. What are your hopes, fears and goals?

Readings:

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond* chapters 2-3
- J. M Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century*, chs. 11-12
- John Darwin, *After Tamerlane*, chapter 7

The Second World War and its Effects

Topic description: Origins, course and consequences of the Second World War. The breakdown of wartime co-operation. The onset of the Cold War and division of Europe. Rise of superpowers.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand why, so soon after the First World War, there was a Second. They will explain its global impact, and why the allies so soon became rivals. They will interpret the meaning of “Cold War” and “superpower”.

Activities

Group discussion, drawing on weeks 1-2 activities: what were the causes and consequences of the Second World War?

Readings:

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond*, chapters 4, 5, 8
- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chs 6-7 (to p. 369)
- The Long Telegrams: Kennan and Novikov (circulated excerpts)

Viewing:

- CNN Series, “The Cold War”: episode 1

Review for Mid-term Examination

Topic description: Mid-term exam and discussion

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand how to write effective, analytical exam answers. They will be able to apply lessons learned from preparing for, and taking, the mid-term exam to the final exam.

Activities:

Group exercise: Outline and discuss model answers to sample questions

Readings:

Review of course readings to date

Decolonization and the Cold War

Topic description: The evolution of the Cold War: spread to Asia and beyond. Relaxation and crises after 1953. Superpower détente. Causes and consequences of decolonization, and its impact on the Cold War.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will describe and explain the spread of the Cold War, and the causes of its evolution. They will understand what nuclear weapons are, and analyse their impact on international relations. They will explain the factors that led to rapid decolonization after 1945, and be able to apply them to a variety of cases. They will interpret its impact on the Cold War. Students will explain the impact of shifts in power on state interests and policies.

Activities

Group exercise: What is different about nuclear weapons?

Group exercise: What options are available to a country whose relative power is falling?

Readings:

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond*, chapter 11

- Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrovski, *The World Since 1945*
- Michael H Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the present*

Viewing:

- CNN Series, “The Cold War”: episode 7

Modernization and Economic Development: Multinational Corporations and Mass Consumerism

Topic description: Post-war economic growth and the “golden age of capitalism”. The rise of globalization, and its benefits and risks. Economic performance in the Western and Soviet blocs, and its impact on the Cold War. The rise of the 3rd World and its diverging interests.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will explain how and why the world economy grew so quickly after 1945, and compare and contrast the performance of different regions and systems. They will differentiate the development choices available to 3rd World countries and their consequences. They will explain the origins of European integration.

Activities

Group discussion: Why did economic performance vary over time and between countries? What were its effects on international relations?

Readings:

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond*, chapter 15
- Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrovski, *The World Since 1945*
- J. M Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century*, ch. 19
- Michael H Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the present*

Viewing

- CNN Series, “The Cold War”

Technological Developments and Socio-Economic Transformations: Computers and Contraceptives

Topic description: Technological progress in science, agriculture, medicine and energy, and its effects. The causes and consequences of changing social values. The rise of movements for gender, racial and sexual equality. The emergence of ecological consciousness. The relationship of all these trends to the evolving Cold War.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will examine the significance of technological progress and distinguish its forms. They will explain how and why traditional values and hierarchies were challenged, and why new social movements emerged. They will compare and contrast the changing fortunes of different regime-types in the 1960s and 1970s. They will relate these trends to the evolution of the Cold War.

Activities:

Group discussion: in what ways does daily life differ from that of your grandparents when they were growing up? What is responsible for these changes?

Readings:

- Michael H Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the present*
- J. M Roberts, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century*, ch. 20

Viewing:

- CNN Series, “The Cold World”: episode 13

The End of History? The Fall of Communism

Second written assignment due

Topic description: Causes and consequences of the end of the Cold War. Decline of the Soviet bloc and Gorbachev's responses. The impact of perestroika and glasnost. The break-up of the Soviet Union and the diplomacy of peaceful transformation.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will explain how and why the Cold War ended. They will compare and contrast the role of structural circumstances and individual agency in this outcome. They will examine the world in 1992 and consider the prospects for a "new world order".

Activities:

Group discussion: Imagine it is 1983. What were the main international trends? How likely did it seem that the Cold War would end before the end of the decade?

Group debate: Was George Kennan right?

Readings:

- Archie Brown, *The Rise and Fall of Communism*
- Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond* chapter 16
- Michael H Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the present*
- CNN Series, "The Cold War", episode 22 and 23

A Clash of Civilizations? Ethnic Nationalisms and Islamic Fundamentalism

Topic description: The "end of history" thesis and its critics. The resurgence of identity politics in the post-Cold War world. The "unipolar moment" and its decline. Winners and losers of "hyper-globalization". The road to 9/11.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will understand the "end of history" and "clash of civilizations" arguments, and explain their strengths and weakness. They will examine key trends in power, conflict and identity in the 1990s, and the origins of 9/11.

Activities:

Group debate: what is the strongest case for and against Fukuyama's "end of history" thesis?

Readings:

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond* chapters 17, 22
- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History"
- Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations"
- Michael H Hunt, *The World Transformed: 1945 to the present*

Review for Final Examination

Topic description: Review of course material and its unifying themes of globalization and transformation. Further discussion of most challenging issues.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students will organize and consolidate their understanding of the course material. They will interpret relationships of cause and effect among key trends, and relate these to one another. They will clarify their understanding of the most challenging topics.

Activities

Group exercise: Outline and discuss model answers to sample questions

Readings:

- Review of whole course material