**HIST 114**

**The History of the World in the Last Ten Years**

Fall 2012 John-Paul Himka

Classroom: HC L 1 492-0852

MWF 10:00-10:50 jhimka@ualberta.ca

office hours: W 12:30-13:30 and by appointment office: T2-72

Additional instructors: TBA

# Course Goals

Really, the last ten years is too short of a perspective for normal history. But it's also a longer perspective than the news media take. We'll try to combine virtues here: the deeper understanding of the course of events that history gives and the direct relevance to the present moment that the news media provide. We will try to make sense of the world we live in. We will concentrate on the period from 2002 until the present. Our instruments will be lectures, discussions, film, and your own independent explorations.

# Text/Readings

There is no textbook for this course. All required readings will be posted on the moodle.

# Schedule

## 5-7 September

The Middle East, Central Asia, and the Islamic World

## 10-14 September

The Middle East, Central Asia, and the Islamic World

## 17-21 September

The Middle East, Central Asia, and the Islamic World

## 24-28 September

Economic Crisis

## 1-5 October

Economic Crisis

5 October: tutorial

8 October: Thanksgiving

## 10-12 October

Biotechnical Revolution and Health Care

## 15-19 October

Biotechnical Revolution and Health Care

19 October: tutorial

## 22-26 October

BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China)

26 October: midterm

## 29 October – 2 November

BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China)

31 October: guest lecture, Deana Heath

## 5-9 November

BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China)

9 November: tutorial, paper topic due

12 November: Remem-brance Day closure

## 14-16 November

Subsaharan Africa

## 19-23 November

Subsaharan Africa

19 November: film *The Lazarus Effect*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l16YH6xCN4c&lr=1&uid=27Bqjp8c1cTHcJEnwypkjQ>

## 26-30 November

Subsaharan Africa

30 November: tutorial

## 3-5 December

Subsaharan Africa

7 December: paper due

18 December: final examination

# Grading

Discussion 20% Midterm Exam 20% Final Exam 30% Paper 30%

We will be grading different components in percentages. Here is how the percentages convert to letter grades:

A+ 96 B+ 84 C+ 72 D+ 60 F less than 56

A 92 B 80 C 68 D 56

A- 88 B- 76 C- 64

## Discussion

Beginning in October, we will have four tutorials, often with assigned readings from the moodle. Every student should come to class prepared to speak, to say something interesting and insightful. Participation is mandatory, and it has to be of good quality.

This will give you some idea of how the instructors intend to mark discussion:

* **A** active in discussion, moves it forward, exceptionally well prepared, raises interesting questions, lots of insight
* **B** active in discussion, moves it forward, well prepared, sometimes raises interesting questions, occasional insights
* **C** passive in discussion, but sometimes moves it forward, adequately prepared, rarely raises interesting questions, rarely offers insights
* **D** passive in discussion and rarely moves it forward, preparation leaves something to be desired, almost never raises interesting questions, no insights

You may at any time make an appointment with your tutorial leader to discuss your participation and how it is being evaluated to date.

You are expected to attend every discussion session. If you have a legitimate reason why you cannot, please let us know the reason in advance. Otherwise we have to give you a zero for that day’s grade. We also have to give a zero to anyone who comes to class unprepared.

## Midterm Examination

The midterm examination will be held 26 October and cover the material of the lectures and readings through that date. It will consist of ten brief questions and one essay chosen from two questions. The short answers and the essay will each count for half the grade on the exam.

## Final Examination

The final is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 18 December, at 9:00 in a location yet to be announced. The exact time and location will be posted on Bear Tracks. The exam will again consist of ten short-answer questions and one essay (to be chosen from two questions). The short-answer questions will be similar to those on the midterm, but will cover only the material after 26 October. Like the midterm it will be based on the lectures and readings. The short answers and the essay will each count for half the grade on the exam. The exam will last two hours.

## Research Paper

The paper must concern the history of the last ten years, but topics are otherwise fairly open. Work out your topic with your tutorial leader. We can give you some suggestions for topics if you want. A written statement of your choice of topic and how you expect to go about researching it (i.e., some sources) must be submitted at the 9 November tutorial session for evaluation. Handing in a topic late or neglecting to hand one in altogether will be reflected in a lower mark on the paper.

Unless you receive special permission in advance, a significant portion of your sources must come from at least two of the following periodicals: *Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *National Review*, *New Left Review*, *New Yorker*, *New York Review of Books*, *New York Times*, *Weekly Standard*.

Papers must be original compositions: plagiarism will not be tolerated. On plagiarism, please consult the Code of Student Behavior published in the *Calendar* and on the university website. Here is the most important passage: "No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study."

Aim for about 2000 words, but length is flexible.

For academic style (footnotes, etc.) I recommend the Chicago Manual of Style online. Get to the latter through our library online access if you want full access to the site. This is the best style guide for academic historians.

Please feel free at all times to make an appointment with your tutorial leader to discuss your paper. Better we talk about it than for you to grope in the dark.

Papers will be graded with the following criteria in mind:

* research
* depth of analysis
* quality of style
* organization

On style and the writing process in general, the following website is extremely helpful: The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.

Papers must have footnotes or endnotes: I need to know where you're getting your information from. It is not enough just to provide notes for quotations. Even internet sources need to be cited (see Chicago Manual of Style online to learn how). You do not need to quote an author to cite him/her. A good paper might have about fifteen footnotes.

The papers are due by 7 December. Late submissions will be liable to penalties of 4 percentage points for each working day late. We can be flexible if you need an extension, but you need to let us know in advance.

# Tutorials

## 5 October

Rohde, David, and David E. Sanger. “How a ‘Good War’ in Afghanistan Went Bad.” *New York Times*, 12 August 2007.

Charney, Craig, and James Dobbins. “Afghanistan’s Reasons for Optimism.” *Washington Post*, 31 March 2011.

Lewis, Michael, ed. *Panic: The Story of Modern Financial Insanity*. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009. Pp. 299-344.

Freeland, Chrystia. “The Rise of the New Global Elite.” *The Atlantic* (January-February 2011).

## 19 October

For this tutorial, there are no assigned readings, but you have to do some research on line.

Pick one disease/condition from column A and one from column B:

### A

Alzheimer’s

breast cancer

heart disease

lung cancer

obesity

### B

cholera

death in childbirth

malaria

malnutrition

tuberculosis

Research the disease/condition on line in order to answer the following questions about each disease:

* Does the disease/condition strike differentially according to social class, gender, geographical region, level of development, sexual orientation, or any other transpersonal characteristic?
* What kind of treatments are now being used?
* What kind of treatments are being thought about for the future?
* What is the economic cost of the disease/condition and its treatment at present?
* What are some of the projections for future costs?

(For the last two questions, you may restrict the information to some region or country.)

A good place to start research is on the website of the World Health Organization:

<http://www.who.int/en/>

In addition, you should research the disease through EBSCO on the U of A Libraries home page.

## 9 November

(This is also the day you have to submit your paper topic proposal.)

Remnick, David. "Post-Imperial Blues.” *The New Yorker* 79, no. 30 (13 October 2003).

LaFraniere, Sharon. “China Tightens Controls on Foreign Press.” *New York Times*, 3 March 2011.

LaFraniere, Sharon, and Edward Wong. “China Tracks Foreign Journalists.” *New York Times*, 6 March 2011.

Lemann, Nicholas. “The Anointed.” *The New Yorker*, 5 December 2011.

## 30 November

Epstein, Helen. “The Hidden Cause of Aids.” *New York Review of Books*, 9 May 2002.

Draper, Robert. “Shattered Somalia.” *National Geographic*, September 2009.

Anderson, Jon Lee. “A History of Violence.” *The New Yorker*, 23 July 2012.

