

The Making of the Modern World

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This is a course in human geography that investigates the character of our modern world. We will examine the concepts and forces that define the modern world as such – the Enlightenment, globalization, capitalism, and nation-states – in order to build your capacity to understand modernity and its geographical expressions. The course is structured around five core themes:

1. Modernity, the Enlightenment, and globalization
2. The industrial revolution and the spread of capitalism
3. Empire and colonialism
4. Nation-states: the formation of the global polity
5. The transformation of nature

While many of our readings are theoretical, we will draw from case studies from different regions – Europe, the USA, Iraq, China, Egypt, and Mexico – to ground our studies. Our underlying aim is for you to develop a more rigorous and coherent conception of the world, and in this manner to advance the University’s mission: *disciplina in civitatem*.

For the lectures to be effective, you must come to class prepared. Read the material carefully before each class. This is your major responsibility for the course, as well as the key to your success. The readings are challenging and you will probably have questions. Dwell on them; discuss them with your class-mates; bring them to class.

Course requirements

Exams (2), 25 and 35%	60 %
Writing assignments (2), 20% each	40 %

Attendance is required but not graded. You will take two exams – on March 7 and April 26 – comprised of short essays. (I will show you sample questions in class so that you know what to expect.) Finally, 40% of your grade results from a pair of writing assignments.

Our Course Plan

#	Day	Date	Topic / notes	Assigned reading
1	Tu	10-Jan	Course introduction	
2	Th	12-Jan	What is modernity? 1	S Amin
3	Tu	17-Jan	What is modernity? 2	E Dussel
4	Th	19-Jan	What is Enlightenment? 1	I Kant
5	Tu	24-Jan	What is Enlightenment? 2	M Foucault
6	Th	26-Jan	What is globalization? 1	A Smith & J Locke
7	Tu	31-Jan	What is globalization? 2	K Marx & F Engels
8	Th	2-Feb	Empires	K Karatani 1
9	Tu	7-Feb	World religion	K Karatani 2
10	Th	9-Feb	Industrial revolution	E Hobsbawm 1
11	Tu	14-Feb	Slavery	M Rediker
12	Th	16-Feb	Capitalism	E M Wood, A Einstein
13	Tu	21-Feb	Race, nation, nationalism	E Hobsbawm 2
14	Th	23-Feb	Case study 1: Iraq 1	D Gregory
15	Tu	28-Feb	Case study 1: Iraq 2	S Mourad, P Sands
16	Th	2-Mar	make up day	{catch up if you are behind}
17	Tu	7-Mar	Exam 1 (normal class time)	
18	Th	9-Mar	Case study 2: Indigenous people & US settler state †	{TBD}
	Tu	14-Mar	Spring Break: March 13-17	
	Th	16-Mar	Spring Break March 13-17	
19	Tu	21-Mar	Borromean rings: nation - state - capital 1	K Karatani 3
20	Th	23-Mar	Borromean rings: nation - state - capital 2	K Karatani 3
21	Tu	28-Mar	Borromean rings: nation - state - capital 3	I Kant
22	Th	30-Mar	Borromean rings: nation - state - capital 4	K Karatani 4
23	Tu	4-Apr	Cast study 3: Egypt	H Kandil
	Th	6-Apr	Prof Wainwright at AAG meeting; no class; work on paper 2	catch up if you are behind
24	Tu	11-Apr	Cast study 4: China 1	H Wang
25	Th	13-Apr	China part 2 to Chiapas part 1	G Arrighi
26	Tu	18-Apr	Case study 5: Chiapas part 2	Ruiz, EZLN, Marcos
27	Th	20-Apr	Prospects for a different world / course review †	R Rosdolsky
	Wed	26-Apr	Exam 2 (the final): 2:00 - 3:45	
			† = paper due	

All assigned texts will be available on Carmen.

The writing assignment

You will write two critical reflection essays. For the first, which is due by the start of class on March 9, please select one of the assigned readings for classes 1-18. For your second essay, due by the start of class on April 20, please select one of the texts in the course packet assigned for reading in classes 19-27. Your essays should be ~900 words, double-spaced and 12-point font (this will come to around three pages). When you refer to a text, be sure to cite it properly. Your papers may be turned in to our TA – paper copies only, please – at any time before they are due.

Each essay must provide [1] a *concise analytic summary* of the text you discuss, as well as [2] your own *critical analysis* of the central argument of the text. Critical analysis requires thoughtful reflection. A strong essay is well-written (and therefore entertaining) and provides ‘constructive criticism’, i.e., a critical analysis of the argument.

Additional notes

No background in Geography is expected or required in order to enroll in this course.

Because many of us are easily distracted by student use of cell phones, computers, recording devices, and the like, such equipment should be turned off and placed out of sight during class.

Late work loses ten percentage points per day (Saturday and Sunday count). For instance, a paper that is turned in six days late that receives a grade of 90/100 would be scored 30/100. Your papers should be turned in on paper (not via email). They are due at the start of class. If you arrive late for class of the day they are due, and thereby turn in your paper after lecture, your paper will be treated as one day late. If you wish to turn in work late, either [a] hand it to the professor or TA or [b] have your paper time-stamped in the Geography department front office and place your paper in my department mailbox.

Because our exams are essay-based and unique to each course-group, they cannot be taken late or made up. Exceptions are rare – emergencies only – and up to my discretion. Arrangements for a make-up exam should be made *before the exam is distributed*.

Grading options for the course are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, E. An ‘I’, or Incomplete, will only be given under special circumstances where the instructor has made a concrete arrangement with the student before the end of the quarter. If you wish to request an ‘I’, be prepared to explain why an Incomplete is an appropriate grade—and when you will complete the course.

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Any academic misconduct (plagiarizing, e.g.) will be reported to Ohio State's Office of Academic Affairs, Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). It is the responsibility of COAM to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. (The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed.) Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct at <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>. COAM have prepared a useful statement on academic integrity (see next page). Please read it carefully.

General Education Goals & Expected Learning Outcomes

GEOG 3701 fulfills GE requirements in Social Science (2) Organizations and Politics, by focusing on the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions. Students who complete this course will:

1. understand theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics;
2. understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts; and,
3. comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

GEOG 3701 also fulfills GE requirements in Global Studies, by focusing on non-western countries and global issues. Students who complete the course will:

1. understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.; and,
2. recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity

Ohio State Office of Academic Affairs, Committee on Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, students are expected to complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. The following suggestions will help you preserve academic integrity [...].

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOURCES THAT YOU USE WHEN COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS:** If you use another person's thoughts, ideas, or words in your work, you must acknowledge this fact. This applies regardless of whose thoughts, ideas, or words you use as well as the source of the information. If you do not acknowledge the work of others, you are implying that another person's work is your own, and such actions constitute plagiarism. Plagiarism is the theft of another's intellectual property [...].

2. **AVOID SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR:** Do not put yourself in a position where an instructor might suspect that you are cheating or that you have cheated. Even if you have not cheated, the mere suspicion of dishonesty might undermine an instructor's confidence in your work. Avoiding some of the most common types of suspicious behavior is simple. Before an examination, check your surroundings carefully and make sure that all of your notes are put away and your books are closed. An errant page of notes on the floor or an open book could be construed as a 'cheat sheet'. Keep your eyes on your own work. [...]

3. **DO NOT FABRICATE INFORMATION:** Never make-up data, literature citations, experimental results, or any other type of information that is used in an academic or scholarly assignment.

4. **DO NOT FALSIFY ANY TYPE OF RECORD:** Do not alter, misuse, produce, or reproduce any University form or document or other type of form or document. Do not sign another person's name to any form or record (University or otherwise), and do not sign your name to any form or record that contains inaccurate or fraudulent information. Once an assignment has been graded and returned to you, do not alter it and ask that it be graded again. [...]

5. **DO NOT GIVE IN TO PEER PRESSURE:** Friends can be a tremendous help to one another when studying for exams or completing course assignments. However, don't let your friendships with others jeopardize your college career. Before lending or giving any type of information to a friend or acquaintance, consider carefully what you are lending (giving), what your friend might do with it, and what the consequences might be if your friend misuses it. [...]

6. **DO NOT SUBMIT THE SAME WORK FOR CREDIT IN TWO COURSES:** Instructors do not give grades in a course, rather students earn their grades. Thus, instructors expect that students will earn their grades by completing all course requirements (assignments) while they are actually enrolled in the course. If a student uses his/her work from one course to satisfy the requirements of a different course, that student is not only violating the spirit of the assignment, but he/she is also putting other students in the course at a disadvantage. Even though it might be your own work, you are not permitted to turn in the same work to meet the requirements of more than one course. [...]

7. **DO YOUR OWN WORK:** When you turn in an assignment with only your name on it, then the work on that assignment should be yours and yours alone. This means that you should not copy any work done by or work together with another student (or other person). [...]

8. **MANAGE YOUR TIME:** Do not put off your assignments until the last minute. If you do, you might put yourself in a position where your only options are to turn in an incomplete (or no) assignment or to cheat. [...]

9. **PROTECT YOUR WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHERS:** The assignments that you complete as a student are your "intellectual property," and you should protect your intellectual property just as you would any of your other property. [...]

10. **READ THE COURSE SYLLABUS AND ASK QUESTIONS:** Many instructors prepare and distribute (or make available on a web site) a course syllabus. Read the course syllabus for every course you take!