
HUMS 101 (1): Modern History, 1789 to present

Koc University, Spring 2015

Class meets Mondays, Wednesdays, 11:30-12:45, in SCI-129

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Office hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays, 14:00-15:00 or by appointment

Course Description:

Koc University's catalogue describes this course as follows: "Chief themes and events in modern history, roughly since 1848. Industrialization, the American Civil War, start of true globalization. The spread of westernization, the rivalries of the Great Powers, World War I. The spread of Americanization, the rise of Communism, the Russian Revolution; the peace-treaties of the period 1919, 1923 (Versailles to Lausanne)." Apparently, we are supposed to analyze the emergence of nationalism, nation-states, and new ideologies, such as capitalism, liberalism, socialism, nationalism, feminism, and fascism. We are also to study political, economic and social changes in modern world. Obviously, this is an ambitious task, not an easy course at all, but certainly an essential one. More books have been written on this subject than most of us could read in a lifetime. Hence, we will be simply trying to get some sense of the historical processes that have combined to create the "modern world," a quintessentially strange idea. Time is limited; we are already in a hurry. If you wish to do well in this course, you must keep up with the readings and attend classes regularly.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course students will (hopefully) be able:

- To identify and define the most important events, people, cultures, civilizations, and processes of the transformations from about 1650 to present.

- To evaluate historical documents critically and to describe how they might be used in understanding and writing history.
- To think more critically about history, how it is constructed, written, and interpreted.

Required Readings:

Readings for each class period are listed under the specific date on the **Course Outline (HUMS101Outline.html)**. They are all hyperlinked. The easiest thing to do is click on the link to read and print a specific reading.

Back to top