

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon/Winter Semester

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|--|--|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| School: | Undergraduate Studies | | | |
| Programme with title: | BA History (Honours) | | | |
| Semester to which offered: (I/II/ III/IV/ V/VI) | Winter | | | |
| Course Title: | Wars and Revolutions in the 20th Century | | | |
| Credits: | 4 | | | |
| Course Code (new): | SUS1HS435 | | | |
| Course Code (old): | H14 | | | |
| Type of Course: | Compulsory | No | Cohort | BA (H) History |
| | Elective | Yes | Cohort | BA (H) other than History |

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective) X
5. Elective X

Course Coordinator and Team: TBD

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites: NONE

Aim: The course shall focus on the emergence of a new world order in the 20th century. Various events influenced this development. Two world wars played crucial roles in shaping the contemporary world. The course shall closely examine the origin, course and consequences of these two wars.

The course shall analyse the scale and complexity of World War I. War was unique in various ways: its use of technology, the scale of devastation, and loss of human life. At the end of the war entirely new

world order emerged. We shall examine it. We shall also explore nature of Russian and Chinese revolutions. The diplomatic efforts after the WWI focused on preventing similar war in future, but as we know these directly contributed to the World War II. The role of rise of Fascism and Nazism was equally important in understanding the origin of the WWII. Aggressive nationalism, coupled with suspicion, competitive capitalism and imperialism led to WWII. This war shall be analysed in all its dimensions.

The course shall end with examining the new world order that emerged at the end of the war. The cold war, the European reconstruction, rise of non-alignment shall be discussed. We shall also focus on Korean and Vietnamese war. Finally, we shall examine the end of cold war and emergence of unipolar world.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

- I. Events Leading to WWI
- II. WWI: scale, dimensions, issues, and problems.
- III. Treaties after the war
- IV. Russian Revolution: nature, events and outcome
- V. Chinese Revolution
- VI. Europe in inter-war period: rise of Fascism and Nazism
- VII. Events leading to WWII
- VIII. The war and its consequences
- IX. New world order: two super powers and the cold war.
- X. Korean and Vietnamese wars
- XI. Non-alignment Movement
- XII. Disintegration of the USSR, end of cold war and emergence of unipolar world

Reading List:

1. C. A. Bayly, *The Birth of Modern World, 1780-1914*, Blackwell, 2004.
2. Michael Howard, *Empires, Nations and Wars*, Spellmount, 2007.
3. Chris Cook and John Stevenson, *World History Since 1914*, Routledge, 2005.
4. Richard Sakawa, *The Rise and Fall of Soviet Union*, Routledge, 1999.
5. Arjun Dev and Indira Arjun Dev, *History of the World*, Orient Blackswan, 2010.
6. Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations*, Viva Book, Indian edition, 2006.
7. Arthur Marwick, *The Deluge: The British Society at the First World war*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
8. Gordon Martel, eds, *A Companion to Europe, 1900-1945*, Wiley- Blackwell, 2011.
9. Richard Rhodes, *Masters of the Death*, Vintage Book, NY, 2003.
10. Evan Mawdsley, *World War II: A New History*, CUP, 2009
11. Neil Gregor, ed., *Nazism*, OUP, 2009.
12. Gregory L. Freeze, *Russia: A History*, OUP, 2009.
13. Rex Wade, *The Russian Revolution 1917*, CUP, 2005.
14. John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*

15. Martin Walker, *The Cold War: A New History*
16. Stephen Lovell, *Destination in Doubt: Russia Since 1989*, Zed Book, London, 2009.
17. Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, CUP, 2005.

Secondary Readings:

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

| S.No | Assessment | Date/period in which Assessment will take place | Weightage |
|-------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Take home essay | After ¼ of the course | 20% |
| 2 | Mid term exam | Mid term | 20% |
| 3 | Take home essay | After ¾ of the course | 20% |
| 4 | Final exam | End of semester | 40% |