

University of California, San Diego  
Global Seminars I  
Summer 2021

**MMW 15**

Tuesday, Wednesday  
Lectures & discussions  
9:00am-12:00pm

Thursday, Friday Excursions

Summer Session I  
(June 28 – July 31)  
Global Seminar  
UCSD

**Professor: Babak Rahimi**  
Literature Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: 3324  
Phone: 858-534-2147  
Email: [brahimi@ucsd.edu](mailto:brahimi@ucsd.edu)

**DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:**

This MMW examines major conflicts and transformative events in the twentieth century. It begins with a consideration of the causes and consequences of World War I, and studies the causes of the collapse of liberal democratic and capitalistic order in the 1930s. The post-World War I global sports culture of 1924 Olympics will also provide the connection between changing European identities in connection with religion and colonialism in non-European regions like East Asia.

The movie, *Chariots of Fire*, serves an example of post-war Britain and the inter-war period, and the impact sporting cultures can have with missionary religious practices in countries such as China. The course also provides a framework and a theory for understanding the rise of Communism and Fascism in the context of deepening economic and political crisis of post-war period. A study of the outbreak of the Second World War will focus on both extreme nationalism and aesthetic innovation in the promotion of militaristic ideology, best depicted in Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will* and Rossellini's Fascist trilogy (1941-1944). The course then moves to address the historical context of the Cold War, the conflict between U.S., as an emerging superpower, and the Soviet Union. Amid such conflict, the course will also examine the process of decolonization, especially in Africa, Middle East and the Subcontinent, and discuss the collapse of Soviet Communism and the emerging of liberal (or post-liberal) world.

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic understanding of twentieth century global history with an especial focus on everyday life and cultural processes.
2. To understand how the everyday and local histories can be connected with global histories.
2. To gain familiarity with non-European civilizations, in particular the Chinese and Muslim societies.
3. To engage in intensive university-level writing and to improve one's analytical and critical skills.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Textbooks are available for purchase at the UCSD bookstore.

1. Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler, *Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. MMW combined Edition, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.
2. Andrea Lunsford. *Easy Writer with 2011 MLA and 2012 APA Updates: A Pocket Reference*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.
3. A few other course-related articles will be placed on UCSD e-reserves. <http://reserve.edu>.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Assignments:**

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

Writing Assignments	35%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	35%
Class participation	10%

**EXAMS:**

- The mid-term and the final are in-class exams. Your lecture attendance, participation in sessions and readings should prepare you for the two exams.
- I will provide a study guide for the final exam.
- You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and take all exams in order to pass the course.
- Please note that make-up exams maybe allowed only in the case of justified reason for absence.
- The writing exam will be a research paper based on your experiences in excursions.

**CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:**

**Attendance and Participation**

Active participation for each week compromises 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to the lectures and are required to attend the sections. Students are also expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during discussion sessions. You can certainly ask questions during the lectures.

**Late Papers**

You must complete all assigned papers in a timely manner to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each class that they are late.

**Plagiarism**

The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. In other words, submit your own original work! See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are caught cheating you will automatically fail the course.

**Assistance**

In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me or your Section instructor on the first day of class. ☺

## **Communication**

I have set up an official office hour on Thursdays between 9am and 12:00pm at the Department of Literature 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (room 3324) on the Warren Campus. You could certainly reach me by email and phone. I will be in my office during my office hours, but I could also make an appointment to see you at another time. My office phone does not have a message service. You could set up an appointment via email.

I expect to occasionally communicate with you by email. I may have to change or add a reading assignment or perhaps assign you a new project or correct something from the lectures. So, please check your UCSD emails on a weekly basis.

## **Email**

Please do not check your emails in class! Thank you. But you could certainly email me whenever you want. ☺

## Schedule for the course

- Tuesday to Wednesday: 9:00 am – 12:00pm in class
- Thursday and Friday – Excursion day
- There will be no scheduled activity on weekends.
- Mondays: Research/Reading day

## **Excursions**

Prague is a global city and an ideal site to study the twentieth century.

The city of Prague offers numerous museums, which for MMW I believe the ideal ones would be: Prague Castle, and National Gallery. The National Technical Museum provides a history of modern technology and warfare, which relates directly to MMW lectures. The National Memorial to the Heroes of Heydrich Terror would be an excellent venue for WWII history, which the Czech resistance movement is memorialized for public viewing. For a history of Prague we will visit Lobkowitz Palace where a significant collection of art from Central Europe is housed. The Jewish Museum in Prague displays historical artifacts from 1906 to 1994, providing ample historical documents for the students to view and learn in the context of MMW course. The Strahov library is based at a monastery near Prague. The Library is a testimony to the history of religious culture in Eastern Europe, which continues to exist in the post-Soviet era.

List of places to visit:

1. Prague Castle,
2. Lobkowitz Palace,
3. National Memorial to the Heroes of Heydrich Terror,
4. National Gallery, National Technical Museum,
5. Wallenstein Palace Gardens,
6. Strahov Library
7. Jewish Museum in Prague

Instruction begins	Monday, June 28
Independence Day Holiday	Monday, July 5
Instruction ends	Friday, July 30
Final Exams	Friday – Saturday, July 30-31

## Schedule of Lectures

### WEEK 1: June 28-July 2

**June 28, Monday: Orientation**

**June 29, Tuesday: Introduction to the course and Global History in the Twentieth Century**

**June 30, Wednesday: War World I and its aftermath**

**July 1, Thursday: Excursion**

**July 2, Friday Excursion**

## **WEEK 2: July 5-9**

**July 5, Monday: Research/Reading day**

**July 6, Tuesday: WWII and Global Conflict**

**July 7, Wednesday: The Holocaust, the Blitz, and the Atomic Bomb**

**July 8, Thursday: Excursion**

**July 9, Friday: Excursion**

## **WEEK 3: July 12-16**

**July 12, Monday: Research/Reading day**

**July 13, Tuesday: post-War Cultures from Asia to Latin America**

**July 14, Wednesday: The Prague Spring and 1960s**

**July 15, Thursday: Excursion**

**July 16, Friday: Excursion**

## **July 19-23**

**July 19, Monday: Research/Reading day**

**July 20, Tuesday: When the Berlin Wall collapsed**

**July 21, Wednesday: The World in the Age of post-Communism**

**July 22, Thursday: Excursion**

**July 23, Friday: Excursion**

**July 26-30**

**July 26, Monday: Research/Reading day**

**July 27, Tuesday: Rise of Global terror and the Great Recession**

**July 28, Wednesday: ISIS and the Trump Era**

**July 30, Thursday: Excursion**

**July 31, Friday: Final day: goodbye dinner**