

History 1131

Atom Bombs to the Internet: Twentieth Century World 1945-2000

Summer 2024

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office hour: Friday 9:00-10:00 online and also by appointment

Department of History

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

KPU is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the the q̓ʷɑ:n̓ł̓ən̓ (Kwantlen), x̓ʷm̓əθkw̓əy̓əm (Musqueam), q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), sc̓əwəθən (Tsawwassen), q̓iq̓éyt (Qayqayt), and k̓ʷik̓w̓əł̓əm (Kwikwetlem) Peoples.

Course outline

Students will examine some of the major global developments in the latter half of the twentieth century, including the devastating impact of the Second World War, genocide, and the atomic bomb. They will also analyze key issues in the postwar world, including the emergence of a bipolar world and the global impact of the power wielded by the Soviet Union and the United States; the causes and consequences of decolonization and the roots of neo-colonialism; the environmental effects of industrial growth and energy use; the results of the fall of Soviet-style communism; and the impact of globalization.

Course assessment

- 1-) movie analysis 10% (deadline May 31 midnight)**
- 2-) portfolio first draft 15 % (deadline June 5 midnight)**
- 3-)midterm 25% (June 7-11)**
- 4-)mini-research 15% (deadline July 7 midnight)**
- 5-) portfolio final draft 35% (deadline July 28 midnight)**

Weekly topic and course materials

	Topic	Materials	Assignments/ exams
1 st Week (6-12 May)	discussing the syllabus, understanding the assignments, and getting ready for the semester.	No reading	
2 nd Week (13-19 May)	End of the World War II and Atomic Bomb	-watch the lecture -watch one of the following movies: first option: Oppenheimer (2023) (available on amazon prime) second option: Hiroshima(1953) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIRyAS0BTa0	Complete the portfolio
3 rd Week (20-26 May)	Post WWII International Order and Cold War	-watch the lecture - engage with the following primary sources 1-)Winston Churchill, “Iron Curtain” speech, March 5, 1946 https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/iron-curtain-speech/ 2-) >Joseph Stalin, Reply to Churchill, 1946 http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1946stalin.html	Complete the portfolio
4 th Week (27 May- 2 June)	Cold War through Movies	-Watch carefully one of the movies listed in the following link and then complete the assignment. https://coldwar.unc.edu/film/	Movie analysis assignment (no portfolio for this week)
5 th Week (3-9 June)	Decolonization	-watch the lecture -watch this video: https://youtu.be/QV6YAAfHp9c -explore this website (it would not take too much time no worries) https://mtwp.ca	Complete the portfolio Submit the first draft of portfolio

6 th Week (10-16 June)	Midterm exam	Take-home (online) exam	No portfolio
7 th Week (17-23 June)	European Union	-watch the lecture -play this game on European Union☺ https://eucraft.consilium.europa.eu/launch_screenu	Complete the portfolio
8 th Week (24-30 June)	Consumerism	-watch the lecture -read: Peter Stearns <i>Part II Consumerism Goes Global</i> in <i>Consumerism in World History</i> (pp. 79-136)	Complete the portfolio
9 th Week (1-7 July)	Protests and Revolutions	-watch the lecture -Listen this podcast on https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/203/episode/16045781 https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/203/episode/16045781	-do an individual research on one of these following protests: 1968 European Protests, 1966 Cultural Revolution in China, 1979 Iranian Revolution -no portfolio
10 th Week (8- 14 July)	Fall of Berlin Wall and end of History	-Read the article: Fukuyama, Francis. “The End of History?” <i>The National Interest</i> , no. 16 (1989): 3–18. http://www.jstor.org/stable/24027184 -Watch the documentary: The Fall of the Berlin Wall https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX6yz91FfX0 -Optional documentary: German Reunification – A Short History https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNAXfWCwDsw	Complete the portfolio
11 th Week	Age of Information/ Age of Internet	-watch the lecture -read this report “Education in the age of Artificial Intelligence”	Complete the portfolio

(15-21 July)	Post Covid World and Age of Artificial Intelligence	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387029_eng -watch one of these 10 suggested movies on Artificial intelligence: https://www.forbes.com/sites/markhughes/2023/09/26/watch-these-10-essential-movies-about-ai/?sh=441861d04e62	
12 th Week (22-28 July)	Final week	Submission of the portfolio	

Some housekeeping issues

1-) Especially since this is an online course, you need to be extra cautious to make sure that you are keeping up with the course material. It is very unlikely for you to realize your potential by just having a couple of sleepless nights. Instead, do allocate some timely weekly and enjoy the course.

2-) Make sure that you submit your assignments on time. I highly discourage you to submit your assignments late. If you have to submit late then please email your assignment directly to me but do not forget that there will be 10 % deduction per day.

3-) Please do check moodle and syllabus before emailing me. It is very likely that your question is already answered in the syllabus.

4-) Do not cheat.

5-) Yes, 'consulting' generative AI tools is also cheating 😊

6-) Please make yourself familiarize with the university's policies

<https://www.kpu.ca/academicintegrity>

<https://libguides.kpu.ca/academicintegrity>

<https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/HR15%20Diversity%20and%20Inclusiveness%20Policy.pdf>

https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/ST2%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy_0.pdf

<https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/ST7%20Student%20Conduct%20Non%20Academic%20Policy.pdf>

<https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/ST11%20Attendance%20and%20Participation%20in%20Courses%20Policy.pdf>

<https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/SR14%20Sexual%20Violence%20and%20Misconduct%20Policy.pdf>

Assignment guidelines

1-) Movie assignment guidance

You are expected to write a movie analysis of one of the movies mentioned in this list <https://coldwar.unc.edu/film/>

When selecting a movie for your assignment, please consider that not all of these movies are readily available online for free. However, at least couple of them can be accessed at no cost when you search online.

The expected word count is 500 to 700 words, failure to adhere to this word range may result in a penalty. If this is your first movie-analysis assignment, that is completely fine. Do not worry!!! Most of you are not majoring in Film Studies, so you do not need to be well-versed with the technicalities or jargons. Simply view the selected movie as your main source or primary reference and engage with it.

It goes without saying that I do value your own takeaways from the movie, so it is not the best idea to just search for the critics of the movie and insert them into your analysis.

Please refer to this rubric for guidelines on completing the assignment. It will also give you some rough idea of how your analysis will be graded.

1-) Provide a brief background to the movie, and explain what the movie is about so that even those who have not watched it could grasp it.

- 2-) Highlight a couple of important scenes from the movie. Please note that you need to go beyond just narrating the scenes, delve into their significance and meaning
- 3-) Choose one or maybe two scene(s) that you think encapsulates the main theme of the movie and explain them.
- 4-) Establish connections with the historical context (Cold War) and explain how that certain theme, or issue discussed in the movie.
- 5-) Reflect on your learning experience. Did you enjoy the process of watching and analyzing the movie and what were the main learning outcomes for you?
- 6-) Ensure your analysis is persuasive: you may not be on the right track if you are giving too much information with very little analysis.

2-) Portfolio assignment guideline

This is a student-centric course. I designed the course in a way to underscore the students' agency. Thus, as you may recognize, I assign very few readings and also do my best to incorporate different materials including videos, movies, podcasts, documentaries and even games. The course's main objective is not to teach you what X,Y,Z is but instead enable you to familiarize yourself with different historical sources and have your own takeaways about the major events we discussed. In a plain language, I care about your educated ideas, opinions, interpretations about the issues we will be discussing. Thus, your weekly engaging with the assigned material is extremely crucial.

You will get huge portion of your grade from the portfolio assignment (15%+35%=50%). Therefore, it is very important for you to allocate some time for the course each and every week. You cannot sit and complete the portfolio at the very end of the semester. The rule of thumb for the success in this course is to contribute to your portfolio weekly.

The content of the portfolio: you are supposed answer and keep record of the following questions for the weeks 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11. Among these 7 weeks you need to choose 5 weeks (so it means that you can skip 2 weeks) and engage with the following questions.

1-) What did you learn in this week?

As you might recognize this is a rather boring and informative part of the assignment. In this informative section, I want you to write a short paragraph around 100 words that describe the main themes, issues, events of the week.

2-) Write an academic and persuasive paragraph about any aspect of that week.

In this section, you need to go beyond the first question and have a clear focus and argument. You do not have to cover every issue discussed in that week; you are encouraged to have a clear focus. An ideal answer will not be shorter than 200 words and follow the conventions of academic writing. You can use any citation methods you would like to use. You can check this link on how to write persuasive paragraphs: <https://opentextbc.ca/buildingblocks/chapter/persuasive-paragraphs/>

3-) Write a message/email/paragraph to your friends, relatives or parents. The gist of this assignment is to be informal and mundane: you do not have to follow any sorts of academic conventions. The most important point here is that you talk/write about what you learn that week in an informal setting. For example, let's assume that you watch the assigned movie that week and you are just pitching that movie to your friends, or you read an interesting article and you are bragging about what you have just learnt to your parent etc. This assignment is more flexible but try to keep your answers around 100-200 words

4-) Write your reflections and show your creativity. This is the last and the most open-ended section. You are free to write down, share, discuss anything here. There are no set expectations but I want you to dedicate some time for this section as well. You can do write/draw/share whatever you want. For example, you can share/suggest me some novels, poems, movies or you can copy-paste a cartoon that you find interesting. As long as you explain to me why do you want to share it with me and what is the relevance of it to our content, you are good.

How to submit your portfolio: I do not have any strict guidelines on how to submit your portfolio. You are more than free to use range of platforms from more conventional ones to fancier ones: it can be a word document or a PepplePad portfolio. Though make sure that you can submit it as pdf, doc or similar format so that you can easily share with me at the end of the semester.

It can be as simple as the following chart

Name: Student ID:	1-) What did you learn in this week?	2-) Write an academic and persuasive paragraph.	3-)Write a message, email, paragraph to your friends, relatives or parents.	4-) Write your reflections and show your creativity.
Week 2	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	
Week 3	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	
Week 5	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	
Week 7	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	
Week 8	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	
Week 10	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	
Week 11	100 words	200 words	100-200 words	

When to submit: you are going to submit an earlier draft by the end of week 5. You need to complete your portfolio at least for two weeks but if you want more feedback of course you can complete it for three weeks as well. The final draft will be submitted by the end of Week 12.

3-) Guideline for individual research on protests

The main purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to conduct individual research on a chosen topic. I am hesitant to say that this is a research paper, because it is going to be significantly shorter and I do not expect you to follow all the academic conventions rigidly.

Steps and grading criteria

- Choose one of the following protests: 1968 European Protests, 1966 Cultural Revolution in China, 1979 Iranian Revolution.
- Conduct preliminary research online: you can read some non-academic articles, watch documentaries and movies.
- Narrow down your focus and come up with a working argument: you cannot cover every aspect of the chosen protest just choose one issue that you find particularly interested and form your own argument. This is very important, if you do not have an argument, then your research will be too descriptive and less argumentative. The assignment asks for the opposite: yes from time to time you can provide some explanation but it should be more about your own takeaway, stance. I know it is easier said than done but in time you will get better in finding your own voice and I hope that this assignment will also help you in this regard.
- Then please do check a couple of academic articles, book chapters. It would be wise to check at least 2 different sources.
- Write a 2-page piece (around 600=700 words). I want to see your own argument, and also your sources. You can use any citation style you would like to use but make sure that it is consistent (do not use Chicago for one source and MLA for the other). Make sure that you incorporated all the sources you consult: both academic and non-academic.