



ARTS1271

History of the Present: The World since 1900

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Associate Professor Ruth Balint	r.balint@unsw.edu.au	Tuesdays, 2-3pm or by appointment	MB345	9385 8278 (TBC)
Associate Professor Andrew Beattie	a.beattie@unsw.edu.au	TBC or by appointment	MB243	9385 2328 (TBC)

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Today, news headlines are dominated by the rise of populist leaders like Donald Trump, by stories of ethnic and racial tensions, political violence, war and conflict. The post-cold war period has witnessed the concentration of global wealth into fewer and fewer hands; Asia's return to the centre of world power; the rise of individualism and hyper-consumption; a re-inscription of borders (most recently typified by Brexit and refugee crises); and we face unprecedented environmental crisis, fuelled by global capital and, which are both unaccountable to national electoral cycles. How can history help explain such phenomena?

In *History of the Present*, you will explore how colonialism and decolonization, modernity and tradition, communism, fascism and liberalism, the rise of liberation movements, the intensification of global exchanges, and environmental developments in the twentieth century profoundly shaped the present. We will focus on a 'long twentieth century' timeframe, starting with the Great War and ending with yesterday, to explore historical concepts such as continuity and change, significance and controversy.

Working with historians who specialise on the twentieth century, you will learn the skills of historical investigation and inquiry, to come to an understanding of how the last century explains, problematises and deepens our understanding of the present.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe important turning points, people, ideas, and developments in world history
2. Evaluate and contextualise primary sources
3. Describe the contemporary relevance of aspects of this course
4. Answer historical questions using arguments and evidence
5. Explain one or more theories or methodologies used by historians

Teaching Strategies

The course is designed to encourage you to draw on the recent past, particularly the twentieth century, in order to make sense of present-day conditions around the world. You will be introduced to, or be invited to further extend your understanding of, the benefits of applying a historical perspective to analysis of contemporary phenomena. The lectures will introduce the major events, themes and developments of the twentieth century and will do so in two main ways.

Firstly, the lectures will focus on key global events in a chronological fashion, such as the world wars, the Russian revolution, and the rise of liberation movements (from anticolonial movements, to the women's and environmental movements), and the ascendancy of neoliberalism and populism, delivered by a range of specialist historians at UNSW.

Secondly, there will be a concurrent online series of lessons based on significant political ideologies in the twentieth century. In both formats, there will be an emphasis on evidence and historiography. In tutorials, you will participate in in-depth discussion of the scholarship and lecture material, guided by tutorial questions and the sharing of primary sources.

Our teaching strategy is to encourage your critical engagement with course material through class discussion, interactive online quizzes, written responses and a class test. The course will also help you develop your analytical skills, as we work on primary and secondary sources that help us understand the politics of the present.

Assessment

See Moodle for more information on each assessment.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Online Quizzes	30%	23/04/2021 05:00 PM	2, 3, 4
Writing Exercises	50%	08/03/2021 and 29/03/2021 05:00 PM	4, 5
Class Test	20%	28/04/2021	1, 3, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Online Quizzes

Start date: 17/02/2021 09:00 AM

Details:

Based on the online classes that focus on significant political ideologies, or 'isms', students complete a short quiz weekly.

Interactive quiz, immediate feedback.

Additional details:

The online quizzes are embedded into the 'Isms' lecture series on Moodle. Each Isms lecture is broken up into segments, at the end of which is a multiple choice question. You can watch the lecture segments multiple times, but only get to answer the question once. Feedback is immediate; please note that it will only tell you if you get the answer right or wrong. We recommend that you work through the Isms lectures on a weekly basis, as the content is calibrated to the lectures and tutorials.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Writing Exercises

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Exercise A: 800 words. Exercise B: 1000 words.

Details:

Students complete two responses to tutorial readings, analyzing a primary source in the light of a secondary source. One is 800 words, one is 1000 words.

Feedback is from the tutor via Turnitin.

Additional details:

Writing Exercises

These exercises are aimed at developing your skills in reading and analysing primary material, alongside a secondary source, and formulating an answer/ argument.

For both these exercises, you will be marked on your ability to use the set texts to respond fully – but concisely – to the question. You are not expected to undertake any additional reading; we are looking for evidence of your close reading of the set text, grounded against the material in lectures and tutorials.

There are two writing exercises, due on 8 March 2021 at 5pm; and 29 March 2021 at 5pm. Details of the assignment are on Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Class Test

Start date: 28/04/2021

Length: 1000 words approx

Details:

Students complete an online test within two hours, answering a selection of questions in short essay style (approximately 1000 words).

Students receive a mark. Additional feedback is available on application to course staff.

Additional details:

The test is held on 28 April, and must be completed within a two-hour window. There will be a choice of two timeframes to complete the test: 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm. You must commit to one of these timeframes and it is your responsibility to make sure that you have access to a computer and the internet for the duration of the test.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Topic	Introduction to 'the long twentieth century', from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19; modernism
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Topic	The Great War, imperialism , anti-colonial nationalism
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Topic	The crisis of interwar democracy, communism, nationalism
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Topic	Fascism , the Second World War, genocide and displacement
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Topic	Marxism , the Cold War
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Topic	Flex week - no classes
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Topic	Decolonisation, global social movements, feminism
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Topic	Communism's collapse in Europe, persistence in Asia, neoliberalism
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Topic	Globalisation, crisis of advanced capitalism, environmentalism
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Topic	Concluding discussion, populism

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Weekly readings are available via Moodle.

Some are from the following book, which we recommend (but don't insist) you purchase, but is available electronically through the library catalogue:

C. A. Bayly, [*Remaking the Modern World, 1900-2015: Global Connections and Comparisons*](#), London: Wiley Blackwell, 2018.

Recommended Resources

See Moodle for recommended podcasts and other resources.

Course Evaluation and Development

The History of the Present was first run in 2019. Student feedback indicated a high level of course satisfaction with 87% of students saying they were happy overall with the course.

We did take on the following feedback:

There were too many assessments in the new term. We have reduced the number of assessments.

The tutorial presentation was not productive and took up too much tutorial time. So we removed that requirement.

Some readings were too long. We have tried to address this as far as possible, changing the longer ones out.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

Pablo Picasso, Guernica, 1937.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.