

**Spring Semester 2009**                      **USU 1320 Civilization: Humanities (BHU)**  
**Section 004 (MWF 8:30-9:20 in Main 115)**

Professor: Dr. Denise Conover

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**USU 1320** meets the University's requirement for a **Breadth Humanities course (BHU)** (see USU General Catalog)

**Course Goal:** The USU General Catalog articulates the purpose of USU 1320 (p. 42): it aims to provide a *“basic understanding of a broad range of themes, which cut across human history and continue to be important in contemporary society.”* [my emphasis]

**Course Scope:** The themes which cut across human history and continue to be important in contemporary society are numerous. Selectivity is essential. Therefore, for this course, I will focus on **war and technology** and the impact of these phenomena on humanity. Obviously, many subthemes spring from these larger themes of war and technology—such as political leadership, propaganda, religious values, etc.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To enhance the student's educational skills by exposing students, in reading and library assignments, to a wide range of primary sources as well as secondary sources.
2. To improve the student's communication skills, both written and oral.
3. To promote the student's awareness of other cultures, the consequences of war for the victor and vanquished; the role of technology, religion, and other cultural aspects of life.

**Books:**

**Ferguson, War of the World**

**McCauley, Russia, America and the Cold War (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. rev)**

**Course Description:** My focus is basically on the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is my view (subject to challenge, of course) that more change has occurred in human history between 1860 and 2008 than any comparable period of human existence. In the last one hundred and fifty-plus years, humanity has been transformed by a military revolution, democratic changes, technological and medical innovations, advances in human knowledge. But not all has been positive: at least 100 million died from warfare (directly or indirectly) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. To understand some of the forces driving humanity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century might help today's student be aware of and able to cope with the challenges facing the current generation and future generations.

**Classroom Pedagogy:** Fortunately, photography and film were present at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, providing us with an abundance of primary sources, in the form of visual documentaries. Most classes will consist of a mixture of the following: a brief topical overview (complete with handouts), video clips, class discussion or written response to the material viewed or material assigned to read outside of class. In addition to the textbook and classroom material, course material will be available online through course reserve (Media Collections Department). **While I expect everyone to come to class, I am not taking attendance for points. I will NOT give make-ups or provide**

**class material to those who have missed class. I do not want students in class who cannot behave properly (ie., no sleeping, no reading newspapers, no studying for another class, etc.)**

**Requirements:**

1. Weekly participation points (can be quiz, response, etc.) (unspecified number of points)
2. Mid-term (100 pts)
3. Final Exam (100 pts)

**Some Probable Topics : WWI (3 weeks) ; WWII (2 weeks) Korean War (2-3 weeks) Vietnam & Gulf War I (2-3 weeks); Terrorism and Technology (2-3 weeks) ; I often digress from the particular topic at hand, for levity and variety. Some students find this lack of linear development upsetting or confusing; if you see life in a logical, linear, mathematical, scientific fashion, my approach may drive you crazy!**

**Reading Schedule (for Ferguson book)**

**First Week: (Jan. 5-9) The World in 1914 (Ferguson, Introduction, chps. 1-3)**

**Second Week: (Jan. 12-16) World War I (Ferguson, chps. 4-5)**

**Third Week: (Jan. 19=holiday); Jan. 21-23: Post-WWI (Ferguson, chp. 6-8)**

**Fourth Week: Rise of Dictators (Ferguson, chps. 9-10)**

**Fifth Week: WWII (Ferguson, chps. 11-13)**

**Sixth Week: WWII in Asia (Ferguson, chps. 14, 15)**

**Seventh Week: Emergence of US-Soviet Bipolar World (Ferguson, chp. 16)**

**Eighth Week: Emergence of Cold War (Ferguson, pages 596-646)**

**Ninth Week: Cold War in East and Southeast Asia (class notes; McCauley)**

**Tenth Week (March 9-13)=Spring Break**

**Eleventh Week: Cold War in Africa, South Asia (McCauley)**

**Twelfth Week: Nuclear arms race and space (McCauley)**

**Thirteenth Week: Post-Cold War (1989-2001)(Ferguson, Epilogue)**

**Fourteenth Week: Post-Cold War (1989-2001)**

**Fifteenth-Sixteenth Weeks: Post-9/11 (2001- )**

**Final Exam Week: April 27-May 1; this class's final exam is scheduled for Friday, May 1 at 7:30-9:20 am.**