

COURSE OUTLINE
HIST-123
Western Civilization and the Modern World
(1815 to the Present)
3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The student will be able to describe the history and development of Western Civilization and its impact on the world from 1815 to the present. The student will identify and analyze the political, economic and intellectual movements that influenced the Western European mind. The student will examine the character of the evolving modern nation state system through the wars of unification, overseas expansion, and the competitive national rivalries. The student will evaluate the underlying factors influencing the events that shaped the modern world, including two World Wars and the Cold War. The student will examine how the post-1945 conditions affect the attitudes and makeup of the former colonial world. This course was formerly HIST-102. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

1. Identify the geographic and political features of the areas studied in each unit.
2. Summarize the major economic, political, and social causes which led to the Industrial Revolution, and the resultant changes in society.
3. Contrast the disparate industrial development of Europe with that of Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia.
4. Analyze the reaction of post-Napoleonic Europe to the threat of political and social revolution.
5. Identify the major events and individuals involved in the latter 19th century unifications and nation building.
6. Analyze the causes for European neo-Imperialism, and its relationship and effect on Africa, the Middle East, China, and South East Asia.
7. Compare and contrast the motives and actions of the various European states which led to World War I.
8. Summarize the major economic, political, intellectual, and artistic consequences of World War I.
9. Describe the rise of resistance to imperial rule among colonial societies.
10. Analyze the political, social, and economic conditions in Europe which led to the rise of Facism.
11. Describe the triumph of Bolshevism in Russia and the rise of Stalin.
12. Analyze the causes of World War II and the motivations of several participants.
13. Identify the major economic and political problems following World War II.
14. Describe the nature and character of the Cold War.
15. Describe the rise of the Third World and its impact on Europe, as demonstrated by African and Asian nationalism, Middle Eastern oil producing countries, and lingering colonial interests.
16. Evaluate the impact of the Soviet collapse and its impact on international relations.
17. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.

18. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.
19. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message.
20. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
21. Demonstrate the ability to communicate using appropriate language.

Major Topics

- I. The Industrial Revolution
- II. Ideologies and Upheavals in Europe
- III. Unifications and Nation-building
- IV. The West and The World
- V. The Road to War
- VI. Shattered Illusions
- VII. The Second Road to War
- VIII. World War II
- IX. The Cold War
- X. The End of the Cold War

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty and will include specified reading assignments and written exams.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 2,500 words of formal writing.

Other Course Information:

This course is a core general education course and is also a social science and arts and sciences elective.