



DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

HI1120(A3 & VC): The Modern World – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Daryl White(he/him) **PHONE:** 780-539-2083
OFFICE: B301 **E-MAIL:** dawwhite@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS 1:30-2:30, Wednesdays or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course is designed as an introductory survey of global history and will provide a foundation for advanced study of history and related fields. The course covers the major political, cultural, intellectual and economic developments of the world since the beginning of the 19th century to the present.

PREREQUISITE(S):

None

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: OER Textbook – *World History, Volume 2: From 1400*, OpenStax, <https://openstax.org/books/world-history-volume-2/pages/1-introduction>

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-campus and synchronous

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will be able to identify significant trends and major events in world history between 1815 and 2025, identify and explain the causal factors and other significant details for each, and use this information to participate in class discussions and answer questions on tests and examinations.

• Students will be able to formulate appropriate research questions; identify, select, and investigate appropriate sources; interpret the resulting information; and present their findings in appropriate form.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Grade Component	Value	Notes
Learning Activities - Quizzes – 2 % each - Plickers (In-class) – 1% each - Timed Tests (In-class) – 7% each - Content Reviews (VC section) – 7% each - Discussion Forum Posts – Value varies (minimum of 2%)	25%	Students can complete a range of activities to earn this portion of the grade. This section recognizes student work for completing a variety of learning activities.
Primary Source Analysis - This project may be submitted in one of a variety of formats (the format must differ from the student's research project) 1,000-word written work (this may be an academic essay or in other applied formats) 750-word infographic 700-word poster and 100-word abstract	20%	Primary sources are the raw materials of historical interpretation. In this activity, students will examine a primary source from the period 1815 to 2000 and consider its usefulness and limitations.



Research Project • This research project can involve different activities, including but not limited to, ○ Investigating an academic question ○ Evaluating or revising a Wikipedia Article ○ Evaluating the historical accuracy of a cultural product ○ Creating a small work of public history • This project may be submitted in one of a variety of formats (the format must differ from the student's primary source analysis) ○ 1,500-word written work (this may be an academic essay or in other applied formats) ○ 1,000-word infographic ○ 1,000-word poster with 150-word abstract ○ 10-12-minute documentary video • Students must have topics approved through a proposal stage • Value ○ Proposal – 2% ○ Project – 28%	30%	This project permits students to pursue their own research question to deepen inquiry into course topics or investigate other topics. Proposals are specification graded. Projects are assessed using rubrics. Projects must be documented in APA or Chicago Notes-Bibliography style – see further requirements below. This submitted work will be evaluated by Turnitin software within myClass.
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Final Exam	25%	This will be scheduled by the registrar. You will have the option of a timed in-person exam or a take-home project.
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GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

This timetable is tentative. It will likely change to reflect student responses and questions. A reading schedule for the open-source textbook will be posted on myClass.

Date	Topic	Reading	Big Questions	Assessments
Jan. 7	Welcome	Course Outline	How does the course work?	
Jan. 12, 14	The Big Picture		What are the themes of the last two centuries?	
Jan. 19, 21	Nationalism and Revolution	Chapter 8, "Revolutions in Latin America"	What was the legacy of the American and French Revolutions?	

Jan. 26, 28	Industrialization	Chapter 9, "Expansion in the Industrial Age"	How is industrialization changing western society?	Primary Source Analysis Due Jan. 30
Feb. 2, 4	Imperialism	Chapter 10, "Life and Labor in the Industrial World"	How did industrialization relate to imperialism?	
Feb. 9, 11	The First World War	Chapter 11, "The War to End All Wars"	What caused the First World War?	Test #1/Content Review #1
February 16, 18 – Family Day and Winter Break				
Feb. 23, 25	The Interwar Years	Chapter 12, "The Interwar Period"	Why did communism and fascism acquire power in these years?	Research Project Proposal Due Feb. 27
March 2, 4	The Second World War	Chapter 13, "The Causes and Consequences of World War II"	Why is the Second World War our constant example?	
March 9, 11	The Cold War	Chapter 14, "Cold War Conflicts"	Who was responsible for starting the Cold War?	Research Project Due March 13
March 16, 18	Activism		Why were social movements successful in the mid-20th century?	Test #2/Content Review #2
March 23, 25	Energy and Environmentalism		How has energy shaped the last few decades? How has environment become a	

			modern concern?	
March 30, April 2	The End of History?	Chapter 15, "The Contemporary World and Ongoing Challenges"	Are the 1990s an anomalous time?	
April 6, 8	The Digital Age		How has digital technology changed human society?	
April 13	Exam Preparation			
Final Exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar within the exam period)				

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

General

- Take as much as you can from this course. Your instructor and classmates will provide you with opportunities to reflect on what you know and believe and to learn new things, but learning does not have to and should not take place just during class time. Pursue questions, chase ideas down online rabbit holes and see where they take you. These facts and ideas can only enrich your understanding and your coursework.
- Remember that this is just a course on a particular subject. Your performance in the course is not a measure of anything more than your ability to learn world history and complete the assessments. Submitting work late or not doing as well as you would like on an assessment is not a measure of you as a person. You are a learner and that means making mistakes. As long as you are trying your best to get as much as you can from the course (and this may depend on your personal circumstances), you have nothing to apologize for.

Time Management and Coursework

- Students are expected to commit the required time to complete this course. Please plan accordingly. Some flexibility will be provided around due dates, but you need to consult with your instructor.

- Regular attendance or review is important to success in HI1120 as is particular attention to online content on myClass.
- Respectful participation in course discussions contributes to your understanding and participation in myClass forums contributes to your myClass activities grade.
- All assignments must follow the requirements laid out on myClass and discussed in class. Topics must be approved by the instructor unless specified otherwise on myClass.
- All assignments must be original work for this course. Work previously submitted for other courses will not be accepted in this course. Students found to have submitted previous work will receive a 0% for the assignment.
- All written assignments must be word-processed. It is particularly important to save a copy of any written work handed in for credit or grading.
- All assignments must be submitted electronically via myClass. This procedure will be demonstrated in class.
- The research projects are to be submitted electronically within 48 hours of the deadline to provide some flexibility. Work submitted after this grace period will be assessed at a diminishing value of 5% for every 24 hour period or part thereof to a minimum value of 70% of the grade. If you find yourself struggling, reach out to your instructor.
- Students will be assessed on their research, synthesis and writing in the course assignments. The presentation of information in terms of organization and writing will be assessed in grading along with the research and analysis. Referencing in Chicago Notes-Bibliography or APA style is a requirement for course assignments

- Machine learning systems, commonly referred to as "AI," are useful tools, but must be used appropriately and with caution. Students are developing knowledge and skills and should not outsource these to machines. In this course, you are encouraged to consider how these systems can help you find information and refine the presentation of your thoughts, but you will also be required to demonstrate that you have verified this information and are responsible for what you present.
- All written work submitted for this course, unless otherwise noted, requires academic referencing in the most recent APA Style. This includes both in-text referencing and a source list (bibliography or references).
- In-text referencing additionally requires specific page references for all paginated sources (sources with page numbers or in documents with identifiable page numbers, such as pdfs). APA does not normally require this unless it is a direct quotation, but this course requires it for all references.
- Students are further required to submit representative images, photographs or scans of printed work and screenshots of the sources referenced. This should include a minimum of the title page and one page referenced in the student's work.
- Works not meeting these requirements will be returned to the student ungraded. Students will be permitted to revise the work subject to a 10% penalty for the first revision and a 25% penalty for the second revision. Revised work which still fails to meet the requirements after a second revision will receive a 0% grade.
- For cases in which submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the

work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked below) may be applied. Students whose work has raised concerns will not be permitted to complete the take-home final exam.

Students in the VC (Videoconference section)

- This course includes a videoconference section. Students registered in the videoconference section are able to attend lectures and complete all course components without attendance on campus.
- Students are required to have a stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements.
- Where disruptions or other technological issues occur with institutional or instructor systems on campus or elsewhere, instructors will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made for videoconference students.
- Some videoconference courses may require students to incur reasonable costs for proctoring and other services essential to maintaining the academic integrity of the course. Instructors should design their course to minimize the financial burden on students and are required to submit cost estimates to the responsible department chairperson for approval prior to the start of the course.
- This course has the requirements listed below for videoconference students. Failure to meet these requirements may affect attendance and participation grades or result in a grade of zero for supervised assessments (for example tests, exams, or in-class writing assignments).

- Videoconference Student Requirements

Technology (eg. webcam, microphone, speakers)	Students require a computer or tablet with a camera, microphone, speakers, and ability to type to fully participate in class.
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Class Participation (eg. camera on during class, appropriate screen name)	Students require an appropriate screen name which identifies them to the instructor. They are encouraged to have their cameras on during class but it is not required because of the class recordings.
Test/Exam Supervision (eg. independent proctor, dual camera setup)	Timed, proctored assessments are not available to students in the VC sections of the course. Alternative assessments will be provided.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.