

GEOGRAPHY 450

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD (SYLLABUS, FALL, 2006)

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Office and Office Hours:

Kevin R. Cox: 1106 Derby Hall; 2:00 - 4:00 Mondays and Wednesdays; or by appointment.

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Course Focus:

The making of the modern world, the process of modernization, has been in its expression an intensely geographic one: one of overseas expansion, of the creation of new geographic divisions of labor, of dramatic transformations of natural environments, of urbanization, colonialism and what we have come to know more recently as globalization. In turn the conditions for these changes have been processes of capitalist development, state formation, the creation of the global polity and new forms of consciousness. It is the objective of this course to trace out these changes in world geography and to link them to these underlying processes, though with attention to the way in which those processes have in turn been altered by their encounter with new geographical contexts.

Course Outline:

The course is organized around eleven modules as follows:

The Making of the Modern World: Preliminary Considerations

Turning the World into a Marketplace: The Initial Phase

Creating One World?

The Formation of the Global Polity

Encounters, Difference and Identity

Empire and Colonialism
The Transformation of Nature
The Development of Science and Abstract Thought
Modernity, Cultural Imperialism and Placelessness
Geographies of Uneven Development
Modernization in Question (Whose World Is It Anyway?)

For each of these modules there is a written narrative. Each of these is available online and they constitute an important part of your reading. The address: <http://geog-www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/courses/G450/>. The Syllabus is also available at that site.

Reading:

- The Modules: note that if you encounter what seems to be a blank page, it will be because there is a Figure there; so you just need to click on the page and it should appear.
- A Zip Notes packet of readings (Geography 450: The Making of the Modern World) available from SBX only
- Web readings

All of these are inserted in the week-by-week schedule of readings below.

I would also like to draw your attention to a very good book that relates in significant part to our topic in this course and which is available online: Chris Harman *A People's History of the World*: <http://www.istendency.net/node/view/7>

Assessment

There will be two quizzes, each worth 15% of the final grade; a midterm and a final will each contribute 30% to the final grade. Quiz and exam questions will be primarily 'objective' and short answer in character. In order to keep you honest with respect to attendance, there will also be three, unannounced, shorter quizzes. Each of these will be worth 5% of your final grade. Your two best performances will be used.

With respect to exams, please note that in the interests of preserving anonymity you should use your social security number and *not* your name!! If you send your take-homes to me as attachments, then send it from a friend's e-mail address (so long as the friend isn't enrolled in this class!).

WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE

	READING	ASSESSMENT
Week 1: W 9/20	Module 1: The Making of the Modern World: Preliminary Considerations Readings: #1, #2 Defining Modernity: http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/GLOSSARY/MODERN.N.HTM The Prequel: http://www.nytimes.com/library/magazine/millennium/m3/kristof.html The Communist Manifesto (first six pages of 'Bourgeois and Proletarians' only): http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm Zheng He: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/asia-pacific/4593717.stm	
Week 2: M 9/25	(continued ...)	
W 9/27	(continued ...) / Module 2: Turning the World into a Marketplace: The Initial Phase	
Week 3: M 10/2	Module 2 (continued)	

W 10/4	<p>Module 3: Creating One World?</p> <p>Readings: #3, #4</p> <p>Time-Space Convergence:</p> <p>http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch1en/conc1en/stclondonnewyork.html</p>	Quiz 1
Week 4: M 10/9	(continued ...)	
W 10/11	<p>Module 4: The Formation of the Global Polity</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Robert Rotberg, "Nation-State Failure: A Recurring Phenomenon?"</p> <p>http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_GIF_2020_Support/2003_11_06_papers/panel2_nov6.pdf#search=%22Robert%20Rotberg%2C%20%E2%80%9CNation-State%20Failure%3A%20A%20Recurring%20Phenomenon%3F%E2%80%9D%22</p>	.
Week 5: M 10/16	(continued ...)	
W10/18	<p>Module 5: Encounters, Difference and Identity</p> <p>Readings: #5 #6</p> <p>The Indian Diaspora ('Indians In The Caribbean' only!):</p> <p>http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/Diaspora/diaspora.html</p> <p>Harman on slavery and racism:</p> <p>http://www.istendency.net/pdf/5_05_slavery_racism.pdf</p> <p>A History: The Construction of Race and Racism:</p> <p>http://www.westernstatescenter.org/resource/ScreenDRHistory.pdf</p>	Midterm examination
Week 6: M 10/23	(continued ...)	

W 10/25	<p>Module 6: Empire and Colonialism</p> <p>Readings: #7, #8</p> <p>African and the Wealth of the West: http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1552921,00.html</p> <p>Colonizing Minds: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4673510.stm</p>	
Week 7: M 10/30	(continued ...)	
W 11/1	<p>Module 7: The Transformation of Nature</p> <p>Readings: #9</p> <p>The Columbian Exchange: http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us:8080/tserve/nattrans/ntecoindian/essays/columbian.htm</p> <p>Effects of the Rabbit in Australia: http://www.rhodes.edu/biology/glindquester/viruses/pagespass/rcv/default.html [up to and including the Extinct Species Map only]</p> <p>How the World is Changing: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/05/sci_nat_how_the_world_is_changing/html/1.stm</p> <p>Don't Blame the Locusts: http://www.guardian.co.uk/elsewhere/journalist/story/0,,1547851,00.html</p> <p>Effects of Climate Change: http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,1644197,00.html</p> <p>Unnatural Disasters: http://understandingkatrina.ssrc.org/Smith/</p> <p>Deteriorating Soils : http://www.guardian.co.uk/food/Story/0,,1700222,00.html</p>	
Week 8: M 11/6	(continued ...)	
W 11/8	(continued)	Quiz 2

Week 9: M 11/13	Module 8: The Development of Science and Abstract Thought Readings: J C Scott on the politics of social planning: http://www.fathom.com/feature/122093	
W 11/15	Module 9: Modernity, Cultural Imperialism and Placelessness Readings: #10	
Week 10: M 11/20	(continued ...) / Module 10 Geographies of Uneven Development Readings: #11 National Sovereignty, India and China: http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1572100,00.html The Brain Drain Problem: http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,1545535,00.html http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4120905.stm The Care Drain: http://www.guardian.co.uk/Columnists/Column/0,,1599261,00.html	
W 11/22	(continued ...)	
Week 11: M 11/27	(continued ...) / Module 11: The Making of the Modern World and its Dilemmas Readings: tba	
W 11/29	(continued ...) (last day of class)	
Final Exam Week T 12/5		FINAL EXAM: 7:30 A.M. – 9:18 A.M.