

HIST3990: Comparative Histories of Modern Africa and the Middle East

HIST3990 | 6 Credits

Fall 2020 and Winter 2021
Tuesdays: 11:30-2:30

Taught by:
Jennifer Dueck in the Fall
Joy Chadya in the Winter

About this course

Welcome! This year-long course will introduce you to the craft of historical research and prepare you for Honours seminars in the discipline of History. During the year, you will hone your skills in note-taking, academic writing, bibliographic searching, public speaking, and critical analysis. We will practice these skills using topics and scholarship from the histories of modern Africa and the Middle East through lenses such as natural resources, conflict, religion, race, and gender.

The syllabus contains important information about the course, including due dates, policies, and the grade breakdown. Please keep it handy and refer to it throughout the year. Our meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays, 11:30-2:15.

Class-time while social distancing

For the Fall term, our class meetings will take place via Zoom to accommodate university and provincial social distancing guidelines. How will this work? And what do you need to make sure have in place?

Because this course is intended to prepare you for Honours seminars, it is essential that you be available to participate in online discussion and activities during our scheduled class time. While we will have asynchronous options available to complete coursework when necessary, please do your best to be available for online discussion and work with your classmates. We know this may be difficult for some who do not have access to a reliable internet connection. If you are in this position, please speak to Jennifer at the beginning of the Fall term and to Joy at the beginning of the Winter term to discuss options.

Our Zoom classes will consist of several elements, including class discussion, which will sometimes be led by students, small group exercises, and individual work.

Assignments and Assessment

There are four types of assignments in this course. Each will develop a different aspect of analytical reading, writing, or discussion skills. As with most courses, what you gain in this seminar is directly proportional to what you put into it. We hope that you will focus on learning rather than on grading. That said, we recognize that you likely have some interest in grades, and you will receive graded feedback on your seminar leadership,

class participation, and short essays before the Voluntary Withdrawal Date of 29 January 2021.

Grade weightings are in the table below.

Assignments	Weight	Details
Class participation	14%	Be present, listen, contribute. Sometimes you will participate in remote video discussion, sometimes you will work with other students in small groups, sometimes you will write posts for our class online discussion forums. We will grade participation based on your effort to engage with fellow students about the course material. Participation is worth 7% per term.
Seminar leadership	8%	Each student will co-lead an hour of seminar discussion two times per term (in groups of 2 or 3). Sign-up in the first or second week of each term. Seminar leadership is worth 4% per term.
Weekly writing	24%	You will complete 6 sets of weekly writings per term. These will be based on the course readings. Details for these to follow in the weekly reading list. Weekly writing is worth 12% per term.
<u>Research Essay 1</u>		
Proposal	1%	Due: 13 October
First draft	2%	Due: 17 November
Final Essay	14%	Due: 8 December
<u>Research Essay 2</u>		
Proposal	1%	Due: 14 February
First draft	2%	Due: 14 March
Final Essay	14%	Due: 4 April
Mid-Term Exam	10%	Due: 11 Dec
Final Exam	10%	Due: Date of scheduled final exam.

Class participation

Speaking with rigor and enthusiasm about topics that matter is one of the most important skills you can learn during your university studies. This seminar course is an ideal moment to build your confidence and develop those skills. Our weekly seminar sessions will consist of significant group discussion based on the readings assigned. Preparing for class discussions by reading assigned pieces is essential. This component of

assessment will include your participation in WebEx class discussions as well as UMLearn discussion forums.

Seminar Leadership

Discussion leadership means identifying questions that stimulate discussion and asking them at the right moment, as well as more intangible factors such as inspiring trust and setting a group tone. As a discussion leader, you can be confident that the other students will have read their material and prepared careful notes. They will have things to say. It is your job to draw out that discussion and give it shape. We will talk about different discussion leadership techniques throughout the course.

Weekly Writing

In Term 1, your weekly writing will consist of notes on two of the readings for seven classes across each term. We will provide a template, which we will discuss, and which you can adapt to meet your needs in dialogue with us and with students. The notes will give you a record of what you've read, they also provide opportunities for skill development in reading and reflection. Which parts of the reading did you find most believable or compelling, and why? Did the author mobilize evidence effectively? And what parts of the reading did not convince you? If certain claims or sections left you scratching your head, think about what was missing from the author's account. In these short assignments, you are first and foremost historians. You are free to praise or critique many aspects of each source, but in each case remember always to consider the sources the author is using. These writing assignments are also intended to catalyze your own thinking about the texts and materials in this course. As the term progresses, we will expect you to make connections, with comparison and contrast, between the current week's readings and previous readings from earlier in the semester.

Research Essays

There will be two major research essays for this course, one per term. Near the beginning of each semester we will take class time to talk about possible topics and how to frame an argument and research question.

Here is the grade breakdown:

90 and above	A+	65-69	C+
80-89	A	60-64	C
75-79	B+	50-59	D
70-74	B	Below 50	F (failure)

If you are unable to meet a deadline owing to illness:

If you find yourself unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances, you are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, you are required to contact the professor to inform of the missed work and make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments.

Note that if you miss the deadline for the take-home final exam in April, you must contact your Arts Faculty advisor within 48 hours of the date of the final exam.

Books and other materials

We will use the following books we have indicated where they are available for purchase at the UM Bookstore or for reading via the UM Libraries online. In some cases, we have also placed copies on Reserve at the Elizabeth Dafoe location. Additional readings will be made available either on UMLearn or through the University Library.

Wayne Boothe et al., *The Craft of Research* 4th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016).

Fall term: Wendy Pearlman, *We Cross a Bridge and it Trembled: Voices from Syria* (New York: HarperCollins, 2018).

Winter term: Todd Cleveland, *Following the Ball: The Migration of African Soccer Players Across the Portuguese Colonial Empire, 1949-1975* (Cleveland: Ohio University Press, 2018).

Communicating with us

Individually: We welcome all individual conversations with students. Feel free to speak either of us at some point in the term (via video or in person if allowed), even when you haven't got a specific reason. If you are having difficulty with the course, you might be reluctant to make an appointment – we hope you will come anyway.

Office hours: We will each provide information on the course UMLearn site about how to attend our regular office hours during the Fall and Winter terms respectively. If for some reason our office hours don't work for you, email either of us and we can arrange another time.

By email: This is undoubtedly the best way to reach us for quick questions or to set up appointments. If you enjoy legalese, feel free to read the University's official policy on "Electronic Communication with Students" (http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic_Communication_with_Students_Policy_-_2014_06_05.pdf)

If not, the policy highlights are:

- ❖ You must use your university email account for communication with us. Conversely, we are not allowed to contact you about the course at your private email address.
- ❖ We can reasonably assume that you are checking your email regularly. Failure to do so could adversely affect your performance in the class.

In addition to the policy, we would, equally importantly, advise you to be aware that professional email-writing is a skill worth developing. Beginning your email with no greeting will make a different impression than “Hello Joy” or “Dear Jennifer”. Similarly, the body of your email can be conversational and informal, even funny, yet it should remain firmly in a professional register.

Managing your time and your deadlines

This is a challenge for people well beyond their studies. If you can hone your time management skills while still a student, you’ll never regret it. Given that so much of a seminar depends on input from the students, your time management also has a significant impact on your fellow students if you are unprepared for class. You will need to carve out blocks of time every week to devote to this course. If you anticipate difficulty with a deadline, please let us know as quickly as possible. Late submissions may be penalized 1% per day, or at our discretion if you discuss with us in advance.

Some Rules and Some Questions

We will decide class expectations in a number of areas together on the first day of class, and we will seek your input about a number of questions. With respect to certain points, however, there are rules, and it’s best to be clear about those at the outset.

Open for discussion:

- ❖ How can we ensure that we are doing all we can with the technology to enhance our learning experience?
- ❖ What ideas do we have about Zoom etiquette?
- ❖ How do we feel about food and drink in class?
- ❖ How would we like to structure class breaks?
- ❖ How should we handle late arrivals?

Not open for discussion:

- ❖ Respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course and we must all make sure that we're using it legally and according to University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by us, are for private study and research, and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to UMLearn or to any website unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.
- ❖ You are not permitted to make any kind of audio or video recording, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, during any part of this course.
- ❖ If you wish to appeal a grade given for term work you must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.
- ❖ Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Regarding Plagiarism:

This point is simple and serious. Be honest. If you use someone else's ideas, acknowledge them. Be forewarned that the consequences are severe if you do not.

Lest there was any doubt, the University's regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may be found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation at: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html, which reads:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a

particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

And resources beyond...

While we will do our best to facilitate your learning, there are further resources available to you.

Academic Resources:

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.


History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counselling Centre:

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management:

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

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