Universidad de Navarra

Modern World History (Doble RRII/Der)

Teaching guide 2026-27

INTRODUCTION

This course evaluates the idea of world history, to enable you to rethink - with an ever-critical attitude - the big patterns of human conflict and cooperation in modern times. The emergence of world trade networks, the growth of world ideologies, the formation of world empires, the migration of people across the world and the effects of humans on their environments are key determinants that make the modern world one that binds the fates of all peoples together. At the same time that, from the vantage point of 1492, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries witnessed a dramatic rise in Western European and North American influence around the world, the histories of other peoples and cultures retained their own distinctiveness and separate trajectories. This course evaluates the history of peoples, ideas, power, the economy and the environment, ultimately, the history of human conflict and cooperation, in both a thematic and a chronological manner from the 1500s to the 1900s. *Modern World History* allows students to gain a deeper understanding of the big issues that affect their lives and locations, and the challenges that confront our world society in the entanglement that is the human web.

- **Degree:** International Relations with Law
- **Course:** Modern World History
- **ECTS:** 6 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits
- **Year / Semester:** First Year / First Semester
- **Course Type:** Compulsory
- **Course Teacher:** Dr Stephanie Villalta Puig
- **Course Language:** English
- **Class Schedule and Location:**
  - Class I: Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 (Amigos Aula 110)
  - Class II: Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 (Amigos Aula 005)

LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

Below is the statement on course competencies in the *Memoria oficial del Grado en Relaciones Internacionales*:

Básicas y generales:

- **CG01** - Analizar, valorar y razonar las diferentes situaciones internacionales a la luz de los conocimientos adquiridos.
- **CG04** - Usar el inglés con propiedad según la terminología científica y académica propia de la Relaciones internacionales.
- **CG05** - Saber expresarse oralmente de manera correcta y adecuada sobre temas internacionales.
- **CG07** - Valorar con espíritu crítico la realidad internacional y sus problemas específicos.
- **CB1** - Que los estudiantes hayan demostrado poseer y comprender conocimientos en un área de estudio que parte de la base de la educación secundaria general, y se suele encontrar a un nivel que, si bien se apoya en libros de texto avanzados, incluye también algunos aspectos que implican conocimientos procedentes de la vanguardia de su campo de estudio.
- **CB3** - Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética.

Específicas:

- **CE20** - Evaluar las relaciones internacionales y cada uno de sus componentes sociológicos, históricos, jurídicos, políticos y económicos.
- **CE01** - Conocer los conceptos y técnicas aplicadas al análisis de los actores y relaciones internacionales.
- **CE05** - Conocer y comprender las teorías y concepciones de las relaciones internacionales en perspectiva histórica.
- **CE07** - Conocer las características de la geopolítica mundial y el concepto la denominada sociedad internacional.
- **CE13** - Conocer y analizar las teorías e ideologías políticas contemporáneas.

SYLLABUS

Introduction: Historical Method:

- What is History? What is World History? And how does history relate to the study of International Relations?

First Part: Early Modern Period (1500s – 1700s):

- Asia as the Trade Hub of the Modern World
- Colliding Worlds: Iberian Colonisation of the Americas
- Soldiers of the Cross and the Expansion of Christianity
- Transoceanic Exchange of Diseases in the Modern World
- The Chinese Way
- The American and French Revolutions Compared: 'No taxation without representation!' v 'Liberté, égalité, fraternité!'?
- Nationalism in Latin America

Second Part: Late Modern Period (1800s – 1900s):

- Europe and the Pursuit of Empire
- The British Empire
- The Old and New in Meiji Japan
- Islamic Revivalism
- National and Social Revolutions: Mexico, Philippines and China
- World War I: 'The war that will end war'
- Interwar Period and International Community: Democracies, Authoritarianisms, and Totalitarianisms
- World War II: Modern Warfare and the Atomic Bomb
- Exploiting Africa
- Wars without Armies and without Borders

Conclusion: World History as Big History:

- Convergence or Divergence? Malthusian Demography and the Future of the World as Big History

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Class Schedule:

The course runs for 13 weeks in the first semester of the academic year – from Tuesday 1 September 2026 to Friday 27 November 2026 – and comprises two weekly 105 minute discussive in-class lecture sessions, including four interactive in-class seminar sessions.

Workload Distribution:

The course weighs six European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of student work. While there are differences among students, the expectation is that an individual student would dedicate approximately 150 hours of work (contact and non-contact) in support of the 13-week programme. As an approximate break down, the estimation is that 11 hours per week of student work are necessary to successfully complete the course, with the average hours per week for each learning and teaching activity as follows (approximate figures):

Activity	**Mode**	**ECTS**	**Hours (per week)**	**Percentage**
Class Preparation	Out-of-Class	0.78	19.5 hrs (1.50 p/w)	14%
Discussive Lectures and Interactive Seminars	In-Class	1.82	45.5 hrs (3.50 p/w)	30%
Personal Study	Out-of-Class	1.56	39 hrs (3.00 p/w)	26%
Assessment Preparation	Out-of-Class	1.82	45.5 hrs (3.50 p/w)	30%
Total	---	6.00	150 hrs (11.00 p/w)	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Exercise	**Percentage of Marks**	**Date and Location**
Class Participation	10%	Weekly (In-Class)
Historical Role-Play	20%	By Roster (In-Class)
Half-term Examination: Primary Source Analysis, Multiple Choice Questions	20%	29 October 2026 (In-Class)
Endterm Examination: Short-Answer, and Short Essay and Evaluative Essay Questions	50% (subject to 50% hurdle)	19 December 2026

Reassessment Examination	100%	June 2027 (Date to be Announced)

OFFICE HOURS

For consultation, students must email the Course Teacher, Dr Stephanie Villalta Puig, with a request for an appointment: svillaltap@unav.es. Student consultations are held:

- in Room 1711, Ismael Sánchez Building;
- on Wednesdays of term time from 14:30 to 15:30.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The essential textbook is Jeremy Adelman, Elizabeth Pollard, Clifford Rosenberg, Robert Tignor, *Worlds Together Worlds Apart: Volume 2: From 1000CE to the Present* (Concise Fourth Edition, Volume 2, 2024, WW Norton). Digital copies are available for purchase from WW Norton.