"Whether we consider the position of the rock layers that envelope the earth, the arrangement of the forms of life that inhabit it, the variety of civilizations to which it has given birth, or the structure of the languages spoken upon it, we are forced to the same conclusion: That everything is the sum of the past, and that nothing is comprehensible except through its history." --Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

**Course Description:** The purpose of this introductory general education course is to provide an overview of the history of the human community from the French Revolution through the twentieth century. In particular we will examine major issues that have made the world we live in today, as well as the impact of Western culture and power on the peoples of Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. We will do so in order to think globally and compassionately about the problems that plague us as we enter the twenty-first century. Global events and the common needs of all humanity are joining diverse cultures and societies to form one world civilization in a shrinking, fragile, and interdependent world. It is my hope that each of you will leave this course with a better understanding of the complex historical issues that have shaped the modern world and have direct impact on the political, economic, and ecological conditions of the world you live in and the one your children will inherit.

**Required Readings:**
- Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*
- LeLy Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*
- John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*

Students must also keep up with the world news by reading newspapers that provide good international coverage, such as *The New York Times* or *The Christian Science Monitor*. A good web source for world news commentary is [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org). Discussions at the beginning of each class will be centered on the historical antecedents of current affairs such as the global implications of Russia's political and economic problems, redefining defense needs, the Arab-Israeli conflict, tensions with Iran, the war in Iraq, etc.
**Course Requirements:** The grade will be based on quizzes and discussions, short papers on the books, one mid-term exam and one final exam. *Except for extreme cases, late assignments will NOT be accepted and no make-up quizzes or exams will be given.* These assignments are worth the following percentage of your final grade:

- Quizzes and Papers: 25%
- 2 Midterm exam: 25% each
- Final: 25%

**Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement, clarify, and complement reading assignments. Please read all assignments before coming to class.** Since we only meet once a week, absences are not tolerated. **You must attend all class meetings and are responsible for any material, announcements, and course changes covered in class.**

If, for any reason you miss 3 or more classes, it is an automatic F—no make-ups, no incomplete, no pleading, no discussion.

*****VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Because of the CSU’s budget cuts, all professors are forced to take unpaid furlough days off. At this point it is unclear exactly what days those will be. This syllabus reflects what days I THINK I will be forced to stay home. However, this may change over the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to check the syllabus posted online to get the most current furlough days. Even though I may not be in the classroom on those days, you are still responsible for the readings required for those days.

**Classroom Decorum:**

Part of your education includes learning to behave in a professional manner. Therefore, I expect you to come to class on time, prepared for the day’s lesson, and showing respect for your colleagues. I will do the same.

You may *not* bring a computer to class—the most recent studies on the brain demonstrate that one retains information more readily when actively listening and not multi-tasking.

Also, cell phones will not be tolerated under any circumstances—they must be turned off and remain out of sight during class. Same with iPods and other similar devices.

Because I value your education, I absolutely do not tolerate cheating including plagerism. (Refer to my document on plagerism). Any cheating will result in a failing grade and I will report you to Student Judicial Services. I mean it. It is not worth it.
Course Schedule and Lecture Topics:

Week 1: Jan 26
Introduction: Where are we now? The Corporation

Week 2: February 2
Reordering the World
(Reading: WTWA 639-682)

Week 3: February 9
Alternative Visions of the 19th Century
(Reading: WTWA, 685-716)

Week 4: February 16
Nations and Empires
(Reading: WTWA, 719-784; Wild Swans, pp. 21-42)

Week 5: February 23
Revolutionaries, Revolts and Rebellions
(Reading: WTWA, 785-804; Wild Swans, pp.62-203; 256-296; 458-474)

*****Papers on Wild Swans due today*****

Week 6: March 2
MIDTERM EXAM: No make-ups given

Week 7: March 9
The Great War and Its Aftermath
(Reading: WTWA, 809-849)

*****MARCH 19-23 SPRING BREAK!! YES!!

Week 8: March 23
MANDATORY UNPAID FURLOUGH
(Reading: WTWA, 853-860. Film: “Nanking”) Begin reading When Heaven and Earth Changed Places—You will only be responsible for pages 1-291.

Week 9: March 30
WWII and Tensions in the New World Order
(Reading: WTWA, 860-879; ********Heaven and Earth papers due today********)

Week 10: April 6
Three Worlds
(Reading: WTWA, 879-896)

Week 11: April 13
MIDTERM EXAM: No make-ups given

Week 12: April 20
1989 and the Re-ordering of the World
(Reading: WTWA, 899—907; Begin reading Confessions of an Economic Hitman)

Week 13: April 27
Economics and the New World Order
(Reading: WTWA 907-926; finish Perkins)**Confessions papers due today****

Week 14: May 4
Genocide, and the New World Order
(Reading WTWA, 930-937)

Week 15: May 11
Human Prospects: Do We Want to Get Where We are Heading?
(Reading: WTWA, 941-960)

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY MAY 19 6-7:50PM.