**History 5: The History of the Present**

Fall 2018 Professor Alice O’Connor, MW 3:30-4:45 TD 1701

Office: HSSB 3252 E-mail: aoconnor@ucsb.edu

Office Hours: Wed. 1-2:30 or by appointment

**Course Website**: For all sorts of **vital information** related to this course go to <https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/> and login using your ucsb net id.

**History 5** brings historical analysis and understanding to some of the major events, trends, issues, and dilemmas of the early 21st century. It shows students what it means to think historically about the contemporary world, and introduces them to the approaches, methods, and conceptual tools historians use to make sense of the past and the present. Each Monday will feature a lecture by Professor O’Connor or a guest from the History Department bringing insights from her or his area of expertise to a contemporary issue or question. On Wednesdays, we will draw out the core themes and historical concepts from the lecture and assigned readings. In discussion sections you will integrate readings, lectures and other assignments in exchange with your TA and peers. We have organized the sequence of lectures and readings to highlight developments that preoccupy or otherwise “define” our times: the still-reverberating consequences of 9/11 and the global financial crisis of 2008; the migrations shaping and transforming the world; and the deeply troubled state of 21st-century democracy, as we are witnessing with recurring episodes of organized racial violence; the resurgence of nationalist movements; the so-called “war on truth;” the mass detention and deportation of immigrants in the U.S; and challenges to the rule of law and other mechanisms of democratic accountability. We will also be paying close attention to developments that are engaging current generations of students and youth, in assignments that call on YOU to be historical experts on recently-emergent movements committed to social change.

**Course Requirements:** Regular attendance at ALL lectures and discussion sections is a MUST. Both will cover material not included in the readings, and for which you will be responsible on midterm and final exams.

**Readings:** Weekly required readings have been compiled in the History 5 Reader, available at Associated Students (UCEN), and on reserve in the library.

**Assignments:** You will complete three short (1-3 pp.) writing assignments and one 5-6 page paper (see schedule for due dates). You will also be required to attend a library workshop outside regular course/section times. Specifics about these assignments will be provided on the course website and in section.

**N.B. A couple of friendly warnings: Any registered student** who does not attend section or contact the T.A. during the first week of classes or who misses the first two weeks of section will automatically be dropped from the course.

Plagiarism involves using the words or analysis of a source (including the internet!) without full citation. Any student caught cheating in any fashion will fail the course, and face disciplinary action from the university. For more on university policy, see <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/>.

**Exams:** You will show us what you’re learning on an in-class midterm (**Oct. 29)** and a three-hour final (**Dec. 14, noon-3pm**). Both will be essay/brief identification format. Make-up exams must be arranged with the approval of your T.A. Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations for exams through the UCSB **Disabled Students Program** at <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>. Please make arrangements **early** in the quarter.

Your grade will be based on the midterm (20%); section (20% including participation, and three short written assignments); the 5-6 page paper (25%), and final (35%).

Grading will be done by your T.A., based on standards determined in consultation with the instructor. Remember, you CANNOT pass this course unless you complete ALL of the above requirements—midterm, paper, section, final.

Week One

Oct. 1 Course Introduction

Oct. 3 Defining Moments in Recent History

Week Two

Oct. 8 Prof. Salim Yaqub: The Enduring Impact of the U.S. Invasion of Iraq

Oct. 10 Taking Responsibility: War and the Myth of Historical Inevitability

# Week Three

Oct. 15 Prof. Evelyne Laurent Perrault, Freedom Dreams: African Migration and the Age of Revolution

Oct. 17 On the Importance of Perspective: Migration from the “Other” Side

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE Oct. 15th in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Four

Oct. 22 Prof. Stephan Miescher, Displacement, Migrations, Resettlement: Dam Building in Twentieth-Century Africa

Oct. 24 Historical and Human Agency in Environmental Change

Week Five

Oct. 29 **MIDTERM** (Blue books required)

Oct. 31 Reckoning with the Past: The Use and Abuse of Historical Memory

Week Six

Nov. 5 Prof. Erika Rappaport, Breaking Up is Hard to Do: Brexit and the Politics of Anxiety in Modern Britain

Nov. 7 Learning (or not) from the Past: The Significance of Resurgent Nationalism

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE NOV. 5th in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Seven

Nov. 12 Veterans’ Day Holiday (no class meeting)

Nov. 14 Prof. Brad Bouley, “And new philosophy calls all in doubt…”: The Scientific Revolution and the Problem of Knowledge

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE Nov. 14th in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Eight

Nov. 19 Power, Politics, and Inconvenient Truths: The Strange Career of a Scientific Idea

Nov. 21 Thanksgiving break (no class meeting)

Week Nine

Nov. 26 Professor Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, U.S. Immigration Policies and Family Separations: Repatriation, Deportation, and Resistance

Nov. 28 History, Precedent, and Power

**\*\*\*\*\*\*PAPER DUE November 28th in class\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Ten

Dec. 3 Prof. Laura Kalman, The Trials of Donald Trump and Nixon’s United States

Dec. 5 Democracy and Historical Accountability

**Final Exam: Friday, December 14, noon-3:00 p.m.**