Introduction and major themes covered in the course:

This course is primarily concerned with the development of World Civilization from the Renaissance (about 1500) to the present. We will be exploring how it was that civilization in Europe, China, Ottoman Empire, India, (to mention here only the major cultures) developed from essentially common religious and communal bases to the world of the twenty first century, in which the principle underpinnings of society can be said to rest upon the foundations of individualism, secularism, and materialism.

While Europe was undoubtedly influenced by cross currents of world civilization, we will see that Europe came to exert a dominant influence in world affairs over much of the period covered by this course. While avoiding what our textbook calls “Eurocentrism,” we will see the extent to which world affairs came to be dominated by the technologically superior western nations. At the same time, we will explore how Europe and the West rapidly lost its position of domination in the twentieth century. In the aftermath of European power, we will raise the question: has the world since 1945 moved in the direction of becoming (for the first time) an essentially one world culture, in which differences between, say, east and west, increasingly has become insignificant? Or, especially after the tragedy of 9/11, are we entering into a new age of cultural strife with the emergence of radical Islam and the rise of China as an aggressive superpower?

History affords students a unique opportunity to explore the human condition, not only its high points of accomplishment, but also the low ebbs of human intolerance and the exploitation of others. In this course we will be examining some of those “high points,” but we will also spend time on various atrocities that have marred the human experience, especially in the so-called “long twentieth century.”

There can be no question that in the course of the five centuries explored in this course, there was a gradual improvement in the material basis of most world societies, however uneven these improvements spread throughout the various regions of the world. In the twentieth century, we can even say that there was dramatic progress in technology. We will explore these developments within the perspective of what is called the idea of progress. While it might seem
that there is a continuous process of material improvement, it should be noted that each new
technology has its downside, and that there are always adverse effects in technological
development. Indeed, we will explore the effects of industrialization on both the environment as
well as society. As we move into the twentieth century we will explore the debates concerning
the deterioration of the environment and the possibility of global warming. Lastly, we will also
reflect (briefly) on the future of the world, in the twenty first century, with issues such as
population increase and the stress this is placing on the world’s resources. The world might not
come to an end in 2012, as some have predicted, but certainly by 2040, unless there are dramatic
changes, the human family might not be able to sustain a predicted population of nine billion
people.

Required Text:

Each student should purchase the following textbook: Robert W. Strayer, The Ways of the
World; A Brief Global History. Volume 2: Since 1500 (Boston and New York: Bedford/St.
Martin’s, 2009). You will also be expected to use Blackboard to read various documents, which
are considered as important as the textbook. Please also note that I reserve the right to add some
readings (not many, if at all!) to Blackboard. These assignments will be explained to you in class.

Examinations:

Each student will take two midterm examinations (worth 100 points each) and a final (worth
200 points). 50 points will be given for quizzes (probably 8-10) in class. Grades will be awarded
on a modified decade system. Thus: 92% and above = A; 91-90 = A-; 89-88 = B+; 87-81 = B;
80 = B-; 79-78 = C+; 77-71 = C; 70-69 = C-; 68-60 = D; 59 or below E.

Students must take the examinations when scheduled, except in emergency situations. In
case of an emergency, please leave a message with the TA. Then, see the instructor before or
after class the next time the class meets. There will be only one makeup date scheduled for this
class. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to take more than one make up
examination.

Attendance will be taken in class. Frequent absenteeism (more than 5 class periods) will
be taken into consideration in determining final grades.

Office Hour 12:00-12:50 MWF. You should feel free to consult with me on any subject relating
to this course or your academic career. If you cannot come at one of these hours, consult with
me about a separate appointment. There will also be additional help sessions provided by the
教学 assistant. The T.A.‘s office hours will be posted in class at a later date.

Classroom rules:

Sexual harassment towards fellow classmates or the T.A.‘s will not be tolerated. You are
required to treat all members of the class with courtesy and civility. See Church Educational
System Honor Code on BYU web page for details on proper standards of behavior.
Tentative Schedule:

29 Aug  Introduction to the course

30 Aug  World Religions and the Environment
        Reading: Strayer *Ways of the World* (hereafter, Strayer),
                Prologue, xxxiii-xxxvi.

2 Sept   The World in the Early Modern period (1500-1700)
        Reading: Strayer, 363-394; 421-430; “Cheng Ho” and “The Ottomans”,
                Blackboard.

5 Sept   Labor Day – no classes

7 Sept   Europe in the Early Modern Period

9 Sept   European Expansion and Colonization
        Reading: Strayer, 397-421; “Vasco da Gama,” Blackboard.

12 Sept  Fruits of Empire
        Reading: Strayer, 445-449; 450-459; “Sugar Trade,” Blackboard.

14 Sept  Little Ice Age
        Reading: Strayer, 445-452; “Year without a Summer,” Blackboard.
16 Sept  
Science and Enlightenment  
Reading: Strayer, 461-82; “Galileo’s Science on Trial,” Blackboard.

19 Sept  
Enlightenment and Progress  

21 Sept  
American Revolution in World History  
Reading: Strayer, 491-504

23 Sept  
Old Regime and the French Revolution  
Reading: Strayer, 504-510; “Declaration of the Rights of Man,” “Justification and the Use of Terror,” and “Declaration of the Rights of Women,” Blackboard.

26 Sept  
Latin American Revolutions  
Reading: Strayer, 510-513

28 Sept  
Review for Midterm

30 Sept  
Tentative Date for First Midterm

3 Oct  
Instability in Europe 1814-1848  

5 Oct  
First Industrial Revolution and Social Change
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>Establishment of Western Hegemony 1875-1914</td>
<td>Reading: Strayer, 559-564; George Orwell, “Shooting of an Elephant,” Blackboard.</td>
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<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>Africa in the Age of Imperialism</td>
<td>Reading: Strayer, 589-615.</td>
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<td>19 Oct</td>
<td>Comparing China and the Ottoman Empire</td>
<td>Readings: Strayer, 571-577.</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Emergence of Japan</td>
<td>Reading: Strayer, 577-587.</td>
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<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>Review for Second Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading(s)</td>
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<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>Tentative Date for Second Midterm</td>
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<td>28 Oct</td>
<td>Why do Great Wars Happen?</td>
<td>Reading: Strayer 616-629</td>
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<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>World War I and the End of European Hegemony</td>
<td>Reading: Strayer 629-630; “Battle of the Somme,” Blackboard.</td>
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<td>7 Nov</td>
<td>Totalitarian Responses</td>
<td>Reading: Strayer, 636-645; Mussolini, “What is Fascism, 1932,” “Adolf Hitler’s First Antisemitic Writing” in Blackboard.</td>
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<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Soviet Union under Stalin</td>
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<td>14 Nov</td>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>Readings: Strayer, 645-657</td>
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<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>War against the Jews</td>
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18 Nov    Cold War: The Early Years

   Reading: Strayer, 675-680; Mao Zedong, “Report on an Investigation of a
   Peasant Movement in Hunan, March 1927,” Blackboard.

21 Nov    The Cold War to the Fall of the Berlin Wall

   Reading: Strayer, 680-689; “The Cuban Missile Crisis,” Blackboard.

23 Nov – 25 Nov    Thanksgiving break

30 Nov    Emergence of the Third World

   Reading: Strayer, 691-715; Gandhi, “What is Satyagraha?,” Blackboard.

2 Dec    Crisis and Conflict in the Middle East, 1947 to the Present

   Reading: Strayer, 715-719; “The Jewish State, 1896” in Blackboard.

5 Dec    Are we Headed for a Global Environmental Disaster?

   Reading: Strayer, 723-756.

7 Dec    Review for Final Examination

Final Exam    See Winter Time table or as announced in class.