

HIST 4820 - History in the Headlines

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43552,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

David Simonelli

Email: dsimonelli@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Professor

MA and PhD in History, Tulane University

BA in History and Political Science, University of Connecticut

Office Location: DeBartolo 510

Phone: 330 941-1601

Course Description

4820. History in the Headlines. Twenty-first century history viewed through the lens of contemporary events. Course content changes as events change, but will always include 9/11, climate change, COVID-19, growth of Chinese economic power, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, among others. Prereq.: none. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
NO READINGS			

No textbooks required

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

History 4820-43552 schedule of classes

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25		Introduction	* Read syllabus/format-grammar-style guide * divvy up responsibilities for speaker questions
Thu	8/27		Is world migration a crisis in the 21st century, and if so, what kind of a crisis is it?	
Tue	9/1		Vicki Vicars, Thrive Mahoning Valley	



Thu	9/3	"Global Migration in the 21st Century: Navigating the Impact of Climate Change, Conflict, and Demographic Shifts", World Bank Group (December 11, 2023) https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2023/12/11/global-migration-in-the-21st-century-navigating-the-impact-of-climate-change-conflict-and-demographic-shifts [accessed July 22, 2026] "Northern America" in Chapter 3 - Migration and Migrants: Regional Dimensions, World Migration Report 2026, United Nations International Organization for Migration https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/world-migration-report-2026/chapter-3/northern-america [accessed July 22, 2026]	
Tue	9/8	Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence as a Research Tool Rachel Faerber-Ovaska * demonstrate doing research on speakers/ subjects for lecture series	
Thu	9/10	How have political party divisions in the US become so vast, and can they be healed?	
Tue	9/15	Guy Coviello, President & CEO of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber Josh Prest, Founder and Principal, Prest Public Strategies	RESEARCH TOPIC CHOICES DUE
Thu	9/17	Eric Loepp, "Political Polarization in America: A Historical Analysis", Divided We Fall (May 25, 2022) https://dividedwefall.org/political-polarization-in-america-past-and-present/ [accessed July 23, 2026] Judy Woodruff interview of Heather Cox Richardson, "Historian compares America's current divisions to the past and how we can overcome them", PBS NewsHour (October 25, 2023) https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/historian-compares-americas-current-divisions-to-the-past-and-how-we-can-overcome-them [accessed July 23, 2026]	
Tue	9/22	LIBRARY RESEARCH - MEET IN MAAG LIBRARY FOURTH FLOOR INSTRUCTION ROOM Becky Moore, library research	
Thu	9/24	Why are the US and Iran at war, and does Iran have to have a nuclear weapon at its disposal in order to be a world power?	
Tue	9/29	Negin Mirzade Yazdi, YSU international student	TOPIC STATEMENT DUE



Thu	10/1	Ondrej Palicka, "Why Would Iran Build Nuclear Weapons? The Security Perspective", Atlas Institute of International Affairs (May 20, 2021) https://atlasinstitute.org/why-would-iran-build-nuclear-weapons-the-security-perspective/ [accessed July 22, 2026] Mariel Ferragamo, Jonathan Masters and Will Merrow, "What Are Iran's Nuclear and Missile Capabilities?", Council on Foreign Relations (March 4, 2026) https://www.cfr.org/articles/what-are-irans-nuclear-and-missile-capabilities [accessed July 22, 2026]
Tue	10/6	Brian Bonhomme, YSU professor of Russian history
Thu	10/8	What is the war between Russia and Ukraine about, and how can it be brought to an end?
Tue	10/13	Jennifer Kavanaugh, "Trump is blowing his chance to make peace in Ukraine", Responsible Statecraft (June 16, 2026) https://responsiblestatecraft.org/trump-russia-ukraine-negotiations/ accessed July 23, 2026] Taylor McNeil interview of Shevel and Maria Popova, "How Russia and Ukraine's Tangled Histories Led to War", Tufts Now (January 22, 2024) https://now.tufts.edu/2024/01/22/how-russia-and-ukraines-tangled-histories-led-war [accessed July 23, 2026]
Thu	10/15	FOUNDATIONAL BOOK AND EVIDENCE LOG * read secondary source * assemble direct quotations, accurate source information, key developments, emerging themes * discuss research questions in class with goal of refining/specifying goals of research
Tue	10/20	AJ Sumell, YSU professor of urban economics
Thu	10/22	Is the gap between rich and poor growing in the western world to the point where there needs to be some sort of change? BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
Tue	10/27	Matthew Johnston, "Income Inequality in the U.S: Major Events and Policies", Investopedia (March 20, 2026) https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/110215/brief-history-income-inequality-united-states.asp [accessed July 25, 2026] Daniel Waldenstrom, "The Inequality Myth", Foreign Affairs (May 19, 2025) https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/inequality-myth-western-societies-more-equal-waldenstrom [accessed July 25, 2026]
Thu	10/29	Is another world pandemic coming, and will science be able to stop it?
Tue	11/3	Dr. Dee Banks, Northeast Ohio Infectious Disease Associates



Thu	11/5	Arturo Casadevall, "Pandemics Past, Present, and Future: Progress and Persistent Risk", Journal of Clinical Investigation 134 (7) 2024 https://www.jci.org/articles/view/179519/pdf [accessed July 28, 2026] "Six Years After COVID-19's Global Alarm: Is the World Better Prepared for the Next Pandemic?", World Health Organization (February 2, 2026) https://www.who.int/news/item/02-02-2026-six-years-after-covid-19-s-global-alarm-is-the-world-better-prepared-for-the-next-pandemic [accessed July 28, 2026]
Tue	11/10	What motivates the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, and is it possible to solve that conflict?
Thu	11/12	Wally Atway, Palestinian/retired Youngstown ROUGH DRAFT DUE IN MY EMAIL INBOX BY grocer Chaya Kessler, retired director, Kent 5 PM State Jewish Studies Program
Tue	11/17	Robert Barron, "Obstacles and Opportunities in the Pursuit of Israeli-Palestinian Peace", Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University (March 12, 2025) https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/obstacles-and-opportunities-pursuit-israeli-palestinian-peace [accessed July 25, 2026] Laura Almagor, Fabio Cristiano, Peter Malcontent, Simeon Paravantes and Joas Wagemakers, "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Explained: This Preceded the Gaza War", Utrecht University (July 17, 2024) https://www.uu.nl/en/background/the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-explained-this-preceded-the-gaza-war [accessed July 28, 2026]
Thu	11/19	Will China overtake the US as an economic power in the 21st century?
Tue	11/24	Mousa Kassis, Director of the Ohio SBDC Export Assistance Network
Thu	11/26	THANKSGIVING DAY
Tue	12/1	Graham Allison, Nathalie Kiersznowski and Charlotte Fitzek, "The Great Economic Rivalry: China vs the US", Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School (March 23, 2022) https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/great-economic-rivalry-china-vs-us [accessed July 28, 2026] Tejvan Pettinger, "How China Came to Dominate Global Economy", Economics Help (October 21, 2025) https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/218157/economics/how-china-came-to-dominate-global-economy/ [accessed July 28, 2026]
Thu	12/3	RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS
Thu	12/10	RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

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