The modern world, as we have come to define it politically, began in the last decades of the 19th Century, with the spread of industrialization, the race for colonies, the thrust of imperialism, and the rapid growth of nationalism. These factors contributed to unprecedented levels of prosperity in the “West” and also to wars of unprecedented violence and cruelty. The United States, whose economic power had been growing rapidly through the 19th century, burst on the world stage in the last years of the century as a full-blown industrial and military power, and, with the acquisition of its new colonies, a nascent imperial one. It was not until the final breakdown of the 19th century system as a result of the First World War (1914-18) that the 20th century can truly be said to have begun in a political sense. The aftermath of that conflict, the rise of the totalitarian dictatorships in the 1930s, the Second World War, the protracted Russo-American “cold war” that followed, and the eclipse of both colonialism and the European state system have brought an era to its end.

During this 15-week course, we will examine the forces – political, military, economic, cultural – that have given shape to this era and created its consciousness. This will entail considerable reading in the history of the period. Our purpose, it must be stressed, is not to memorize dates and battles, but to understand the interplay of major forces, as well as the theories that attempt to explain these events.

The following books will be assigned, mostly in their entirety:

- Keylor, William: *The 20th Century World*
- Kennedy, Paul: *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*
- Kissinger, Henry: *Diplomacy*
- McCauley, M.: *Origins of the Cold War*
- Steel, Ronald: *Temptations of a Superpower*

The first two books are available at the bookstore and all the books have been requested to be put on reserve at Leavey Library.
In addition to the mid-term and final exams, each student will be graded on a term paper, due April 10 and on participation in class discussions and attendance. Allocation of grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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January 9       Introduction

January 16     The Shifting Balance in the 19th Century
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.143-193
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.137-167
Keylor, *20th Century*, pp.3-39

Jan. 23        The Gathering Storm: 1885-1914
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.194-256
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.168-200

Jan. 30        Breakdown: The Great War (1914-1919)
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.256-74
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.29-55 & 201-45
Keylor, *20th Century*, pp.43-91

Feb. 6         Aftermath: The 1920s
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.275-290
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.246-87
Keylor, *20th Century*, pp.92-127

Feb. 13        Rise of a New Order: The 1930s
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.291-343
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.288-318
Keylor, *20th Century*, pp.128-175

Feb. 20        The Second World War: 1939-45
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.347-357
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.332-393

Feb. 27        The Turning Point: 1945
Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.394-445
McCaulley, *Origins*, pp.1-70
March 6  Division: 1946-48  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.446-472  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.251-275  
McCauley, Origins, pp.71-98

March 8  Mid-term Examination – in class

March 13/15  Spring Break

March 20  Confrontation  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.473-521  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.275-283, 348-365  
Kennedy, Rise and Fall, pp.357-395

March 27  Agonizing Appraisals  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.522-593  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.284-347  
Kennedy, Rise and Fall, pp.395-413

April 3  The Endless Tunnel  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.594-673  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.365-381  
Kennedy, Rise and Fall, pp.413-437

April 10  Cold War II: Détente and Anti-Détente  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.674-761  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.382-427

TERM PAPER DUE

April 17  End of the Cold War  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.762-803  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.428-492  
Kennedy, Rise and Fall, pp.439-514

April 24  A World in Flux  
Kissinger, Diplomacy, pp.804-835  
Kennedy, Rise and Fall, pp.514-540  
Keylor, 20th Century, pp.527-543  
Steel, Temptations, pp.1-139  
Huntington, articles to be distributed

May 1  Final Exam