American Foreign Policy Since 1898
History 512:352
Rutgers University, Spring 2010
Murray 212
MTh 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM

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Course Description
This course examines the foreign relations of the United States from the war against Spain at the end of the nineteenth century to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Through lectures, readings, and documentary films, the course presents differing interpretations of controversial issues and major developments such as U.S. imperialism, the role of gender in foreign relations, Wilsonian interventionism, isolationism, the origins of the Cold War, "nation building," the Vietnam War, the rise and fall of detente, and the end of the Cold War. The primary objective of the course is to encourage independent critical thinking about U.S. foreign relations.

This 300-level course is relatively advanced and requires a substantial amount of reading. Students who have not had introductory surveys of U.S. history or other courses on U.S. foreign relations may wish to delay taking this class.

Requirements

1. Attendance at lectures. This will count for 10% of your grade for the course. Attendance will be recorded on a sign-in sheet available before the beginning of class. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive. Students who arrive after the beginning of class will not be allowed to sign the attendance sheet. Students who leave before the class ends will be marked absent unless they have explained at the beginning of class why they need to leave early. All students will be expected to comply with the Classroom Etiquette Policy (see http://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/policy.htm). Cell phones must be switched off and meals must be eaten before the start of class. Any student who uses a cell phone during class to check for messages or send text messages and any student who uses a laptop to play a video game will be asked to leave the classroom.
Each student will be allowed three unexcused absences. Beyond that, each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of 2% in the final course grade.

2. **Active, informed participation in class discussions, based on completion of the assigned reading. This will count for 10% of your grade for the course.**

3. Two short (1500-2000 word) essays on assigned topics. The essays will develop critical perspectives on interpretations of major issues addressed in required readings. Students will be expected to be familiar with the History Department’s statement on plagiarism (see [http://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/plagiarism.htm](http://history.rutgers.edu/undergrad/plagiarism.htm)). Essays that contain plagiarism (unacknowledged use of others’ words or ideas) will not be accepted. **Each essay will count for 30% of your course grade.** Essays may not be submitted by e-mail.

4. **Final examination.** You will be asked to identify and discuss the historical significance of 10 individuals, events, etc. on a list of 12. The list will be drawn from a much longer list distributed in class. The exam will count for **20% of your course grade.**