

DRAFT SYLLABUS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1898:
Interventions, Wars, Military Occupations
and the Remaking of Foreign Nations**

History 512:352

Rutgers University, Spring 2018

M/W 6 (4:30-5:50 PM)

Van Dyck Hall, Room 211

Professor David S. Foglesong

Office: Van Dyck Hall, Room 215

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 3:15-4:15 PM & by appointment
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Course Description

This course examines the foreign relations of the United States from the war against Spain in 1898 to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It addresses major developments such as U.S. imperialism, Wilsonian interventionism, "isolationism," the Vietnam War, and especially "nation building." In lectures, readings, documentary films, and essay assignments, students are asked to compare and analyze different interpretations of controversial issues such as the influence of ideas about manliness in debates over going to war and the problems encountered in military occupations of foreign countries. The primary objectives of the course are to encourage students to think independently and critically about U.S. foreign relations and to improve their writing skills.

Requirements

1. **Attendance at lectures.** 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 until the end of class. Students who leave before the class ends will be marked absent unless they have explained before the beginning of class why they need to leave early. Students will be expected to comply with the Classroom Etiquette Policy (see history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies). **Cell phones must be switched off and meals must be eaten before the start of class. Students who use electronic devices for purposes unrelated to the class will be marked absent.**

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. If the campus is open and class is not canceled, absences will not be excused because of weather. Absences will be excused when students provide notes from doctors, deans, or coaches that explain the reasons for the absences (such as serious illness, family emergency, or travel for athletic competition).

Students may use the absence reporting website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>) to indicate the date and reason for an absence. However, this will not eliminate the need to present documentation for excuse of absences.

2. Informed, thoughtful participation in class discussions, based on completion of the assigned reading by the dates specified on this syllabus. Two short in-class essays at different, unannounced points in the semester, will be used to assess the quality of students' preparation for class. **Together the daily participation and the essays will count for 10% of your course grade.**

3. Three essays of about 1500 words (roughly 5 pages) 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 (<http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate>) Essays that contain plagiarism (unacknowledged use of others' words or ideas) will not be accepted. **The essays will be due in class on February 5, April 9, and April 30. Each essay will count for 20% of your course grade.** Essays may not be submitted by e-mail. Essays submitted after the due dates will be marked down one grade point (for example, from B to C+) for each class after the due date.

4. Midterm examination, March 7. Students will write short essays (four or five sentences each) about ten individuals, concepts, or events selected from a longer list circulated at the beginning of the semester. The essays must present specific factual information and discuss wider historical importance. This will count for **15% of your course grade.** Students may, after consultation with the professor, write short essays on the U.S. military occupations of the late 1940s instead of taking the midterm exam. Due March 10.

5. Final examination, Date TBA. The exam will require students to provide specific factual information about and discuss the historical significance of 10 individuals, events, concepts, etc. on a list of 12, selected from a longer list circulated at the beginning of the semester. This will count for **15% of your course grade.** Students

may request to write short essays on the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan instead of taking the final exam. Due at final exam.

Required Reading

The following books have been ordered through the Rutgers University Bookstore:

Paterson, Thomas G. et al, American Foreign Relations: A History/Since 1895. Volume II. Eighth Edition.

Chandrasekaran, Rajiv. Imperial Life in the Emerald City

Hoganson, Kristin. Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars

Jacobs, Seth. America's Miracle Man in Vietnam: Ngo Dinh Diem and U.S. Intervention in Southeast Asia

These books have also been placed on two-hour reserve at Alexander Library.

Additional required readings have been placed on electronic reserve.

To access them, go to www.libraries.rutgers.edu, click on "Find Reserves," and type "Foglesong" in the search field.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments

Note: The required reading must be completed by the dates specified. This is essential to make the lectures and discussions valuable. **Lectures will assume that students are familiar with basic factual information presented in the assigned reading. Students will be expected to be able to answer questions about different interpretations presented in the reading.** Doing some of the recommended reading may enhance performance, particularly on the essays. Powerpoint presentations will be posted on the course's sakai site after they have been presented in class.

JANUARY 17: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE.

View part of "Crucible of Empire: The Spanish-American War" (documentary)

JANUARY 22: U.S. INSULAR IMPERIALISM: ABERRATION?
CULMINATION? PRECEDENT?

Required Reading:

W. L. Williams, "United States Indian Policy and the Debate over Philippine Annexation," Journal of American History (March 1980) [E-Reserve]

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 1.

Hoganson, Fighting for American Manhood (start)

JANUARY 24: THEODORE ROOSEVELT: GENTLEMAN COWBOY,
ROUGH RIDER. *View "TR" (documentary, 1996)*

Required Reading:

Matthew Frye Jacobson, "Imperial Amnesia," Radical History Review
(1999) [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Edmund Morris, The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt (1979)

JANUARY 29: MEN, WOMEN, AND EMPIRE: GENDER & AMERICAN
FOREIGN RELATIONS

Required Reading:

Hoganson, Fighting for American Manhood (finish)

Recommended Reading:

Gail Bederman, Manliness and Civilization (1995)

Robert Dean, Imperial Brotherhood (2001)

JANUARY 31: THE U.S. OCCUPATIONS OF CUBA AND THE PHILIPPINES

Required Reading: [E-Reserve]

Howard Gillette, "The Military Occupation of Cuba, 1899-1902:
Workshop for American Progressivism," American Quarterly, Vol.
25, No. 4 (October 1973), 410-425.

Louis Perez, "Cuba Between Empires, 1898-1899," Pacific Historical
Review, Vol. 48, No. 4 (November 1979), 473-500.

Jeremi Suri, Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation-Building from
the Founders to Obama (2011), Introduction and Chapter 3

Dominic Tierney, How We Fight: Crusades, Quagmires, and the
American Way of War (2010), Introduction and Chapter 5

Recommended Reading:

Louis Perez, On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality and Culture
(1999), esp. Ch. 4

Louis A. Perez, Cuba in the American Imagination (2008)

FEBRUARY 5: TR, THE OPEN DOOR, AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 2.

First essay due.

FEBRUARY 7: WILSONIAN INTERVENTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

Required Reading:

Kendrick A. Clements, "Woodrow Wilson's Mexican Policy" [E-reserve]

John Mason Hart, Revolutionary Mexico (1987), Chapter 9 [E-reserve]

Recommended Reading:

D. Foglesong, America's Secret War Against Bolshevism (1995), Ch. 2

F. Katz, The Life and Times of Pancho Villa (1998), esp. Chapter 14

FEBRUARY 12: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND THE VERSAILLES PEACE

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 3

FEBRUARY 14: FROM COLOSSUS OF THE NORTH TO GOOD
NEIGHBOR: U.S. POLICY & LATIN AMERICA, 1921-1941

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, 167-183.

David Schmitz, "The Origins of the Good Neighbor Policy" [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Michel Gobat, Confronting the American Dream: Nicaragua Under U.S.
Imperial Rule (2005)

FEBRUARY 19: ORIGINS OF THE U.S. WAR AGAINST JAPAN

Watch "*Prelude to War*" (propaganda film, 1942)

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, pages 152-166 and Chapter 6

John Dower, "Race, Language and War in Two Cultures," in Dower,

Japan in War and Peace: Selected Essays (1993), 257-285.

[E-Reserve]

FEBRUARY 21: THE U.S. OCCUPATION OF JAPAN, 1945-1952:
A TRIUMPH OF "NATION BUILDING"?

Required Reading:

John Dower, "Occupied Japan and the Cold War in Asia," in Dower,

Japan in War and Peace: Selected Essays (1993), 155-207.

[E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

M. Schaller, The American Occupation of Japan

John Dower, Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II

Recommended Viewing: "The Teahouse of the August Moon" (1956)

FEBRUARY 26: THE U.S. OCCUPATION OF GERMANY, 1945-1949

Required Reading:

Carolyn Eisenberg, Drawing the Line: The American Decision to Divide
Germany, 1944-1949 (1996), Introduction [E-Reserve]

Jeremi Suri, Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation-Building From
the Founders to Obama (2011), Chapter 4 [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Konrad Jarausch, After Hitler: Recivilizing Germans, 1945-1995 (2006)

FEBRUARY 28: THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY, 1945-1948

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 7.

Alessandro Brogi, Confronting America: The Cold War Between the United States and the Communists in France and Italy (2011), Introduction and Chapter 3 [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Susan Carruthers, The Good Occupation (2016)

MARCH 5: WAR AND STATE-BUILDING IN KOREA

Required Reading:

G. Brazinsky, Nation Building in South Korea, Intro, Ch. 1 [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Bruce Cumings, The Origins of the Korean War (2 vols., 1981, 1991)

MARCH 7: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

MARCH 12 AND 14: SPRING BREAK

MARCH 19: COVERT INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA, 1954-1961

Watch "*Secret Intelligence: Intervention*" (documentary)

Required Reading:

R. Jeffreys-Jones, The CIA and American Democracy (1989), 81-99. [E-Reserve]

MARCH 21: EISENHOWER AND THE "NEW LOOK"

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 8.

MARCH 26: THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONALISM AND COMMUNISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE U.S. POLITICAL IMAGINATION

"The Ugly American" (Film, 1962)

Required Reading:

Jonathan Nashel, "The Road to Vietnam: Modernization Theory in Fact and Fiction" [E-Reserve]

Jacobs, America's Miracle Man in Vietnam (begin)

Recommended Reading:

William Lederer and Eugene Burdick, The Ugly American (1958)

Mark Philip Bradley, Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950 (2000)

MARCH 28: NATION BUILDING AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Required Reading:

Jacobs, America's Miracle Man in Vietnam (continue)

Recommended Reading:

R. A. Hunt, Pacification: The American Struggle for Vietnam's Hearts and Minds (1995)

Michael E. Latham, Modernization as Ideology: American Social Science and "Nation Building" in the Kennedy Era

Philip E. Catton, Diem's Final Failure: Prelude to America's War in Vietnam (2002)

APRIL 2: "HEARTS AND MINDS" (FILM, 1974)

Required Reading:

Jacobs, America's Miracle Man in Vietnam (finish)

APRIL 4: THE U.S. WAR IN VIETNAM

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 9.

Recommended Reading:

M. Lawrence, The Vietnam War: A Concise International History (2008)

James M. Carter, Inventing Vietnam: The United States and State-Building, 1954-1968 (2008)

APRIL 9: THE LONG SHADOWS OF THE VIETNAM WAR: THE "VIETNAM SYNDROME" AND LESSONS OF THE LOST WAR

Required Reading: [E-Reserve]

George Herring, "The Vietnam Syndrome," in D. Anderson, ed., The Columbia History of the Vietnam War (2011), 409-429.

Remarks by President Obama at Commemoration Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Recommended Reading:

Linda Dittmar and Gene Michaud, ed. From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War in American Film (1990)

Second essay due.

APRIL 11: U.S. INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA SINCE 1961

Required Reading: [E-Reserve]

Schmitz, "New Frontiers? Kennedy, Johnson, and the Return to Intervention"

Francis, "United States Policy toward Latin America during the Kissinger Years"

Pastor, "The Reagan Administration: On Its Own Petard"

Recommended Reading:

T. Harmer, Allende's Chile and the Inter-American Cold War (2011)

APRIL 16: INTERVENTION AND "NATION BUILDING" IN THE 1990S:
SOMALIA, HAITI, BOSNIA, AND KOSOVO

View televised address on Haiti by President Bill Clinton

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 11

Mark Bowden, Black Hawk Down, 3-11, 83-89, 423-430. [E-Reserve]

John R. Bolton, "Wrong Turn in Somalia," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 73, No. 1 (January/February 1994), 56-66. [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Jon Western, Selling Intervention and War: The Presidency, the Media, and the American Public, Chapter 5: "Famine in Somalia and Ancient Hatreds in Bosnia" [E-Reserve]

APRIL 18: THE U.S.-IRAQ WARS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Required Reading:

Paterson, American Foreign Relations, Chapter 12.

Recommended Reading:

Douglas Little, American Orientalism

APRIL 23: *"No End in Sight: Iraq's Descent Into Chaos"* (Documentary)

APRIL 25: POST-COLD WAR NATION BUILDING:
THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

Required Reading:

Chandrasekaran, Imperial Life in the Emerald City

Recommended Reading:

Thomas Ricks, Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq (2006)

Peter Hahn, Missions Accomplished? The United States and Iraq since World War I (2012)

APRIL 30: WAR AND NATION BUILDING: THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN

Required Reading:

Seth Jones, In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan (2009), Introduction and Chapter 7 [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Terry Anderson, Bush's Wars (2011)

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Little America: The War Within the War for Afghanistan (2012)

J. Kael Weston, The Mirror Test: America at War in Iraq and Afghanistan (2016)

Third essay due.

TBA: Final Examination