

HIST 4581 & HIST 4581G
 Spring 2009
 ED 206, T Th 11 am – 12:15 pm
 Office: LA 101 or CenterAustria (LA 192)
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Dr. Günter Bischof
 Office hours: T Th 1 – 2 pm

American Diplomatic History in the Twentieth Century

Basic Themes and Objectives

This course will discuss the major trajectory and outline the crucial turning points of American foreign policy in the 20th century. It will also try to study the art of American diplomacy and compare it with European practices. The course will start with 1898 and the U.S.'s entering of the world arena and its rise as an imperial power. It will investigate the question whether, why and from what point in time onward the 20th century can be called the “**American Century**” and whether the projection of American power abroad took the form of empire building in the traditional European way. Major historiographical debates will be addressed as well in the course of the semester.

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend the class lectures regularly. Only one **unexcused absence** will be tolerated. All further classes absences need to be explained. NO explanation counts as an unexcused absence. After one unexcused absence, the student will be reported to the Dean's office. All assignment are to be handed in on time; no late papers will be accepted (except if student is sick and brings in a doctor's notice). Repeated absences and late paper will result in a drop(s) of the student's class grade.

Required Class Readings:

- George C. Herring, *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776* (The Oxford History of the United States). New York: Oxford University Press 2008 [TEXTBOOK]
- Kristin L. Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press 1999
- Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2005.
- Richard Pells, *Not Like US: How Europeans have loved, hated, and transformed American culture since World War II*, New York: Basic Books 1997
- Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, New York 2008

- Samantha Power, *“A Problem for Hell”: American and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Basic Books 2002

Course Grade

Midterm	30 %	(basic facts from lectures and readings)
Final	30 %	(basic comprehension and analysis of major themes)
Papers	30 %	(research, analysis, and basic writing skills)
Class Participation	10 %	(based on class participation)

Graduate Credit

Graduate students taking the class are required to make the written assignments longer and more exhaustive than undergraduates and consult additional sources. Additionally, they are expected to demonstrate a deeper understanding of historiographical debates in class discussions and their papers than undergraduates.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm.

Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

Student Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Have a basic understanding of world political geography in the 20th century
- ◆ Understand and be able analyze the major turning points in American foreign policy in the 20th century within its global context
- ◆ Identify the major figures in American diplomacy
- ◆ Comprehend the basic decision-making process in American foreign policy
- ◆ Have a basic understanding of American diplomatic practice
- ◆ Critically discuss the changing position of America’s place in the world
- ◆ Was there a “rise and fall of American empire” during the 20th century?

Weekly Course Assignments

The readings assigned for individual each class must be done before class; students must be able to summarize the major theses of each reading assignment; Herring's textbook discusses American's trajectory in the 20th century world from continental power to global hegemony/empire.

- Week I. Jan 13 Introduction of Class Proceedings and Core Themes
- Jan 15 The Rise of American Empire – The War of 1898 and Its Consequences
Readings: Herring, ch. 7 & 8
- II. Jan 20 **Inauguration Day – No Classes!**
Readings: Herring, ch. 9
- Jan 22 **Guest Lecture: Dr. Jana K. Lippman (Tulane University)**
Guantanamo in the American Century
- III. Jan 27 T.R. and His “Corollary” and Dollar Diplomacy
Readings: Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood* (entire)
- ❖ **First Written Assignment Due (2 pages): Do you agree with Hoganson that the War of 1898 was about reasserting American manhood? Is gender a useful category in understanding U.S. foreign relations?**
- Jan 29 The Origins of American Involvement in World War I
Read: Herring, ch. 10
- IV. Feb 3 Woodrow Wilson, the Struggle for a Liberal World Order, and
1920s American Diplomacy: Isolationism or Internationalism?
Readings: Herring, ch. 11
- Feb 5 Origins of WW II
Readings: Herring, ch. 12; Power, “*Problem for Hell*”, chs. 1-5
- V. Feb 10 **NO CLASS**
- Feb 12 The Rise of American Globalism: The Advent of the American Century?
F.D. Roosevelt’s Wartime Diplomacy: Planning for Peace
Readings: Herring, ch. 13
Henry Luce, “The American Century” (handout)
- VI. Feb 17 The A-Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy* (entire)

❖ **Second Written Assignment Due (4 pages): What role did the dropping of the A-Bomb play in the origins of the Cold War? Was it directed on ending WW II or stopping Stalin's expansionism?**

- Feb 19 **Guest Lecturer: Dr. Stelios Zachariou (Greek Foreign Ministry)**
Greece and the Origins of the Cold War
 Readings: Herring, ch. 14
- VII. Feb 24 **Mardi Gras Break (no class!)**
- Feb 26 **NO CLASS!**
- VIII. Mar 3 **Midterm Examination**
- Mar 5 The Cultural and Intellectual Cold Wars in Europe
 Pells, *Not Like US* (entire)
- IX. Mar 10 The Cold War in Asia : The “Loss” of China; “Reverse Course” in Japan;
 War in Korea
- Mar 12 Cold Wars at Home: The Politics of Anti-Communism in the U.S
- ❖ **Graduate Student Paper (5 pages): Did the Politics of Anti-Communism at Home and the Cultural and Intellectual Cold Wars Abroad breed Anti-Americanism in the World?**
- X. Mar 17 American Hegemony: Eisenhower and the Nuclear Arms Race
 Readings: Herring, ch. 15
- Mar 19 Cold War in Latin America: Cuba and the Missile Crisis
- XI. Mar 24 **Guest Lecturer Katerina Kralova (Yale University/Charles University-Prague)**
Czechoslovakia/ the Czech Republic and the World
- Mar 26 Decolonization: The Vietnam War
 Readings: Herring, ch. 16; Power, “*Problem from Hell*”, chs. 6-7
- XII. Mar 31 Viewing of Documentary by Errol Morris (2003)
The Fog of War [on McNamara and the Vietnam War]
- Apr 2 Case Study: Cold War Turning Point? The Crisis Year 1968 and the
 Invasion of Czechoslovakia
- XIII. Apr 5-12 **Spring Break**

- XIV. Apr 14 Nixon-Kissinger Diplomacy
Readings: Herring, ch. 17
- Apr 16 The US and the Near East
- XV. Apr 21 American Malaise: Carter and Islamic Fundamentalism
Readings: Herring, ch. 18
- Apr 23 Reagan/Bush and the End of the Cold War
Readings: Herring, ch. 19
- XVI. Apr 28 Post-Cold War Anarchy or New American Hegemony?
Readings: Herring, ch. 20; Power, *"A Problem from Hell"*, chs. 8-14
- Apr 30 A New World Order?
Readings: Zakaria, *The Post-American World* (entire);
G. Bischof, American Empire and its Discontents: The United States and Europe Today (handout)

❖ **3rd Paper Due = Research Paper (8 pages/graduate students 12pages):
Is the Post-Cold War World a Post-American World? Is American
Empire/Hegemony in Decline?**

- May 2 Beginning of Finals' Week
- Th May 7 **Final Examination: 2:30 – 2:30 ED 206**