

Draft - Syllabus

History 9378B

To Make the World “Safe for Democracy”: The United States and the Projection of Power in the Twentieth Century



Department of History
The University of Western Ontario
Winter 2015

Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30
Lawson Hall 2270C

Instructor: Geoffrey Stewart

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With the articulation of the Fourteen Points on January 18, 1918—less than one year after the United States had declared war on the Axis powers—American President Woodrow Wilson outlined a bold, new world order based on American principles of liberal-democracy and free-market capitalism. These were the guiding principles upon which American entry into World War One would make the World Safe for Democracy. Such a vision has been the rationale for the projection of American power into the world ever since.

This seminar will assess the theoretical and historiographic debates over this phenomenon throughout the twentieth century. We will examine the main axes of debate over twentieth century American foreign relations between Realists, New Left Revisionists, so-called “post-revisionists,” cultural historians and international historians. After examining the theoretical underpinnings of US foreign policy and its various historical interpretations we will explore how various historians have interpreted this projection of power in the world from the Gilded Age to the end of the twentieth century with a particular focus on the end of World War One and the Cold War.

Course Requirements:

Major Research Paper – approximately 25 pages based on extensive (if not exclusive) use of primary materials (40%) (Due **April 8**)

Historiographic Paper – approximately 10 pages relevant to the research paper (20%) (Due **February 11**)

Seminar Participation – active and constructive discussion of the readings and a minimum of one presentation of the readings (40%)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf "

Statement on Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

Preliminary Seminar Schedule – Readings may be subject to change

January 7 – *Introduction to the Course*

January 14 – *Interpreting the History of US Foreign Policy: Prelude*

Frank Costigliola and Thomas G. Paterson, “Defining and Doing the History of United States Foreign Relations: A Primer” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations* 2d ed., eds. Michael Hogan and Thomas Paterson (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Robert J. McMahon, “Toward a Pluralist Vision: The Study of American Foreign Relations as International History and National History” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*

Ole R. Holsti, “Theories of International Relations” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*

John Herz, “Idealist Internationalism and the Security Dilemma,” *World Politics* 2 (1949), 157-80

Kenneth Waltz, “Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power” in *Neorealism and its Critics*, ed. Robert Keohane (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986)

Robert Gilpin, “The Richness of the Tradition of Political Realism” in *Neorealism and its Critics*

Thomas J. McCormick, “World Systems” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*

Michael H. Hunt, “Ideology” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*

Akira Iriye, “Culture and International History” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*

January 21 – *Interpreting the History of US Foreign Policy: Part I*

George Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, expanded ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984)

January 28 – *Interpreting the History of US Foreign Policy: Part II*

William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, new ed. (New York: Norton, 1988)

February 4 – *Interpreting the History of US Foreign Policy: Part III*

Frank Ninkovich, *The Wilsonian Century: US Foreign Policy since 1900* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999)

February 11 – *The Progressive Era*

Emily S. Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1982)

****Historiographic Paper Due**

February 18 – *Reading Week (No Class)*

February 25 – *World War I: Part I*

Thomas J. Knock, *To End All Wars: Woodrow Wilson and the Quest for a New World Order* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992)

March 4 – *World War I: Part II*

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of American Anticolonial Nationalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)

March 11 – *World War I: Part III*

N. Gordon Levin, *Woodrow Wilson and World Politics: America's Response to War and Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968)

March 18 – *The Cold War: Part I*

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War*, rev. and expanded ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)

March 25 – *The Cold War: Part II*

Thomas J. McCormick, *America's Half-Century: United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War and After*, 2d ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995)

April 1 – *The Cold War: Part III*

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

April 8 – *The Post-Cold War World*

Andrew J. Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of US Diplomacy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002)

****Research Paper Due**

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