

## **History 9378A**

# **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  
Fall 2017**

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

**Instructor:** Geoffrey Stewart

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 12:00 to 2:00 or by appointment

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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 **December 6**)

**Historiographic Paper** – approximately 10 pages relevant to the research paper (20%) (Due **October 18**)

**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](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](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](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.

## Seminar Schedule

### September 13 – *Introduction to the Course*

### September 20 – *Interpreting the History of US Foreign Policy: Part I*

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

### September 27 – *Interpreting the History of US Foreign Policy: Part II*

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

### October 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)

### October 11 – *Reading Week (No Class)*

### October 18 – *The Progressive Era*

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

**\*\*Historiographic Paper Due**

### October 25 – *World War I: Part I*

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

### November 1 – *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)

### November 8 – *World War II*

David Reynolds, *From Munich to Pearl Harbor: Roosevelt's America and the Origins of the Second World War* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2001)

**November 15 – *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)

**November 22 – *The Cold War: Part II***

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

**November 29 – *The Post-Cold War World Part I***

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

**December 6 – *The Post-Cold War World Part II***

Michael Mandelbaum, *Mission Failure: America and the World in the Post-Cold War Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016)

**\*\*Research Paper Due**