

HISTORY HIS 3320 E

Global America: The United States in World Affairs, 1700 to the Present

2023-24

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

Throughout its history the United States has imagined itself as a global project. To better understand America's role in the world as well as the impact of international developments on the United States, this seminar explores the political, economic, military, and cultural dimensions of U.S. interaction with the world since the 18th century.

During the first semester the course explores broad analytical questions about U.S. foreign relations; we will briefly survey the main historical phases of U.S. interaction with the world, learn about war and 20th century foreign policy, examine the current challenges to the liberal international order, historically contextualize the Trump Administration's approach to international relations, and discuss the contours of what constitutes the "United States".

The second semester is devoted to the in-depth exploration of a wide range of analytical lenses and themes such as national security, political economy, technology, non-state actors, immigration/borders, race, gender, ideology, law, and territoriality. Each theme will be highlighted through historical case studies ranging from the 18th century to the present. We will take a close look at the Monroe Doctrine, the U.S. Civil War, the evolution of global outlooks in the second half of the 19th century, U.S. business interests in the Caribbean, Wilsonianism, U.S. economic and cultural expansion in the interwar period, military interventions in Latin America, World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, and the Post-Cold War World.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 History course at the 2300, 3300 or 4300 level or enrolment in the Honors specialization in International Relations.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus

Upon completion of the seminar, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe key events, figures, and trends in U.S. interaction with the world since the 18th century
- Identify and engage the main interpretations in the historiography of U.S. foreign relations
- Analyze and evaluate primary sources and place them in their historical context
- Connect present day issues to historical events and provide historical contextualization for current debates on America's role in the world
- Strengthen skills of oral and written communication

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade for this course is based on the accumulated results of one class moderation, a theory presentation, a research essay, and your participation. Please note that 3rd and 4th year history seminars have been exempted from the Senate requirement to provide at least 15% of the final grade prior to the withdrawal deadline.

Moderation:	15%
Presentation Theory:	20%
Research Paper:	50%
Participation:	15%

1. Moderation – 15%

During the first semester you will serve as moderator for one seminar session; we will determine time slots during the first week of class; you will study a specific aspect/theme of the required class readings in greater detail, provide a **20 minute** presentation develop a set of discussion questions, and supply a handout to the class.

2. Presentation Theory – 20%

During the second semester you will present one theoretical approach to studying U.S. foreign relations to the seminar from Costigliola/Hoganson, *Explaining the History* through an empirical case study from a list of available texts; you will provide a **20 minutes** presentation, develop a set of discussion questions, and supply a handout to the class. We will determine time slots towards the end of the fall semester.

3. Research Paper

In this seminar you will write a research paper on a mutually agreed topic based on primary sources and a thorough reading of the secondary literature of 20 pages + bibliography; papers should follow the

Chicago Manual Style conventions, be double-space, and printed in standard size font (i.e. Times New Roman 12pts) with standard margins. Spell-check and staple your paper. HIS 3320E is an essay course and students must pass the required written work in order to achieve a passing grade in the course.

The final essay is due in class April 3, 2024 - A non-illness related late submission incurs a daily mark deduction of 10%.

4. Participation

Much of the learning in this seminar is based on discussion and debate; the success of the exercise depends on your completion of the assigned readings, reflection on the material, your prepared attendance, and your active participation in our weekly discussions.

5. Course Specific Conditions

HIS 3320E is an essay course and students must pass the required written work in order to achieve a passing grade in the course.

Students must attend at least 75% (18 out of 24) of the seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments. Students must submit all course assignments in order to pass the course.

Course Materials

This is a reading-intensive seminar and the timely completion of the assigned texts is a pre-condition for good discussions. All of the texts in this syllabus are available in digital format. For those with a more in-depth interest in U.S. foreign relations I recommend two books for purchase:

Costigliola, Frank, Michael J. Hogan (eds.), *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*. Third Edition (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017). [We will heavily rely on this collection of theoretical approaches in the 2nd semester].

Herring, George C., *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). [This is an excellent one-volume overview at a very good price].

Course Schedule and Readings

September 13 States of Fracture

Topic:

In our first meeting we will discuss seminar procedures and our work plan for the year; our interpretative question for this seminar session explores the state of international relations and the role of the United States.

Readings

Brands, Hal, John Lewis Gaddis, “The New Cold War: America, China, and the Echoes of History”, in: *Foreign Affairs* 100:6 (November/December 2021): 10-21.

Hill, Fiona, “The Kremlin’s Strange Victory. How Putin Exploits American Dysfunction and Fuels American Decline”, in: *Foreign Affairs* 100:6 (November/December 2021): 36-47.

Kagan, Robert, “The Price of Hegemony. Can America Learn to Use Its Power?” in: *Foreign Affairs* 101:3 (May/June 2022): 10-19.

September 20 A Marginal State with Imperial Ambitions

Topic:

Looking back it seems as if the rise of the U.S. to world power was somehow a ‘natural’ process; in reality, during its early history, the United States was a small and fragile polity with great ambitions on the margins of the international system and surrounded by powerful indigenous and European empires.

Readings

Conroy-Krutz, Emily, “The Early Republic in a World of Empire, 1787-1848”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 26-44.

Weeks, William Earl, *Dimensions of the Early American Empire, 1754-1865. The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations Volume 1* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 1-4.

Zagarri, Rosemarie, “The Significance of the ‘Global Turn’ for the Early American Republic: Globalization in the Age of Nation-Building”, in: *Journal of the Early Republic* 31:1 (Spring 2011): 1-37.

September 27 Globalizing and Empire-Building

Topic:

This week we will discuss various dimensions of U.S. settler colonialism, indigenous-newcomer relations as foreign relations, and the early global engagement and outreach of the United States.

Readings

DeLay, Brian, “Indian Politics, Empire, and Nineteenth-Century American Foreign Relations”, in: *Diplomatic History* 39:5 (December 2015): 927-942.

Dierks, Konstantin, “Americans Overseas in the Early Republic”, in: *Diplomatic History* 42:1 (January 2018): 17-35.

Rouleau, Brian, “Many Manifest Destinies”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 142-172.

Weeks, William Earl, *Dimensions of the Early American Empire, 1754-1865. The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations Volume 1* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 5-9.

October 4 Industrial Capitalism, Trade, and Empire: Part I

Topic:

The half-century between the forcible (re)unification of the United States in the 1860s and World War One were characterized by nation-state consolidation, empire-building, the rise of industrial capitalism, and globalization.

Readings

LaFeber, Walter, *The American Search for Opportunity, 1865-1913. The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations Volume 2* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 1-5.

Margolies, Daniel, “The United States: *Imperium in Imperio* in an Age of Imperialism, 1865-1886, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 217-232.

Steinbock-Pratt, Sarah, “New Frontiers Beyond the Seas: The Culture of American Empire and Expansion at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 233-251.

October 11 Industrial Capitalism, Trade, and Empire: Part II

Topic:

We will continue our discussion of U.S. outreach with a focus on the time between the late 19th Century and World War One; key questions include: was the creation of colonial empire after 1898 a break with American political traditions? Did this empire differ from its European and Japanese pendants? How did nationalism, imperialism, and globalization shape U.S. foreign relations?

Readings

LaFeber, Walter, *The American Search for Opportunity, 1865-1913. The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations Volume 2* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 6-10.

Schumacher, Frank, “Embedded Empire: The United States and Colonialism”, in: *Journal of Modern European History* 14:2 (2016): 202-224.

Shulman, Peter A., “Connection and Disruption: American Industrialization and the World, 1865-1917, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 252-270.

October 18 The United States in a World of Wars: Part I

Topic:

The decades between World War One and Two impressively demonstrated the rise of the United States to global pre-eminence; The U.S. began to replace Great Britain as the driver of globalization and drew on impressive political, economic, and cultural resources to fortify its dominant position in the Atlantic world, the Western hemisphere, and parts of the Pacific. This immense influence was underwritten by many small and large military engagements and the creation of an increasingly militarized political economy.

Readings

Foglesong, David S., “Rival and Parallel Missions: America and Soviet Russia, 1917-1945”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 446-466.

Iriye, Akira, *The Globalizing of America, 1913-1945. The New Cambridge History of American Relations Volume 3* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 1-6.

Kennedy, Ross. A., “Wilson’s Wartime Diplomacy: The United States and the First World War, 1914-1918”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 304-324.

Rosenberg, Emily S., “The Great War, Wilsonianism, and the Challenges of U.S. Empire”, in: Thomas W. Zeiler, David K. Ekbladh, Benjamin C. Montoya (eds.), *Beyond 1917: The United States and the Global Legacies of the Great War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 213-231.

October 25**The United States in a World of Wars: Part II**Topic:

This seminar continues our discussion about the political, military, economic, and cultural foundations of what publisher Henry Luce once described as “The American Century”. Our discussions will explore the consequences of World War One for the international system in general and the United States in particular, the rise of totalitarian power contenders in the 1930s, and the global war for international leadership.

Readings

Iriye, Akira, *The Globalizing of America, 1913-1945. The New Cambridge History of American Relations Volume 3* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chapters 7-12.

Johnstone, Andrew, “U.S. Foreign Relations during World War II”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 418-445.

Patel, Kiran Klaus, “Insulation: The Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Years 1933-1941”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 1* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 382-399.

Gardner, Lloyd C., "The Geopolitics of Revolution", in: Thomas W. Zeiler, David K. Ekbladh, Benjamin C. Montoya (eds.), *Beyond 1917: The United States and the Global Legacies of the Great War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 159-181.

November 8 Global Cold Wars: Part I

Topic:

Including today we will spend the next five weeks working our way through half a century of global militarization and war; the literature on the cold war easily fills libraries and key questions about history (when did the cold war start, in 1917?) origins (who was responsible: Soviets or Americans?), geographies (where was the center of conflict: Europe, Asia, or Africa?), intentions (what did the two opposing sides want – global leadership?), which methods were used most effectively (covert or overt?), was the cold war a 'long peace' (Gaddis) or half of century of destruction?, why is it called a cold war despite all the wars which were fought? And of course questions about the outcome (who won?). To avoid having to spend another half century of study I have chosen what I consider the most sophisticated global history of the cold war, a big book, as the basis for our discussions.

Readings

Westad, Odd Arne, *The Cold War: A World History* (New York: Basic Books, 2017), pp. 1-158 [World Making –Chapter 5].

November 15 Global Cold Wars: Part II

Readings

Westad, Odd Arne, *The Cold War: A World History* (New York: Basic Books, 2017), pp. 159-286. [Chapters 6-10]

November 22 Global Cold Wars: Part III

Readings

Westad, Odd Arne, *The Cold War: A World History* (New York: Basic Books, 2017), pp. 287-422. [Chapters 11-15]

November 29 Global Cold Wars: Part IV

Readings

Westad, Odd Arne, *The Cold War: A World History* (New York: Basic Books, 2017), pp. 423-552.
[Chapters 16-20]

December 6 Global Cold Wars: Part V

Readings

Westad, Odd Arne, *The Cold War: A World History* (New York: Basic Books, 2017), pp. 553-629.
[Chapters 21-The World The Cold War Made].

Enjoy The Winter Break!

January 10 ‘National Security’ and Political Economy

Topic:

Starting this week we will take a closer look at eleven analytical lenses for the study of U.S. foreign relations; these lenses provide a theoretical framework to help make sense of empirical evidence.

Class Readings

Black, Megan, “Mineral Frontiers in the Twentieth Century”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 2* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 925-941.

Fredman, Zach, “Military Bases and Overseas Occupations in Twentieth-Century U.S. Foreign Relations”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 2* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 596-612.

Hogan, Michael J. Hogan, “Corporatism”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*

Leffler, Melvyn P., “National Security”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*

McFarland, Victor, “Oil and U.S. Foreign Relations”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 2* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 942-960.

Simpson, Brad, “Explaining political economy”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*

Presenter Readings Options for ‘National Security’

Dower, John W., *The Violent American Century: War and Terror Since World War II* (2017).

Walker, William O., *National Security and Core Values in American History* (2009).

Presenter Readings Options for Political Economy

Black, Megan, *The Global Interior. Minerals, Frontiers, and American Power* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018).

Colby, Jason M., *The Business of Empire: United Fruit, Race, and U.S. Expansionism in Central America* (2011)

Domosh, Mona, *American Commodities in an Age of Empire* (2006).

January 17 Technology/Development and Ideology

Class Readings

Cullather, Nick, “Development and Technopolitics”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*

Hunt, Michael H., “Nationalism as an Umbrella Ideology”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*

Macekura, Stephen, “Remaking the World: The United States and International Development, 1898-2015”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 2* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 613-631.

Presenter Readings Options for Technology/Development

Adas, Michael, *Dominance by Design* (2006).

Ekbladh, David, *The Great American Mission: Modernization and the Construction of an American World Order* (2010).

Presenter Readings Options for Ideology

Hunt, Michael H., *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy, 2nd Edition* (2009).

Hixson, Walter L, *The Myth of American Diplomacy: National Identity and U.S. Foreign Policy* (2008).

January 24 Race and Gender

Class Readings

Kramer, Paul “Shades of Sovereignty: Racialized Power, the United States and the World”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*.

Tzu-Chun Wu, Judy, “Gendering American Foreign Relations”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*.

Presenter Readings Options for Race

Borstelmann, Thomas, *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena* (2001).

Dower, John, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (1986).

Presenter Readings Options for Gender

Hoganson, Kristin L., *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars* (1998).

Sneider, Allison L., *Suffragists in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question, 1870-1929* (2008).

January 31 Law and Borders

Class Readings

Dudziak, Mary L., Legal History as Foreign Relations History, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*.

Rosenberg, Emily S., “Considering Borders”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*.

Presenter Readings Options for Law

Borgwardt, Elisabeth, *A New Deal for the World: America’s Vision for Human Rights* (2005).

Coates, Benjamin, *Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century* (2016).

Presenter Readings for Borders

Grandin, Greg, *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America* (2019).

February 7 Imperial Spaces and Borderlands

Class Readings

Citino, Nathan J., “The Global Frontier: Comparative History and the Frontier-Borderlands Approach”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*.

Friedman, Andrew, “U.S. Power in a Material World”, in: Christopher R.W. Dietrich (ed.), *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present, Volume 2* (Hoboken, NJ., 2020), 652-681.

Schumacher, Frank, “Reclaiming Territory: The Spatial Contours of Empire in U.S. History”, in: Steffi Marung, Matthias Middell (eds.), *Spatial Formats under the Global Condition* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2019), 107-148.

Presenter Readings Options for Imperial Spaces and Borderlands

DeLay, Brian, *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S. Mexican War* (2008).

McKenna, Rebecca Tinio, *American Imperial Pastoral: The Architecture of U.S. Colonialism in the Philippines* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017).

February 14 MemoryClass Readings

Von Eschen, Penny, “Memory and the Study of U.S. Foreign Relations”, in: Costigliola/Hogan, *Explaining the History*.

Presenter Readings for Memory

Rosenberg, Emily S. *A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003).

February 28 From the Inside Out or the Outside in?Class Readings

Bessner, Daniel, Fred Logevall, “Recentering the United States in the Historiography of American Foreign Relations”, in: *Texas National Security Review* 3:2 (Spring 2020), online.

H-Diplo Roundtable on XXI-42 on Besner/Logevall, May 25, 2020, online.

Immerwahr, Daniel, “H-Diplo Article Review 818 on Sargeant, “Pax Americana”, online.

Sargent, Daniel J., “Pax Americana: Sketches for an Undiplomatic History”, in: *Diplomatic History* 42:3 (2018): 357-376.

March 6 Research Project Discussions

This week we will take a brief break from discussing the writing of others to discussions of your writing; at this point in the academic you should be closing in on the final rounds of corrections and revisions; we will discuss your projects in class for final feedback. Be prepared to speak about the following aspects:

- the essay topic rationale (why do I want to write on this topic)
- the topic significance (why do we need to know this)
- the key research and interpretative questions
- the historiographical context (what have others said and how does your view relate to these works)

- the structure of the essay, describe individual steps
- the theoretical/analytical lens – explain how your research confirms or questions paradigms
- your findings (provide a summary)
- open questions (what are you unclear about)

March 13 Research Essay Discussions II

March 20 The States of Global Order

Topic:

This seminar is devoted to a discussion of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Trump Administration’s foreign policy, global affairs, and the state of the liberal order.

Class Readings

Barnett, Michael N., “The End of the Liberal International Order that Never Existed”, in: *the Global*, April 16, 2019, online.

Friedman, Uri, “Why American Resists Learning from other Countries”, in: *The Atlantic*, May 14, 2020, online.

“How the World Will Look after the Coronavirus Pandemic”, in: *Foreign Policy*, March 20, 2020, online.

Miller, Aaron David, Richard Sokolsky, “The United States and the New World Disorder: Retreat from Primacy”, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, May 21, 2020, online.

Nye, Joseph S., Jr., “No, the Coronavirus will Not Change the Global Order”, in: *Foreign Policy* April 16, 2020, online.

Sylvan, David, “Liberalism and Its Discontents”, in: *the Global*, September 24, 2019, online.

Tisdall, Simon, “Power, Equality, Nationalism: How the Pandemic will Re-Shape the World”, in: *The Guardian*, March 28, 2020, online.

March 27 Future Past: Where in the World is America?

Topic:

This seminar extrapolates from the historical insights we have gained and looks forward in trying to understand which role the United States might play in a future international system. How do scholars frame the current challenges? What are the pros and cons of using past conflicts to understand the current state of world affairs?

Class Readings

Allison, Graham, “The New Spheres of Influence. Sharing the Globe with Other Great Powers”, in: *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2020): 30-40.

Lind, Jennifer, Daryl G. Press, “Reality Check: American Power in an Age of Constraints”, in: *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2020): 41-48.

Wertheim, Stephen, “The Price of Primacy: Why America Shouldn’t Dominate the World”, in: *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2020), 19-29.

Wright, Thomas, “The Folly of Retrenchment. Why America Can’t Withdraw from the World”, in: *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2020): 10-18.

April 3 Final Discussion

Topic:

This seminar extrapolates from the historical insights we have gained and looks forward in trying to understand which role the United States might play in a future international system. How could this course be improved? And, of course, it’s time to hand in that paper..... **Enjoy the Summer!**

Additional Statements

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.