**America and the World**  
Rutgers University – Newark  
21:790:202  
Spring 2021 - Online

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Office hours are online by appointment

**Course Description:** This course will explore the history and politics of American imperial expansion, past and present, in order to understand America’s role in the world. In the course, we will learn about distinct phases in American territorial expansion, as well as other forms of imperialism. Students will be invited to ask questions such as: what constitutes an empire and what is imperialism? Has the US been, and does it continue to be, imperialist? We will seek to answer these questions historically, by looking at the role of the US in multiple parts of the world, including the settler context. Finally, we will inquire into how the history of American settler and foreign policy impacts contemporary global politics. *Welcome to class!*

**Texts:**

*You do not need to purchase any textbooks for this class!* All readings will be posted online on the course Canvas site. You can find the readings in the Modules for each week.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To gain historical knowledge of different phases and forms of American interventionism using grounded case studies
- To promote critical thinking in assessing America’s role in the world
- To develop and critically question different conceptual tools that are used to understand America’s position in the world
- To develop the ability to interpret course materials and demonstrate creative thinking
- To improve reading, writing and time-management skills
- To professionalize students and foster forward-thinking in preparation for their future and present careers, including working cooperatively and self-reflexively
Important information:

Students with disabilities who require accommodation should work with the Office of Disability Services (973-353-5300). Also please let me know whether you require any accommodation, and we can work together with the Office of Disability Services to ensure your needs are met.

Students should be aware of the services of The Writing Centre. The Writing Center offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes.

All students are required to be familiar with, and adhere to, the University’s Academic Integrity Policy (see the University’s Academic Integrity site). Students who commit plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Integrity Facilitator, and may be subject to sanction. It is your responsibility to be fully familiar with the University’s policy on academic integrity.

Important Dates:

Last Day to Drop: March 22 || Date for Dropping and Receiving a W Grade: Jan. 26 || Classes end: May 3

Assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Report</td>
<td>Feb 7th by 11:59pm</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>March 12th by 11:59pm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>April 25th by 11:59pm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes (10 quizzes, each worth 5%)</td>
<td>Throughout the semester. Due by 11:59pm, in the weeks ending: Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7, 28, April 4, 11, 18</td>
<td>40% (8 Quizzes for 5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Festival Assignment</td>
<td>May 2nd by 11:59pm</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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ASSIGNMENTS

Group Report (5%): I have assigned this report for two reasons: 1. to help you connect with other students in the course (who you may want to work with on the tests), and 2. to help you reflect on the concepts discussed in week 2.
Students will be placed in teams of 5 students. Once you enter this course’s Canvas site, you will be able to view your teams under the “groups” tab. You can contact your group by clicking the “discussions” tab and then clicking on your group number. You can also click each member’s name to email him/her/them individually.

After watching and reading the material under your week 2 module, you must fill out the document labeled “Group Report” under your week 3 module and submit the completed document on Canvas (there will be a link available for assignment submissions). You can work with your group in a Google Doc, discuss the questions in Canvas “discussions” and decide who will write and submit the document, or work on any other platform that is convenient for you.

Your group must submit only one document and identify all group members (first and last names).

**Test 1 & 2 (Due March 12th and April 25th by 11:59pm, each worth 25%):** The purpose of these tests is to reward students for making connections between the topics for each week. Tests will be comprised of short answer and essay-style questions. Students have the option to submit group answers to the test – that is, you may choose to work either individually, in pairs, or in groups. If you choose to work in a pair or a group, you will submit one test for the whole group. More information will be provided prior to the test.

**Weekly Quizzes (40%):** To keep you on track each week and reward you for doing readings and watching videos and lectures, you will have a short quiz eight times throughout the semester. All materials for the week will be released early on Monday. By the following Sunday at 11:59pm, you must complete the quiz. As such, these quizzes are due on Sunday evening by 11:59pm, in the weeks ending: Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7, 28, April 4, 11, 18. Each quiz is worth 5% for a total of 40% of your final grade.

**THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES AND YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR QUIZ DURING THE WEEK IT TAKES PLACE!**

**Film Festival Assignment (Due May 3rd, worth 5% of your final grade):** Working in teams, the purpose of this assignment is to help you reflect on the semester and connect what you’ve learned to filmic representations of the issues we covered in class. Your team will consult the free film streaming services that you have access to as a Rutgers student (Swank, Kanopy, Avon), and your team will select a documentary or feature film that connects to course material, and describe how you see this relation.
CLASS POLICIES

**Fairness Policy**: In this course we will adhere to a policy of fairness: students are expected to take tests and submit assignments on time. To ensure that the class is fair and functional, there will be no make-up tests or quizzes and no late assignments will be accepted.

If you face exceptional circumstances such as a major illness, accident, or death of a family member, please contact me as soon as possible and I will find a way to make the course work in the face of such exceptional circumstances. Please do reach out: I can’t help you if you don’t communicate with me!

Fairness is a two-way street, and so students can expect the following: that I will be available for online office hours by appointment, that the course will be run in an orderly and productive way, that I will respond to your emails within 48 hours (and you are encouraged to follow-up if you have not received a response), that the class website will be kept up-to-date, and that you will generally get your test results and assignments back within a week.

Additionally, for students who are having difficulties with time-management or facing other challenges, I am available to work with you to create a plan to get on-track, or refer you to appropriate services at Rutgers.

**Learning in times of a pandemic**

It has been nearly a year now for all of us living, working and learning in such extraordinary and difficult circumstances. This is not a ‘business as usual’ situation. As we come together in this class to learn with and from one another, let’s all strive to be extra kind and patient with one another and ourselves - we are all dealing with a highly stressful situation, both emotionally and practically.

**Children in class**: Some of you might have babies and/or children around during online meetings (group work, office hours, etc.) that might need your attention or make some disruptive noise. I understand!

**Privacy**: Taking screenshots, recording audio or video from our online class is prohibited. Under no circumstances can you share screenshots, audio or video recordings from our online class with others – that includes sharing such data with students who are also in class (i.e. via WhatsApp and other text messaging services, your personal social media accounts, etc.). Sharing such information is a serious breach of privacy and will not be tolerated.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

All readings, video clips, podcasts and other audio-visual materials will be posted on the course website. Students will work through the materials each week from Monday to Sunday, before the next week’s materials are released. You must complete the weekly quiz by 11:59pm on Sunday night each week.

Readings will be comprised of approximately 20 pages of readings per week as well as multimedia content. Readings will be diverse, including: academic articles, newspaper articles, illustrated histories, and primary (historical) documents.

Week 1 [Jan 19 - 24]: Introductory Class

Week 2 [Jan 25 - 31]: Key Concepts for Studying America and the World

Week 3 [Feb 1 - 7]: Group Work Set-Up, Group Meetings, Reports

Week 4 [Feb 8 - 14]: Settler Colonialism, Indigeneity and American Imperialism

Week 5 [Feb 15 - 21]: American Imperialism, Legacies of Enslavement and Revolution

Week 6 [Feb 22 - 28]: Global Territorial Expansion (Hawaii Case Study)

Week 7 [Mar 1 – Mar 7]: Spanish-American War and Puerto Rico

Week 8 [Mar 8 - 12]: TEST 1

Week 9 [Mar 15 – Mar 21]: Spring Recess - March 13th – 21st

Week 10 [Mar 22 – Mar 28]: America as a Nuclear Power

Week 11 [Mar 29 – Apr 4]: America in the Middle East, Covert Operations and Occupation

Week 12 [Apr 5 – Apr 11]: Contemporary Imperialism? America’s Global Network of Military Bases

Week 13 [Apr 12 – Apr 18]: Contemporary Imperialism? American MNCs and Foreign Direct Investment

Week 14 [Apr 19 - 25]: TEST 2

Week 15 [Apr 26 – May 2]: Film Festival Assignment