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 website.

This course has received an ‘Open and Affordable Textbooks’ (OAT) Program award from the Rutgers University Libraries. The OAT Program supports textbook affordability at Rutgers by encouraging courses to adopt educational materials that are freely available, available at a low cost (compared to similar courses), or part of the Rutgers University Libraries’ electronic collections, and thereby free of charge to Rutgers University students. As a student in this course, you will be asked to provide feedback on this initiative at the end of the semester.
Learning in times of a pandemic
It has been a few months 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.

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
- The ability to interpret course materials and demonstrate creative thinking
- Improvement of 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 Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop</td>
<td>Sept 14, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Add</td>
<td>Sept 11, 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date for Dropping and Receiving a ‘W’ Grade</td>
<td>Nov 2, 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular classes end date</td>
<td>Dec 10, 2020</td>
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Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voter Engagement Assignment (In teams)</td>
<td>Sept 13 by 11:59 pm - Initial Report Oct 4th: Team Voter Registration Multimedia Assignment due Oct 18th by 11:59pm - Final Report</td>
<td>20% (5% for Report 1, 10% for multimedia project, 5% for Report 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>Oct 5 – 11 (due Oct 11th by 11:59pm)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>Nov 16 – 22 (due Nov 22nd by 11:59pm)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes (8 quizzes, each worth 3%)</td>
<td>Throughout the semester. Due by 11:59pm, in the weeks ending: Sept 20, 27, Oct 4, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15.</td>
<td>24% (8 Quizzes for 3% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Festival Assignment (In teams)</td>
<td>Dec 10th by 11:59pm</td>
<td>6%</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS:

Test 1 & 2 (Due Oct 11 & Nov 22 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.

3-Step Team Voter Engagement Assignment: Students will be placed in teams of 8 students. Each student will have a specific role on their team. Your team will work together on a creative project aimed at increasing voter registration for the upcoming elections. You will create materials to engage your friends and peers in voter registration by creating materials (for example, a series of TikTok videos, a Twitter or Instagram account, podcasts, a blog or similar). This set of assignments has three steps:

1. Initial Team Report (due Sept 13): The week of Sept 7-13 will be dedicated to getting you set up in your teams. By the end of the week you will have: met your team members online, decided which roles each of you will take in your team, discussed which multimedia platform your team will use, and submit your Initial Team Report (worth 5% of your final grade). You will receive a hand-out to fill out for this Report. It will be marked as pass/fail.

2. Team Voter Registration Multimedia Assignment (due Oct 4): Your team will create a set multimedia materials (TikTok videos, twitter account, Instagram, podcast, blog, etc) aimed at increasing voter registration.

3. Final Team Report (due Oct 18): This Report will detail the results and impacts of your campaign and how your team worked together. It will be marked pass/fail.

Note: You do not have to be eligible to vote to participate in this assignment! Everyone is welcome in this class and welcome to participate in their team regardless of citizenship status, felon status, disability status, age or other barriers to voting.

Further instructions on this assignment will be provided in class online.

Weekly Quizzes (24%): To keep you on track each week and reward you for doing readings, watching videos and lectures, you will have short quizzes 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 a brief quiz. As such, these quizzes are due on Sunday evening by 11:59pm, in the weeks ending: Sept 20, 27, Oct 4, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15. Each quiz is worth 3% for a total of 24% of your final grade.

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

Film Festival Assignment (Due Dec 6th, worth 6% 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.
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.

Fairness Policy: In this course we will adhere to a policy of fairness: students are expected to take tests and submit their 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 Professor Gambino (rg711@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) as soon as possible and we will find a way to make the course work in the face of such exceptional circumstances. Please do reach out: we can’t help you if you don’t communicate with us!

Fairness is a two-way street, and so students can expect the following: we I will be available for office hours by appointment, that the course will be run in an orderly and productive way, that we will respond to your emails within 3 days (and that 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, we are available to work together with you to create a plan to get on-track, or refer you to appropriate services on campus.

Children in class: Some of us will have babies and children around during online meetings (group work, office hours, etc) that might need your attention or make some disruptive noise. We 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 group chat etc or your personal social media). 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.* The reading materials for each week will be released on Sunday at midnight. 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 [Sept 1 - 6]:** Introductory Class

**Week 2 [Sept 7-13]:** Group Work Set-Up, Group Meetings, Initial Reports

  *Sept 13th:* Initial Voter Engagement Report Due

**Week 3 [Sept 14 - 20]:** Key Concepts for Studying American and the World

**Week 4 [Sept 21 - 27]:** Settler Colonialism, Indigeneity and American Imperialism

**Week 5 [Sept 28 - Oct 4]:** American Imperialism, Legacies of Enslavement and Revolution

  *Oct 4th:* Team Voter Registration Multimedia Assignment due

**Week 6 [Oct 5 - 11]:** TEST 1

**Week 7 [Oct 12 - 18]:** Global Territorial Expansion (Hawaii Case Study)

  *Oct 18th:* Final Voter Engagement Report Due

**Week 8 [Oct 19 - 25]:** Spanish-American War and Puerto Rico

**Week 9 [Oct 26 - Nov 1]:** America as a Nuclear Power

**Week 10 [Nov 2 - 8]:** America in the Middle East, Covert Operations and Occupation


**Week 12 [Nov 16-22]:** TEST 2

**Week 13 [Nov 23 - 29]:** NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING RECESS

**Week 14 [Nov 30 - Dec 6]:** Film Festival Assignment

**Week 15 [Dec 7-10]:** Wrap Up

  *Dec 10th:* Film Festival Assignment Due