

America and the World

21:790:202

Mondays and Thursdays 1:00-2:20pm

Conklin 449

Instructor: Dr. Morrison-Santana

Contact: dm838@newark.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: virtual meetings available by appointment

Course Overview:

The role of the United States has changed from its inception to the present. It's transitioned from a colony to an expanding power, from isolation to a global super power. Historical events, domestic factors, and international influences have all played a part in today's America. This course on America and the World will examine that history, the various viewpoints and influences on its foreign policy, current and past threats, and where it stands right now with the current administration. Looking at historical documents, speeches, government documents, prominent scholars, etc., this course will explain how America has grown into what it is today – a world power. Additionally, it will explore factors that have shaped its foreign policy and relationship with the world, ways in which America has influenced the world- culturally, socially, economically and how different world events, rise of identity politics, globalization, transnational networks, and international organizations have in turn shaped its policies and perception of the world. The course is divided into three parts:

Part I: History and Structure of American Foreign Policy

Part II: American Strategy – The Cold War to 9/11

Part III: American in the 21st Century

Assignments:

Discussion Contributions (Participation) (30%) - Each week, I will post discussion questions and/or topics that you are expected to respond to based on the lectures, readings, links, and topics of the week. As your attendance is required, you will be unable to answer these questions if you are not present in class. Your contributions must be more than just agreeing with someone else or simple reactions to what others say (“Wow,” “I didn’t know this,” etc.). In addition to your own response to the original post, you must respond to at least one other student’s posts each week for full credit. The questions will be posted after our last class of the week and be available until/due on Sunday nights at 11:59pm. You cannot make up missed discussion participation.

Two Essays (20%) – There will be two 5-pages essays due throughout the semester and will include issues covered in lectures, the readings, and current events in the news. The rubric for these essays is on page 3 of this syllabus.

Country Policy Paper (15%) – you will write a paper (8-10 pages) on the current U.S. foreign policy of a specific country with full citations. A rubric for this is on page 4 of this syllabus. Countries will be chosen the in the beginning of the semester.

Tests (25%) – There are two tests during the semester. These will be made up of fill in the blank and short answer essay questions.

Final Exam – (10%) – This exam is in the same format of the first two tests.

Grading:

Discussion Posts/Responses (Participation) – (30% - 300 points total)

Essays (20% - 200 pts. total/100 pts. each)

Regional Policy Paper (15% - 150 points)

Tests (25% - 250 points/125 points each)

Final Exam – (10% - 100 points)

100% (1000 points total)

COURSE POLICIES:

- 1. Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an “F” for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code. Please see Rutgers’ Academic Integrity Policy. All students are required to sign the **Rutgers Honor Code Pledge**. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment” ... Additionally, you cannot hand in any assignments that you have completed for a different course.
- 2. No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). These devices are distracting not only to you, but to the rest of the class as well. If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies may result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day. If you are caught using any personal technology during an exam, you will receive a zero for the exam, and the matter will be handed over to the Office of Academic Integrity.
- 3.** Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
- 4. Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Additionally, it is inappropriate for any parents to contact any professor about your grade, and there are laws that prohibit such communication.
- 5. Your grade is your responsibility and is non-negotiable.** If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester asking/begging for a better grade.
- 6. DO NOT HAND IN WORK YOU’VE SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER CLASS.** Even if you wrote it, it would still be considered plagiarism because you didn’t write it specifically for this class.
- 7.** Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be warned one time. Any subsequent disrespect will be reported to the university.
- 8.** I cannot predict the future, and as we all know from these past few years, things can change overnight – this includes modality of courses taught, requirements for in person classes, etc. I will do my best to be as honest and upfront with you about what I know and to help ease whatever transitions we may need to make throughout the semester. We should all be prepared for everything.
- 9.** In order to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: **myRutgers Portal**.

Newspaper Article Essays:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to political issues and historical events we discuss in this class. For these essays, you must find a recent news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) about a current event (from 2020/2021) that is UNRELATED to our course material and write a paper about how the article relates to the topics discussed each week. These are not informative papers, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event you choose is related to the topics we've discussed that week and how it differs using course readings and lectures to supplement your paper. This is also not meant for you to find a 2020/2021 article about our topic. Again, your news event should be UNRELATED to our course material in any way, and YOU make the connection. **You must use the week's course material in your paper (and cite it) - including lectures, readings, links, etc.**

Cite everything with **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them).

*** Your answer must be at least 5 full pages long (no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, these essays make up a large portion of your grade, so it is important that you do them; failure to do so may result in failing the course. They should be well thought-out responses with a beginning, middle, and end.

***** SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON CANVAS *****
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason. No exceptions.

Guidelines:

- Find an article from a credible source – avoid 24-hour news channels (NO Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.)... If you are unsure of your source, please email me. Also, do not use op-eds (opinion pieces) or blogs, as they are not investigative journalism.
- Be specific. I want you to really think about your articles and your responses to them and how they fit into our course.
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS. Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, MAXIMUM.
- ***If you do not cite, even when you paraphrase, it will be considered plagiarism. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.***
- PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization... Read through it out loud before turning it in, which can help highlight errors.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY – no title, date, course name, etc.
- 1-inch margins all around
- SINGLE SPACE FOOTNOTES
- The paper is to be 5 full pages long. Not less... (No cover page).
- **CITE EVERYTHING.**

Country Paper (must be submitted through Turn-It-In on Canvas)

***** I do not accept late work, and failure to hand in the paper by the due date/time will result in an F... No exceptions! *****

Things you should cover:

- Historical relations with the United States up through 2016 (end of the Obama administration)
 - This should include origins, changes over time, and conflicts (if applicable)
- Relations with the U.S. under the current administration (Trump), including any changes or shifts in policy
- Where YOU think U.S. policy with your country is heading (your educated opinion based on your research).
- Your essay should also have an introduction and conclusion. Please note that there are three major sections that need to be covered, and they should have near-equal attention paid to each.

Guidelines:

- Use credible sources – avoid 24-hour news channels (Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.) as well as opinion essays... If you are unsure of your sources, please email me.
- Be specific. Explain what the United States has done in these countries and how it's changed over time (if applicable). You are to be the expert about your country and US relations
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... **DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS.** Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, **MAXIMUM.**
- **IF YOU DO NOT CITE, EVEN WHEN YOU PARAPHRASE, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.**
- **PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER.** You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name **ONLY**. I don't need what class this is for, my name, the date, your favorite color, and your dog's name.
- 1-inch margins all around
- Double-spaced (except footnotes)
- Page numbers required
- Times New Roman, 12-point font required.
- The paper is to be at least 8-10 pages long, not less (No cover page required).
- Use footnotes, single-spaced, and put full bibliographic information in them (in MLA or APA formats – consistently). All statistics, direct quotes, and non-general knowledge information should be cited, and they should be single-spaced.¹ We will go over how to do them in class.
- Bibliography (Works Cited page) required – not included in the 8-10 pages. Your sources should be in alphabetical order.

¹ This is a footnote. It goes on the bottom of the page where you are citing. To insert a footnote, you click References and Insert Footnote. It will put a little number by what you're are citing and a corresponding number at the bottom of the page. These should include full bibliographic information – including URLs if necessary. For repeating citations, after the first one, you can just use the first few words of the bibliographic information. These should be in 10-point Times New Roman font and single-spaced.

Fall 2021 - America and the World (subject to change)		
DATE	TOPIC	READINGS DUE
PART 1: History and Structure of American Foreign Policy		
1-Sep	Introduction - American Foreign Policy Overview: Who are the actors?	
9-Sep	Independence & Expansion	Washington's Farewell Speech; Monroe Doctrine
13-Sep	Manifest Destiny & Mexican American War	"Manifest Destiny and Indian Removal;" Mexican American War
16-Sep	Spanish-American War	"The Spanish-American War"
20-Sep	World War I	Woodrow Wilson's Speech; Henry Cabot Lodge's Anti-League Speech
23-Sep	Interwar Years	"Our Foreign Policy" - FDR
27-Sep	World War II in Europe	<i>Address Unknown</i>
30-Sep	World War II in the Pacific	"Decision to Drop the Bomb"
4-Oct	Aftermath of WWII and Review for Test #1	Declaration of Human Rights; UNGC *** Paper #1 Due via Turn-It-In on Canvas ***
7-Oct	Test #1	
Part II: American Strategy - The Cold War to 9/11		
11-Oct	The Cold War: Containment	"Containment: 40 Years Later"
14-Oct	Korean War	"The Korean War as International History"
18-Oct	Cuban Missile Crisis	"Cuban Missile Crisis at 50"
21-Oct	Vietnam	"America and Vietnam"
25-Oct	From the Carter Administration to the Reagan Era	"Jimmy Carter: Foreign Affairs;" "Ronald Reagan Foreign Affairs"
28-Oct	Operation Desert Storm & Operation Restore Hope	George H.W. Bush's 1991 State of the Union Address; Operation Restore Hope chapter
1-Nov	The Bloody 1990s (part II)	"The U.S. and the Genocide in Rwanda 1994: Evidence of Inaction" *** Paper #2 Due via Turn-It-In on Canvas ***
4-Nov	Test #2	
Part III: American in the 21st Century		
8-Nov	11-Sep	Blowback, Ch. 1; Bush Sept. 20th 2001 Speech; "The Patriot Act"
11-Nov	The War on Terror & WMDs	"Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq"
15-Nov	Iraq War (2003)	"From 'Shock and Awe' to 'Hearts and Minds'"; NSS (2006)
18-Nov	From Bush to Obama: Unilateralism to Multilateralism (film)	"Getting Bin Laden"
22-Nov	Thanksgiving Week: NO CLASS	
29-Nov	U.S. and the Arab Spring	"Lessons of Libya"
1-Dec	Climate Change, Cybersecurity, & other Threats during the Obama Era	NSS (2015)
6-Dec	The Trump Era: Multilateralism to Isolationism	NSS (2017); "We're America, Bitch"
8-Dec	The Biden Era & Current Issues in American Foreign Policy	TBA *** COUNTRY PAPER DUE via Turn-It-In on Canvas ***
13-Dec	Last Day of Classes (final review)	