

America and the World

21:790:202:01
M/TH 1:00-2:20pm
Conklin 455

Instructor: Deborah Morrison-Santana

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Office Hours: Mondays 12-1pm or appointments available upon request

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 Looking at historical documents, speeches, government documents, prominent scholars, etc., this course will explain how America has grown into what it is today – a world power.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 Strategy in the 21st Century

Assignments:

Attendance/Participation (20%) – Your attendance is required, but it is also essential for you to contribute to course discussions. Preparedness (doing the readings for each class) is also a component of your participation grade.

Pop Quizzes (20%) – There will be 5 pop quizzes throughout the semester on the readings. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on that day's reading(s). You cannot make up a missed quiz for any reason.

Regional Policy Paper (15%) – you will write a paper (5-7 pages) on the current U.S. foreign policy of a specific region with full citations (15%). A rubric for this paper will be handed out the second week of classes. A proposal will be due about five weeks before the paper is due, which outlines the region you will be analyzing.

Tests (20%) – There are two tests during the semester. These will be made up of fill in the blank and short answer essay questions.

Final Exam – (25%) – This exam is in the same format of the first two tests.

Grading:

Attendance (20% - 200 points)

Pop Quizzes (20% - 200 points total/50 points each)

Regional Policy Paper (15% - 150 points)

Tests (20% - 200 points/100 points each)

Final Exam – (25% - 250 points)

100% (1000 points total)

COURSE POLICIES:

- 1. Attendance** is mandatory for this course and will be taken each class. Missing classes without proper documentation (i.e. a doctor's note) will affect your participation grade. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a fellow student on what you missed (do not email me asking what you missed). Excessive lateness will also affect this grade. If you miss more than 6 classes, you will fail the 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 will result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day.
- 3. 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.

For more information, please consult Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy available through the Rutgers website.

- 4.** 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7.** Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be asked to leave.
- 8.** All assignments must be completed specifically for this course. You cannot hand in something you used in another course.
- 9.** I do not accept late work for any reason, so please make sure you hand in all assignments on time.

Fall 2018 - America and the World (subject to change)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS DUE
TH 9/6	Introduction	
PART 1: History and Structure of American Foreign Policy		
M 9/10	American Foreign Policy - Overview	Jentleson Ch. 1 (BB)
TH 9/13	Foreign Policy Decision-Making: Executive Branch	Jentleson Ch. 2 (BB)
M 9/17	Foreign Policy Decision-Making: Interest Groups, the Media, Public Opinion	Jentleson Ch. 3 (BB)
TH 9/20	Independence & Expansion	Washington's Farewell Speech; Monroe Doctrine
M 9/24	Manifest Destiny	"Manifest Destiny and Indian Removal"
TH 9/27	Spanish-American War	"The Spanish-American War"
M 10/1	World War I & Interwar Years	"A World League for Peace" Wilson Speech; Henry Cabot Lodge Anti-League Speech; "Our Foreign Policy" FDR essay
TH 10/4	World War II	"Decision to Drop the Bomb"
M 10/8	Test #1	
Part II: American Strategy - The Cold War to 9/11		
TH 10/11	The Cold War: Containment	"Containment: 40 Years Later"
M 10/15	Vietnam	"America and Vietnam"
TH 10/18	The Cold War: Détente	Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT I & II)
M 10/22	The Reagan Era	"Ronald Reagan: Foreign Affairs"; NSS (1987)
TH 10/25	A New World Order	George H.W. Bush's 1991 State of the Union Address; NSS (1993); The Unipolar Moment
M 10/29	The Bloody 1990s	"The Successes and Failures of the Battle of Mogadishu and Its Effects on U.S. Foreign Policy"
TH 11/1	The Bloody 1990s (part II)	"The U.S. and the Genocide in Rwanda 1994: Evidence of Inaction"; NSS (1999)
M 11/5	September 11th, 2001	<i>Blowback</i> Ch. 1; Bush's September 21st, 2001 speech
TH 11/8	Test #2	
Part III: American Strategy in the 21st Century		
M 11/12	Iraq War (2003)	"From 'Shock and Awe' to 'Hearts and Minds'" - Paper Topic Proposal Due
TH 11/15	Counter-terrorism: National Security vs. Civil Liberties	"Patriot Act"; NSS (2006)
M 11/19	From Bush to Obama: Unilateralism to Multilateralism (film)	"U.S. Leadership in a post-9/11 World"
T 11/20	The Killing of Osama Bin Laden (film part II)	"Getting Bin Laden"
M 11/26	U.S. and the Arab Spring	"Lessons of Libya"; "RIP R2P"
TH 11/29	Climate Change, Cybersecurity, & other Threats	NSS (2015) -- Regional Foreign Policy Paper Due
M 12/3	Iran Nuclear Deal	"The Iran Nuclear Deal: Prelude to Proliferation in the Middle East?"
TH 12/6	The Trump Era	NSS (2017); "We're America, Bitch"
M 12/10	Last Day of Class - Review for the Final Exam	