America and the World
21:790:202
Online – asynchronous (no scheduled class meetings)

Instructor: Dr. Morrison-Santana
Contact: deborah.morrison@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Virtual 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 superpower. 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 Looking at historical documents, speeches, government documents, prominent scholars, etc., this course will explain how America has grown into what it is today – a world power.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

Readings: *** All available on Canvas ***
Please make sure you have access to the course on Canvas as soon as possible so that you are able to get the materials needed to successfully complete the course.

Assignments:
Discussion Thread Contributions
Each week, I will post discussion questions or topics that you are expected to respond to based on the lectures, readings, links, and topics of the week. 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.

Unit Tests and Final Exam: These tests will include a series of short answer essay questions (5-ish sentences per answer). I will give out the questions on the Wednesday of the weeks when there are tests, and you must submit your answers to Canvas in a word document by 11:59pm Sunday of that week. Your answers should include NO quotes, and they must be based only off of our course material – readings, lectures, links provided, etc. (NOT OTHER INTERNET SOURCES).

Newspaper Article Essays: (see Page 3)
Country Policy Paper: (See Page 4)

Grading:
Discussion Posts 30% (300 points total)
Unit Tests 25% (125 points each/250 points total)
Newspaper Article Assignments 20% (100 pts. each/200 points total)
Country Paper 15% (150 points)
Final Exam 10% (100 points)

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100% (1000 points total)
Weekly Expectations:
The way I design this course is to make it as use friendly as possible. The course is broken down into 15 modules (for the 15 weeks of class that we have). When you click on our class in Canvas, click on Home on the left side, and you will see all of these modules, which include our readings, videos, discussions, and any assignments for that week. I labeled all of the modules by the dates. I also begin each module with a Pages link, where I outline the week's topics and give some general information about the week's materials. YOU SHOULD READ THIS FIRST EVERY WEEK.

If you have been simply clicking on Assignments or Discussions to see what is due, you are not seeing everything needed for the course or the week. Please make things easier for yourself and look at the weekly modules, which include all of the necessary work each week.

- Each week, the week’s content will appear at 12:00am on Monday mornings (late Sunday nights) so that you can begin that week’s assignments. To avoid confusion in course discussions and papers and to pace the course, I do not make the entire course’s contents available at once.
  - Example: Week 1 – Monday 12:00am – Sunday 11:59pm

***ALL PAPERS, PROJECTS, AND DISCUSSION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EACH WEEK ARE DUE BY SUNDAY AT 11:59pm AT THE END OF THAT WEEK***

*** I DO NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE ASSIGNMENTS – Assignment submission points will close on Canvas after the due date has passed – DO NOT EMAIL ME ASSIGNMENTS***

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. 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.

3. 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 don’t send messages through Canvas – I have found that they often get lost). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns and allow me at least 24-48 hours to respond before you write again. Additionally, it is inappropriate for any parents to contact any professor about your grade, and there are laws that prohibit such communication.

4. 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 – I will not respond.

5. 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.

6. As this is an asynchronous online course, it allows for ample time for you to complete your work each week. I will therefore not entertain any extensions on your coursework. I understand that this is a difficult time for many, which is why I designed the course the way that I did – to give you the flexibility to complete your assignments each week at your own pace. If you enroll in the course late, you are still responsible to complete the work from the week(s) you missed.
Newspaper Article Assignments:

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) 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. Compare and contrast the present with the past using course readings, lectures, and outside sources if necessary, to supplement your paper. This is also not meant for you to find a 2020 article about our topic. Your news event should be unrelated to our course material, and YOU make the connection. **You should use the unit's course material in your paper (and cite it) - including lectures, readings, links, etc.**

*** Your answer must be **5 full pages** (no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and **12-point Times New Roman font**. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. They should be well-thought out comparison with a beginning, middle, and end.

These papers are due by 11:59pm in the weeks noted in the schedule below -- **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** for any reason – no exceptions – so please budget your time so that you can complete these papers on time.

**Guidelines:**
- Find an article from a credible source – avoid 24-hour news channels (Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.)… If you are unsure of your source, please email me. Also, do not use op-eds (opinion pieces), 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 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… 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** with footnotes that include full bibliographic information.

*** **SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON CANVAS*** (I will not accept it any other way – if you are having an issue submitting it on Canvas, email it to me BEFORE the deadline, and then submit it on Canvas when you can)
Country Paper
(must be submitted through Turn-It-In on CANVAS): Due 5/2 by 11:59pm

*** 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)
  o This should include origins, changes over time, and conflicts (if applicable)
• Relations with the U.S. under the Trump administration, including any changes or shifts in policy
• Relations under the new Biden administration
• 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.
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