America and the World
21:790:202
Online - asynchronous

Instructor: Deborah 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 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 Looking at historical documents, speeches, government documents, prominent scholars, etc., this course will explain how America has grown into what it is today – a world power.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

Readings: *** All available on Canvas ***
Please make sure you have access to the course on Blackboard 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.

Newspaper Article Essays:
You are required to write two 5-page papers throughout the semester comparing a recent news to our course topics. The full rubric for these essays is on page three of this syllabus.

Country Policy Paper – 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 in the first few weeks of the semester.

Grading:
Discussion Posts 20% (200 points total)
Reading Journals 35% (35 points each/350 points total)
Newspaper Essays 20% (100 pts. each/200 points total)
Country Paper 15% (150 points)
Final Essay 10% (100 points)

100% (1000 points total)

A (Excellent) = 930 – 1000 pts.
B+ (Very Good) = 890 – 929 pts.
B (Good) = 850 – 889 pts.
C+ (Between Satisfactory and Good) = 800 – 849 pts.
C (Satisfactory) = 750 – 799 pts.
D (Lowest Passing Grade) = 650 – 749 pts.
F (Failing) = 649 pts. – Below
Weekly Expectations:

- Each week, there are several readings, links to explore, lectures to watch, and assignments. Please familiarize yourself with the syllabus to know exactly what is due each week. You will find all the materials on Canvas, and if you are having an issue opening a reading or link, please let me know as soon as possible.

- Please read the first post in each module before you do anything else, because it will explain that week’s expectations/assignments.

- 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, I prefer not to 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***

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 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.

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.

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 you work each week. I will therefore not entertain any extensions on your coursework. Please keep up to date with the work each week so that you do not fall behind or scramble last minute to complete it.
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) 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.

*** 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 12/10 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)
  - 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.

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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 2020 - America and the World (subject to change) - ONLINE

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