

History 224, America as a World Power
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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course offers a critical examination of the role of the United States as a world power from the Spanish-American War to the present. Broadly speaking, the class will deal with three major topics: U. S. relations with Latin America, with Europe, and with East Asia. Within these three areas, the approach will be mainly chronological. In addition, we will sometimes look at how foreign developments influenced, or have been influenced by, domestic affairs in the U. S.

We shall examine this period by means of lectures, films, and classroom discussion. Outside the classroom, you will add to your knowledge by completing the reading assignments and working on a research project. In all of this, I start from the position that college students are adults, and so I can expect them to shoulder much of the responsibility for their own education. Students must keep up with the readings and study conscientiously for tests. As for grading, the latter portion of this syllabus shows how much weight each course requirement will receive.

The student who successfully completes this course will bring a considerable body of knowledge to contemporary problems. She will think more clearly and logically about public affairs. In short, she will become a better citizen, not just of her own country, but of the world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READINGS

Books:

Kristina L. Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*

Robert J. McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*

Sheldon Stern, *The Week the World Stood Still*

Articles:

Gar Alperovitz, "More on Atomic Diplomacy"

David R. Kohler and James W. Wensyel, "Our First Southeast Asian War"

Robert James Maddox, "The Biggest Decision: Why We Had to Drop the Atomic Bomb"

Tests: There will be a mid-term test and a final exam. The mid-term will be given on October 16; the date of the final exam will be announced later.

Paper:

You will write a research paper on a topic that relates to some aspect of this course. The text of your paper should be about eight to ten pages in length. Your paper should be typed (double-spaced) and it should include a title page and a bibliography. Your citations (a.k.a., endnotes or footnotes) may be placed at the end of the text or at the bottom of the page. Under no circumstances should citations appear within the text.

Keep all notes and rough drafts of your work until after you have received your final grade. If I ask to see your notes and drafts and you do not have them, you will be required to write a new paper on a new subject. For security purposes keep a second copy of your final paper.

This paper is due in class on November 11. For every unexcused day it is late, you will lose a letter grade. Your paper will not be graded unless on the title page you have written and signed the following pledge: "I have carefully read and understand the course handout entitled 'Citations, or How to Avoid Plagiarism.'"

Your paper will be graded based on the quality of its research, argument, and writing. Don't underestimate the last point. A well-researched and well-argued paper that is poorly written can normally receive a grade no higher than C.

I will discuss this project in more detail in class. Please get my approval of your topic before you begin serious research.

Grading:

Test	October 16	(30%)
Final Exam	TBA	(30%)
Paper	November 11	(30%)
Classroom Discussion		(10%)

Classroom Attendance:

Students are required to show up for the exam, test, and discussions on the readings. In addition, you should realize that you will not do well in the classroom participation grade if you do not attend class and regularly take part in discussion. If you miss required work, such as a test or an exam, you will only be allowed to have a makeup with a legitimate excuse. For example, illness must be documented with a note from the Dean of Students' office.

If you are unable to attend a class, it is your responsibility to get the missed notes. It is also your responsibility to be aware of any announcements – for example, assignments, schedule changes, etc. – that may have been given during class.

Disabilities:

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of the class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Office Visits:

Office visits are welcomed. If you have any questions or problems with the course or if you just want to chat, feel free to stop by. My hours are Wednesday and Thursday, 11:00-11:30 a.m. I am also available, by appointment, on Tuesday evenings, 9:00-9:15 p.m. If these times are not convenient, call or see me after class for an appointment.

THIS COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CEDAR CREST COLLEGE HONOR SYSTEM AND THE CLASSROOM PROTOCOL FOUND IN THE CUSTOMS BOOK. CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, PLEASE SEE ME.

History 224, Brief Course Outline

I. America's Entrance Onto the World Stage

The Spanish-American War

William McKinley and the "White Man's Burden"

Alfred Thayer Mahan, Theodore Roosevelt, and the Rise of the Modern U. S. Navy

II. U. S. Latin American Relations to 1917

The Platt Amendment

Theodore Roosevelt, the Panama Canal, and the Roosevelt Corollary

Woodrow Wilson and Mexico

Reading:

Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*

III. The United States and Europe

The Great War: World War I, The Great Depression, and World War II

The Cold War and the Long Peace: Nuclear Weapons and Strategy

Readings:

McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short History*

Stern, *The Week the World Stood Still*

IV. The U. S. and East Asia, 1899 to the 1980s

The Philippine War for Independence

The Open Door Policy, the Boxer Rebellion, and the Twenty-One Demands

The Great Depression and Japan

World War II in the Pacific, the Korean War, and the American War in Vietnam and Cambodia

The Counterculture and Foreign Affairs

Readings:

David R. Kohler and James W. Wensyel, "Our First Southeast Asian War"

Gar Alperovitz, "More on Atomic Diplomacy"

Robert James Maddox, "The Biggest Decision: Why We Had to Drop the Atomic Bomb"

V. U. S. Latin American Relations, 1917 to the 1980s

The Caribbean: An American Lake

Communism and Anti-Communism in Latin America

VI. The Post Cold War: The Fall of Communism, Terrorism, Oil, and Internationalization