Preliminary Syllabus

United States Foreign Relations, 1600 to 1900
HIST 28
Department of History
Tufts University
Fall 2011

Monday/Wednesday 3-4:15 PM (Block I+)
Anderson 206

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Office Hours: Monday 1-2 at the Center for the Humanities (48 Professor's Row)
Wednesday 1-2 in East Hall 110
And by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

The arrival of the United States as the most powerful nation-state on the North American continent by 1900 was the product of much international interaction. This course explores the foreign relations of the Untied States by viewing this emergence in a broader international and historical frame. The course's major topics explore the migratory, political, diplomatic and intellectual currents linking the United States to Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia. Particular focus is given to the influence of the international system—ranging from European conflict and revolution to the slave trade—on the evolution of the diplomacy as well as the domestic politics, commerce, and society of the United States.

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation (20%)
First Paper (25%)
Second Paper (30%)
Final Exam (25%)

Participation:
As this is an advanced course, participation is a vital part of your grade. It will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance (which will be taken each class) and active participation in class discussion and activity.

**Papers:**
All students must complete two papers.

The *first essay* (7-10 pages) will be based on materials presented in the course. More specific guidelines and instructions on each will be provided as the term progresses.

The *second paper* (20 pages or more) will be a research paper on a topic of your own choosing. More details on the assignment will be provided. The initial proposal and progress report are seen as parts of the assignment and will contribute to your overall grade on the paper.

The library has created an online research guide to assist with your research: [http://researchguides.library.tufts.edu/History28](http://researchguides.library.tufts.edu/History28)

No late papers will be accepted.

**Exam:**
The final, take-home exam will be comprised of a selection of essay questions.

**Standards of Evaluation:**
Students' performance will be judged by the following:

**A:** Demonstration of superior work in assignments. In other words, faithful class attendance with strong contributions to class discussion. Papers engage topics comprehensively and with fresh analytical thinking while meeting the highest standards for written work. Exams display a thorough command of the material.

**B:** Very good work. In other words, loyal class attendance with strong contributions to class discussion. Papers engage topics thoroughly and provide clear analysis while meeting high standards for written work. Exams display a command of the material.

**C:** Satisfactory work. In other words, acceptable class attendance with some contribution to class discussion. Papers are thoughtful and meet basic standards of written work. Exams demonstrate familiarity with material.

**D:** Unsatisfactory work. That is, random class attendance and slight contribution to discussion. Papers are basic and fail to meet standards for written work. Exams demonstrate limited familiarity with material.

**F:** Failure to meet minimum course requirements and standards in all areas.
**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the Tufts’ Academic Integrity Code. By registering for this class you have acknowledged your awareness of your rights and responsibilities as defined by the code. Violations will be followed up.

**Administration:**
All students are expected to check the course website to be sure their email listed there is an address at which the normally receive and check messages.

_Students should be aware that elements of the course might change for guest speakers or for other administrative reasons._ Students are responsible for keeping track of any changes. It is also assumed that students have reviewed the syllabus and understand the course requirements and assignments. If you have any questions please contact the professor.

If you need an accommodation, as a result of a documented disability, you must register with the Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester. To do so, call the Student Services Desk at 7-2000 to arrange an appointment with Sandra Baer, Program Director of Disability Services. Please inform the professor of any special needs, if necessary.

**READINGS**
All books are available at the Tufts University bookstore for purchase. Students are also encouraged to utilize online booksellers. Some readings will be posted to the course Blackboard website (see synopsis). Course books and other required readings are on reserve at Tisch Library.

- Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America*
- George Herring, *From Colony to Superpower*
- Sam W. Haynes, *Unfinished Revolution: The Early American Republic in a British World*

**COURSE SYNOPSIS**

**Week 1**
*September 7*
Course Introduction: Setting Stages

**READ:** Armitage and Braddick, "Introduction" and "Three Concepts of Atlantic History" (on the course Trunk site)
- Taylor, Introduction
Week 2  
**September 12**  
“Cod or God?”: Commerce, Culture, Empire, in the “Atlantic World”  

**September 14**  
The Transplanted: Imperial Plantations, Imperial Imperatives  

**READ:** Taylor, chs. 14, 16  
**P&M,** ch. 1  

Week 3  
**September 19**  
Imperial Rivalries: The View from Iroquoia  

**September 21**  
“Thou are not Yet Dead My Father”: The Seven Years’ War and Imperial Crisis  

**READ:** Taylor, chs. 18, 19  
**WATCH:** _Black Robe_ (selections, in class)  

Week 4  
**September 26**  
Library Research Orientation, details to be announced in class  

**September 28**  
No More King: Britons in America Make a Revolution  

**READ:** Herring, 11-55  
Thomas Paine, “Common Sense,” section III (on reserve)  
Thomas Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence”  
**P&M,** ch. 2  

Week 5  
**October 3**  
Revolutionary Diplomacy  

**October 5**  
Republican Visions: Virtue, Corruption, and the “Empire of Liberty”  
**Second (Research) Paper Proposal Due**  

**READ:** Herring, 56-133  
**P&M,** ch. 3  
Haynes, Introduction, ch. 1
Week 6
October 10
FALL BREAK, NO CLASS ON MONDAY

October 12
The French Revolution in America

READ: P&M, ch. 4
Emphasis: George Washington, “Farewell Address” in P&M
Haynes, chs. 2, 56

Week 7
October 17
Black Jacobins: Jeffersonian Diplomacy, Slavery, and the Problem of Haiti

October 19
Washington Burning: The War of 1812

READ: Herring, 134-175
Haynes, chs. 7-8

Week 8
October 24
Mr. Monroe's (or is it George Canning's?) Doctrine: The U.S. in the “Pax Britannica”

October 26
This Land is Our Land: Indian Removal and Manifest Destiny

READ: Herring, 176-223
P&M ch. 5-6 (emphasis on “Monroe Doctrine”)
Haynes, chs. 9

Week 9
October 31
So Far From God, So Close to the United States: The Mexican War

November 2
Expansion, Continentalism, and the Coming of the U.S. Civil War
FIRST PAPER DUE

READ: Herring, P&M, ch. 6
Haynes, chs. 10-12

Week 10
November 7
The U.S. Civil War as an International Crisis

November 9
The Most Critical Year—1867: Maximilian in Mexico, the Birth of Canada, and the Reconstruction of North America

Research Paper Progress Report Due

READ: Herring, 224-264
       Beisner, chs. 1-2

Week 11
November 14
Commerce and Civilization

November 16
The Paradigm Shifts: A New Diplomacy

READ: Herring, 265-298
       Beisner, chs. 3-4

Week 12
November 21
Sources of American Power and International Anxiety

November 23
Thanksgiving Holiday, NO CLASS

READ: P&M, ch. 11
       Beisner, chs. 3-4

Week 13
November 28
The Nuptial Couch: Asia and the US role in the World

November 30
NO CLASS, TAs available for assistance with research papers

READ: Herring, 299-336

Week 14
December 5
A Dirty Little War: The Philippine War and the Burdens of Empire
A Foot in the Door: The “Open Door” in Asia

December 7
Joining the Club: TR and a Modern United States as a World Power.

Final Paper Due

READ: Herring, 337-377
P&M, ch. 14
Beisner ch. 5

Week 15

December 12
Conclusion, Review, Final Business

Final Exam: Details to be announced in class