

## **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

Professor David Ekbladh  
East Hall 110  
Department of History  
Email: david.ekbladh@tufts.edu  
Phone: 617.627.3758

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 United 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>

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 they 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*

Merrill & Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Relations*, vol. 1: to 1920, 6<sup>th</sup>ed. ["P&M" in synopsis]

Robert Beisner, *From the Old Diplomacy to the New*, 2d ed.

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