

**United States Foreign Relations,
1600 to 1900**

[DRAFT SYLLABUS]

28.16
Department of History
Tufts University
Fall 2009

Monday/Wednesday 10:30-11:45 AM
Tisch 316

Professor David Ekbladh
East Hall 110
Department of History
Email: david.ekbladh@tufts.edu
Phone: 617.627.3758
Office Hours: Monday 9-10 AM, Wednesday 12 noon to 1 PM
And by appointment

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.

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 Blackboard site 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.

READINGS

All books are available at the Tufts University bookstore for purchase. Students are also encouraged to utilize online booksellers. All 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, 6th ed. ["P&M" in synopsis]
Robert Beisner, *From the Old Diplomacy to the New*, 2d ed.
Anders Stephanson, *Manifest Destiny and the Empire of Right*

COURSE SYNOPSIS

Week 1

September 9

Course Introduction: Setting Stages

READ: Armitage and Braddick, "Introduction" and "Three Concepts of Atlantic History"
Taylor, Introduction

Week 2

September 14

"Cod or God?": Commerce, Culture, Empire, in the "Atlantic World"

September 16

The Transplanted: Imperial Plantations, Imperial Imperatives

READ: Taylor, chs. 14, 16

Stephanson, ch. 1
P&M, ch. 1

Week 3

September 21

Imperial Rivalries: The View from Iroquoia

September 23

“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 28

Library Research Orientation, details to be announced in class

September 30

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 5

Revolutionary Diplomacy

October 7

Republican Visions: Virtue, Corruption, and the “Empire of Liberty”

Second (Research) Paper Proposal Due

READ: Herring, 56-133

P&M, chs. 3-4

Emphasis: George Washington, “Farewell Address” in P&M

Week 6

October 12

FALL BREAK, NO CLASS ON MONDAY

October 13

The French Revolution in America

NOTE: CLASS MEETS ON TUESDAY

October 14

Black Jacobins: Jeffersonian Diplomacy, Slavery, and the Problem of Haiti

READ: Herring, 134-175
Stephanson, ch.2
P&M ch. 5-6 (emphasis on “Monroe Doctrine”)

Week 7

October 19

Washington Burning: The War of 1812

October 21

Mr. Monroe’s (or is it George Canning’s?) Doctrine: The U.S. in the “Pax Britannica”

FIRST PAPER DUE

READ: Herring, 176-223

Week 8

October 26

This Land is Our Land: Indian Removal and Manifest Destiny

October 28

So Far From God, So Close to the United States: The Mexican War

READ: Herring, 224-250

Week 9

November 2

Expansion, Continentalism, and the Coming of the U.S. Civil War

November 4

The U.S. Civil War as an International Crisis

READ: Herring, 251-264
P&M, ch. 6

Week 10

November 9

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

November 11

Commerce and Civilization

Research Paper Progress Report Due

READ: Herring, 265-290

Beisner, chs. 1-2
Stephanson, ch. 3

Week 11

November 16

The Paradigm Shifts: A New Diplomacy

November 18

Sources of American Power and International Anxiety

READ: Herring, 290-298
Beisner, chs. 3-4

Week 12

November 23

The Nuptial Couch: Asia and the US role in the World

November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday, NO CLASS

READ: Herring, 299-329
P&M, ch. 11
Beisner, chs. 3-4

Week 13

November 30

A Dirty Little War: The Philippine War and the Burdens of Empire

December 2

A Foot in the Door: The "Open Door" in Asia, The Panama Canal, Caribbean Migration and the Creation of a "U.S. Mediterranean"

READ: Herring, 329-336
P&M, ch. 13

Week 14

December 7

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

December 9

Conclusion, Review and Final Business

Final Paper Due

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

Final Exam: Details to be announced in class