DRAFT SYLLABUS

HIST 29
US FOREIGN RELATIONS SINCE 1900:
A GLOBAL HISTORY

Monday/Wednesday
Location TBA

Tufts University
Department of History
Spring 2010

Professor David Ekbladh
East Hall 110
Department of History
Email: david.ekbladh@tufts.edu
Phone: 617.627.3758
Office Hours: TBA
And by appointment

This course explores the twentieth century rise of the United States from a regional power to a superpower. Two world wars, a global depression, the Cold War, as well as a series of smaller conflicts marked this advance to dominance. But the story is more than these events. The imposing position of the United States was not solely a product of the actions of the American state as the country’s power was enhanced by efforts of nongovernmental groups as well as the appeal and pervasiveness American culture, among other elements. However, the United States found itself transformed as new opportunities and tensions arose domestically as the nation grasped global hegemony.

ASSIGNMENTS

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

Papers:
All students must complete two papers.

The first essay (5 pages) will be based on materials presented in the course. More specific guidelines and instructions will be provided.

A research paper (15-20 pages) will be on a topic of your own choosing. More details on the assignment will be provided. The initial proposal is seen as part of the assignment and will contribute to your overall grade on the paper.

Exam:
The final examination will be comprised of a selection of essay questions.
**READINGS**
All books are available at the Tufts University bookstore for purchase. Students are also encouraged to utilize online booksellers. All books and other course readings (see synopsis) are on reserve at Tisch Library or available online through Blackboard.

- George Herring, *From Colony to Superpower*
- Merrill and Patterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: vol. II* (7th ed.)
- David Reynolds, *From Munich to Pearl Harbor*
- Lederer and Burdick, *The Ugly American*

**COURSE SYNOPSIS**

**Week 1**
January 25
*Course Introduction*

January 27
*TR's Swimming Companions: The US in the European Balance of Power System*

**READ:** Herring, pp. 337-377

**Week 2**
February 1
*A Great War: World War I, Modern War and the Collapse of the International System*

February 3
*A Dangerous Peace: Wilson and Versailles*

**READ:** Herring, pp. 378-410
- Patterson and Merrill, pp. 35-47

**Week 3**
February 8
*Normalcy: American Isolationism or Unilateralism?*

February 10
*Library Orientation: Details to be Announced*

**READ:** Herring, pp. 410-435
- Patterson and Merrill, pp. 73-87

**Week 4**
February 15
*President's Day Holiday, NO CLASS*

February 17
It’s a Woman’s World: Internationalism and Americanization

February 18
NOTE: MONDAY SCHEDULE SUBSTITUTED ON THURSDAY
Liberalism’s Demise: The World Crisis of the 1930s

READ: Herring, pp.436-483
(available via Wiley Interscience)
Reynolds, pp. 12-101
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 73-87

Week 5
February 22
Myths of Continents: Facing Totalitarianism

February 24
Highly Un-neutral Acts, FDR and the Road to War

READ: Herring, pp. 484-537
Reynolds, pp. 102-189
Henry Luce, “The American Century,” Diplomatic History, Spring 1999
(available via Wiley Interscience)
Henry Wallace, “The Century of the Common Man” (online:
http://www.winrock.org/wallacecenter/wallace/CCM.htm)
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 117-132

Week 6
March 1
The American Century: Global War, Global Opportunities

March 3
MONDAY SCHEDULE SUBSTITUTED, NO CLASS

READ: Herring, pp. 538-594
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 155-165

Week 7
March 8
A World to Make: Visions of a Postwar World and Postwar Threats
FIRST PAPER DUE

March 10
The German Question and the Origins of the Cold War

READ: Herring, pp. 594-638
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 190-205

Week 8
March 15
Korea and the Codification of the Cold War
RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

March 17
Colonialism’s Collapse and the Globalization of the Cold War

READ: Herring, pp. 639-650
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 248-262

Week 9
SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

Week 10
March 29
Satchmo Swings into Action: Jazz and Race as Weapons in the Cold War

March 31
A Total Struggle: The Nuclear Arms Race and the Struggle in the “Third World”

READ: Herring, pp. 651-683
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 328-339
LISTEN: “The Real Ambassadors” (in class)

Week 11
April 5
Che’s Road to the Bathroom: Cuba as Nexus of Superpower Tensions

April 7
Ugly Americans, Quiet Americans and the Road to Vietnam

READ: Herring, pp. 683-726
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 369-386
Lederer and Burdick (selections)

Week 12
April 12
The Vietnam Wars
RESEARCH PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE

April 14
A New World Order? The US in a Changing International System

READ: Herring, pp. 727-759
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 417-428
WATCH: The Fog of War (parts, in class)

Week 13
April 19
PATRIOT’S DAY, NO CLASS
April 21
*Chinese Opera: Nixon Goes to China—Détente and its Meaning*

**READ:** Herring, pp. 760-807
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 457-468

**Week 14**
April 26
“The Team B,” the Middle East, and the Death of Détente

April 28
*The Reaganite Worldview and the Cold War Renewed*

**READ:** Herring, pp. 808-860
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 499-512
Intro, Parts 1 and 3 (National Security Archive:

**Week 15**
May 3
*Liberalism Triumphant?: The World the US Made*

May 5
*Conclusion, Review, Final Business*

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**READ:** Herring, pp. 861-964
Patterson and Merrill, pp. 540-555
Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History,” (in *The National Interest*;
available online via ProQuest database)