

## DRAFT SYLLABUS

### HIST 29 US FOREIGN RELATIONS SINCE 1900: A GLOBAL HISTORY

Monday/Wednesday  
Location TBA

Tufts University  
Department of History  
Spring 2010

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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* (7<sup>th</sup> 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

Akira Iriye, "A Century of NGOs," *Diplomatic History*, Summer 1999  
(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

**LISTEN:** NBC Radio Program: "Human Nature in Action"

**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*  
**RESEACH 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

*“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  
“Soviet Strategic Objectives: An Alternate View: Report of ‘Team B’”,  
Intro, Parts 1 and 3 (National Security Archive:  
<http://nsarchive.chadwyck.com/nsa/documents/SE/00501/all.pdf>)

**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)