

University of Cincinnati

Raymond Walters College

History 232: US and the World II Winter 2007

Instructor:

Dr. John McNay

Office:

Muntz 302:

Office hours:

Monday, 3-5; Tuesday, noon-2.

Or by appointment

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Scope of course:

Welcome. In this course we will study United States foreign policy from 1850 to 1920. It was a time of dramatic change for the nation while the themes of imperial-style expansion continue – continuity and change. It is also a time of great violence. In what can be seen as a war of national consolidation, we fight the civil war – the bloodiest war in the world in the nineteenth century. Then in a conflict with Spain over Cuba, we create our first colony in the Philippines and begin the habit of intervention in Latin America. Finally, by the 20th century we have become a world economic power that is one of several factors that pulls the nation into the the Great War, or what comes to be known as World War I. Through all of this, we will talk about the important people, strategies, domestic forces, and foreign involvement that begins to move the United States to the great power status it has today.

Reading:

The text for the course will be The American Age by Walter LaFeber; The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861 by Robert May, Woodrow Wilson by J.A. Thompson, and Imperial Surge by Rabe and Paterson. There will also be some handouts concerning the First World War.

Grading:

There will be a midterm and a final exam, both worth 25 percent of your grade for a total of 50 percent. They will include a combination of objective and essay questions. There will be three quizzes based on the books, worth a total of 20 percent of your grade. There will be a paper assignment worth 25 percent of your grade. Attendance and participation will be worth another 5 percent.

Attendance:

It should go without saying that attendance is required. You cannot learn the material and do well in this course if you are not here. More than three unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your grade. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason or have some sort of emergency, talk to me about the situation.

Paper Assignment:

We will talk in more detail about the paper assignment next week. It will be a research paper about one of the following issues: the diplomacy surrounding the Spanish-American War OR the Great War. The basics of the paper will be that Chicago-style references (that, is footnotes or endnotes) will be required, it must be at least six pages long (not including the required bibliography), and it **MUST** contain at least one original sources from the time period.

Academic Misconduct:

Familiarize yourself with The Student Code of Conduct available from Student Affairs. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Out in the real world, you could lose your job and ruin your career for stealing someone else's work. Penalties can range widely from an F on the paper/exam, an F in the course, and the university has sanctions that "permanently prohibit the student from attending the University of Cincinnati."

Plagiarism is a particular problem. The student code defines it as follows:

- Submitting another's published or unpublished work, in whole, in part, or in paraphrase, as one's own without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, citations, or bibliographic reference.
- Submitting as one's own, original work, material obtained from an individual or agency without reference to the person or agency as the source of the material.
- Submitting as one's own, original work, material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.

This policy is not an attempt to persecute an accidental missing reference. Plagiarism is easy to avoid. Just do the work yourself.

Honors Contracts:

If you already qualify for the university's Honors Scholars Program talk to me about taking this class for Honors credit. This will entail writing an Honors Contract which means more additional work and reading beyond the regular requirements for the course.

History Club:

The RWC History Club is an informal organization of students who gather several times throughout the semester to talk about issues, books, or view movies. I'm the faculty advisor. Talk to me about the club. It is fun, entertaining, and we manage to learn something too.

Schedule of classes:

Week of

- 1/2 - Introduction. Post-Mexican War. Japan
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 4-5.
- 1/8 – Southern Dreams and Civil War
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 5. May 1-5.
- 1/15 – Post-Civil War. Review and quiz on Southern Dreams.
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 6. May 6-Afterword.
- 1/22 – Spanish-American War.
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 7. Imperial Surge, Part I.
- 1/29 – Midterm.
- 2/5 – Rough Riders and Dollar Diplomats
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 8. Imperial Surge Part II & III.
- 2/12 – Imperial world
Reading LaFeber, Chp. 8. Quiz on Imperial Surge.
- 2/19 – Wilson and Revolution
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 9. Wilson (first chapters and assigned)
- 2/26 – The War to End All Wars
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 10.
- 3/5 – The Great War and Versailles.
Reading: LaFeber, Chp. 10.