

University of Cincinnati

Raymond Walters College

History 233: US and the World III Spring 2006

Instructor:

Dr. John McNay

Office:

Muntz 302:

Office hours:

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

Or by appointment

Phone:

513-351-0684 (home)

513-792-8631 (office)

Email:

john.mcnay@uc.edu

Webpage:

www.rwc.uc.edu/mcnay

Scope of course:

Welcome. In this course we will study United States foreign policy from 1920 to the present. All of the trends in American foreign relations begin to drive the nation to a more involved position in world affairs, often despite its professed desires to isolate itself from the world's problems. In the post-WWI era, American economic power began to draw the nation into involvement with the rest of the world. World War II completed the movement of the United States to world power but then it engaged the Soviet Union, another revolutionary nation, in a global struggle for influence in which millions of people lost their lives. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States searched for a foreign policy. The Sept. 11 attacks allowed the Bush administration to promote a strategic doctrine that is both traditional and revolutionary in the context of American diplomacy and carries great risks.

Reading:

The text for the course will be The American Age by Walter LaFeber; The Juggler by Kimball, Lyndon Johnson's War by Michael H. Hunt, and All the Shah's Men by Stephen Kinzer. In addition, you have the optional book, Acheson and Empire by John McNay.

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 the Vietnam 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

March 27 – The Great War and its Aftermath

LaFeber, Chp. 9-10.

April 3 – Republican Diplomacy of the 1920s.

LaFeber, Chp. 11.

April 10 – Origins of WWII

LaFeber, Chp. 12

April 17 – The diplomacy of WWII

LaFeber, Chp. 13.

Kimball book discussion.

April 24 – The Cold War I

LaFeber, Chps. 14-15

Kinzer book discussion

May 1 – Midterm.

May 8 – The Ike Age

LaFeber, Chp. 16

Kinzer book discussion. McNay book discussion.

May 15 – JFK and LBJ: Missiles and Vietnam

LaFeber, Chp. 17.

Hunt book discussion.

May 22 – Nixinger to Carter

LaFeber 18-19.

May 29 – From Cold War order to disorder.

LaFeber, Chp. 20.

June 5 - Finals Week