

History 583.02
United States Diplomacy since 1920

Lecturer: Dr. Peter Hahn

Course Description:

In the decades since 1920, the United States has grown to a position of immense power in the international community. In the late twentieth century, it became the world's most powerful country, boasting an enormous military complex, a vast nuclear arsenal, a stable political order, an expansive culture, and a paramount industrial and economic system. U.S. foreign policy profoundly affected the lives of its own citizens and many other peoples around the world. In this course we will study the major trends in United States foreign policy since 1920. We will examine the U.S. economic policy and strategy of the 1920s, the origins of World War II, and the diplomatic aspects of that war. We will devote substantial attention to the Cold War, including its origins in the 1940s, its duration over the decades that followed, and its demise in 1985-91. We will also analyze the U.S. response to revolutionary nationalism in the developing world and U.S. policy toward regional controversies such as the Arab-Israeli conflict. Lectures and readings will introduce you to historical controversies and conflicting interpretations, which you will be expected to analyze critically in writing and discussions.

Academic Objectives:

From this course you should gain the following skills and competencies:

1. To develop the ability to assess and think critically about historical issues and how people interpret those issues;
2. To gain a basic factual knowledge of this historical period;
3. To develop some skills in analyzing historical data and reaching informed conclusions about those data.

Required Books:

The following books are required reading and should be available at the bookstores.

Walter LaFeber, The American Age: U.S. Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad. Vol. 2: Since 1896, 2nd ed.

Michael J. Hogan, Informal Entente: The Private Structure of Cooperation in Anglo-American Economic Diplomacy, 1918-1928.

J. Samuel Walker, Prompt & Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs Against Japan.

Melvyn P. Leffler, The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917-1953

Thomas G. Paterson, Contesting Castro: The United States and the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution

David L. Anderson, Shadow on the White House: Presidents and the Vietnam War

Robert Schulzinger, Henry Kissinger: Doctor of Diplomacy

Meetings:

Classes will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 11:18 am. Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. Attendance will be taken five times, at random, during the quarter, and you will earn one point for each time you are recorded present.

Office Hours:

My office is in Dulles Hall 271 (telephone 292-7200; e-mail hahn.29@osu.edu). My office hours are Tuesdays 11:30-12:30, Thursday 1:30-3:00, and by appointment.

Enrollment:

All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

Examinations:

The midterm exam will be given during class on Tuesday, February 10 and the final exam will be administered from 9:30 to 11:18 am on Wednesday, March 18. Both exams will cover material from lectures and assigned readings and will consist primarily of essay questions. The final exam will be comprehensive. You will NOT be permitted to consult books, notebooks, or other aids during the exams. Any student with an unexcused absence from an exam will earn an E for that test. The time and place of the graduating seniors' exam will be announced in class.

Make-up exam policy:

If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me before the exam and have my consent to your absence if you wish to take a make-up exam. The date and time of any make-up exam will be announced in class.

Essay:

You must complete one out-of-class writing assignment based on the book by Schulzinger. The assignment will be distributed during the first week of class and will be due Thursday, March 5. Early submissions are welcome. Papers turned in late will be assessed penalties of a half letter grade per day late; papers will not be accepted after March 12. To be fair to all students, exceptions to these rules will not be granted.

Your essay will be graded on the basis of both content and style. It must be typed, double-spaced, proofread, and corrected prior to submission. It should number six to eight pages. You must attribute the sources of quotations and borrowed ideas by citing page numbers in the book. If one borrows the words or ideas of others without acknowledgement, one is guilty of

plagiarism. More details on this assignment will be provided in class.

Method of determining final grade:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Attendance 5%	Essay 30%
Midterm exam 30%	Final exam 35%

Other expectations:

Given the size of this class, your fellow students and I depend on your cooperation in maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning. Late arrivals, early departures, and other disruptive behaviors are strongly discouraged. On the other hand, you are encouraged to ask questions and raise substantive issues at all times.

You are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarizing, or practicing other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated and, consonant with university regulations, may result in failure of the course.

Suggestions:

If you do not understand a course requirement or course material, please ask about it. I am here to help you and welcome opportunities to answer your questions.

If you do not understand the grading of your examination, please seek clarification at the earliest opportunity.

Consider the following suggestions to assist you in writing essay exams:

1. Always relate exam points to time. If the exam has three sections of equal value, apportion your time equally. DO NOT spend longer on one of the sections than the percent of the grade justifies.
2. Before beginning to write, outline your essay to ensure orderliness as you write. Then compose an essay including an introduction, a body of several paragraphs, and a brief concluding paragraph. Following this advice rather than writing down thoughts as they come to mind will help you produce an organized, coherent essay.
3. Remember that the prime concern of history is to analyze change over time. When, why, and how the changes occurred and the significance of the changes to American history are central questions in this course. Bear this in mind as you take notes, read, and review.
4. I want you to succeed on the exams in general proportion to the time and effort you invest in studying. If this

does not happen on the midterm, please talk to me at once.

Schedule of assignments:

Lectures and assignments are tentatively scheduled below. Each class will consist primarily of lecture, but ample time will be reserved for questions and discussion. Please be prepared to make thoughtful contributions to each class. Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. You are expected to familiarize yourself with the topics of reading assignments and complete them in conjunction with the appropriate lectures.

- Jan. 6 Introduction to the course
 8 Republican diplomacy in the 1920s: Europe
 READINGS: LaFeber, 334-68; Hogan, vii-227
- 13 Republican diplomacy in the 1920s: Asia & Latin America
 15 Origins of the Second World War in Europe
 READINGS: LaFeber, 369-412
- 20 Origins of the Second World War in Asia
 22 The diplomacy of World War II
 READINGS: LaFeber, 412-443; Walker, ix-136
- 27 Origins of the Cold War
 29 Cold War in Europe, 1945-1953
 READINGS: LaFeber, 443-501; Leffler, vii-130
- Feb. 3 Cold War in Asia, 1945-53
 5 Eisenhower and the Cold War
 READINGS: LaFeber, 502-579
- 10 MIDTERM
 12 Kennedy, Johnson, and the Cold War
 READINGS: LaFeber, 580-90, 595-610; Paterson, vii-263
- 19 The emergence of the Third World, to 1969
 21 The Vietnam War I
 READINGS: LaFeber, 590-95, 610-32; Anderson, 1-212
- 26 The Vietnam War II
 28 Nixon, Kissinger, and detente
 READINGS: LaFeber, 633-87; Schulzinger, ix-242
- Mar. 3 The Carter years
 5 ESSAYS DUE
 Reagan, Bush, and the Cold War
 READINGS: LaFeber, 687-744
- 10 Reagan, Bush, and the Third World
 12 The world since the Cold War
 READINGS: LaFeber, 745-82; Klare, 3-231

March 18 (Wednesday) FINAL EXAM 9:30-11:18 am