Kennesaw State University
History 3321
Diplomatic History of the United States Since 1890
M/W 12:30-1:45 p.m.
SO2031
Fall 2012

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Office Hours: MW 11 a.m.-noon, and by appointment

Course Description: This course examines the diplomatic history of the United States from 1890 to the present. It will cover the internal and external factors that shaped American foreign policy, the first steps taken toward American becoming a world power, and the growing involvement of the United States in international affairs including World Wars I and II and the Cold War, as well as the post-Cold War world. The relationship between the United States and the developing regions of the world, including Latin America and the Middle East, will also be covered.

Course Goals: Students will gain an understanding of the important forces and individuals that led American growth from an internally-focused, hemispheric power to global dominance in the span of half a century. You will become familiar with the many elements that shaped US diplomacy, including economic, ideological and political factors, and evaluate a variety of perspectives and historical explanations for key issues such as the origins of the Cold War and American intervention in World War I. This will be done through reading primary and secondary sources, lecture, and class discussion, and you will also develop and improve your research and analytical skills through written assignments.

Expectations: Success in this course requires prompt completion of all reading assignments, active class participation, and a solid effort on all exams and writing assignments. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Attendance will be taken frequently and used to help assess your level of effort. Students who demonstrate consistent effort may have their final grade adjusted upward. If you miss a lecture class, you should get the notes from a classmate. Should you miss a discussion and wish to receive partial credit, you must explain your absence to me in person and complete a makeup assignment. Makeup exams are not allowed except in extraordinary circumstances, subject to verification of the reason for absence and my approval.

Required Texts:
Thomas Fleming, *The Illusion of Victory: America in World War I*
Patrick J. Hearden, *Roosevelt Confronts Hitler: America’s Entry into World War II*

**Grading:** Your grade will be based upon the following criteria:
- Mid-term Exam – 20%
- Final Exam or Research Paper – 25%
- Propaganda Exercise – 10%
- First Short Paper – 15%
- Second Short Paper – 15%
- Discussion – 15%

Class discussions are an important component of grading and can affect your final average by as much as two letter grades. You should treat each one with the same seriousness as a quiz.

**Course Schedule and Assignments:**
(Subject to Change)

Aug. 20: Introduction  
Readings: None

Aug. 22: Influences on American Foreign Policy and the Push for Expansion  
Readings: None

Aug. 23: End of Drop/Add Period

Aug. 27: McKinley and the Beginnings of American Empire  
Readings: None

Aug. 29: The Diplomacy of Theodore Roosevelt  
Readings: None

Sept. 3: No Class – Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 5: Theodore Roosevelt, Part 2; Taft’s “Dollar Diplomacy”  
Readings: None

Sept. 10: Woodrow Wilson, International Crusader  
Readings: None

Sept. 12: Origins of World War I; Discussion, Wilson and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, Chapters 1-2

Sept. 17: Discussion, Wilson and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, Chapters 3-7
Sept. 19: Discussion, Wilson and WWI
   Readings: Fleming, Chapters 8-11

Sept. 24: Discussion, Wilson and WWI
   Readings: Fleming, Chapters 12-13; Merrill, 34-36, 55-61

Sept. 26: Returning to “Normalcy” in the 1920s
   Readings: None

Oct. 1: Discussion – Interwar Diplomacy
   Readings: Merrill, 72-82, 87-109

**First Short Paper Due**

Oct. 3: Franklin Roosevelt’s New Course
   Readings: None

Oct. 8: Discussion: The Road to World War II
   Readings: Hearden, Preface-chapter 4

Oct. 10: Discussion: The Road to World War II
   Readings: Hearden, Chapters 5-8

Oct. 12: Last Day to Withdraw from Classes without Academic Penalty

Oct. 15: America and the Holocaust; Discussion – The US in the Second World War
   Readings: Merrill, 115-133

Oct. 17: Origins of the Cold War
   Readings: None

**Second Short Paper Due**

Oct. 22: **Mid-Term Exam**

Oct. 24: Discussion – Origins of the Cold War
   Readings: Merrill, 192-232

Oct. 29: The Cold War Turns Hot - Korea
   Readings: None

Oct. 31: Discussion – Containment in Asia
   Readings: Merrill, 238-274

Nov. 5: Eisenhower’s Foreign Policy and the Cold War at Home
   Readings: None
Nov. 7: Cuba and the Cold War  
Readings: None

Nov. 12: Discussion- The Diplomacy of John F. Kennedy  
Readings: Merrill, 362-392

Nov. 14: Propaganda Presentations

Nov. 19: Propaganda Presentations

Nov. 21: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 26: The US and the Middle East, 1948-1973  
Readings: None

Nov. 28: The Path to Vietnam, War, and Dissent  
Readings: None

Dec. 3: Discussion – The Vietnam War and its Consequences  
Readings: Merrill, 409-421; 430-444

Dec. 5: Nixon and Détente; Carter – Peace and Paralysis; Reagan and the End of the Cold War  
Readings: Merrill, 470-472, 503-516; 524-537

Research Paper Due Dec. 10 by 5 p.m.  
Final Exam TBA

Miscellaneous

**Academic Honesty:** Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

**Cell Phones and Pagers:** Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone or pager sounds
during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

**Assignments:** Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

**Problems and Personal Matters:** If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course, please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.