

Kennesaw State University
History 3321
Diplomatic History of the United States Since 1890
M/W 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Burruss 381
Fall 2017

Dr. Jim Piecuch
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Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:30 p.m., 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:

Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*, Vol. 2, 7th edition
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:

Final Exam – 25%

Propaganda Exercise – 15%

First Short Paper – 20%

Second Short Paper – 20%

Discussion – 20%

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. 14: Introduction

Readings: None

Aug. 16: Influences on American Foreign Policy and the Push for Expansion

Readings: None

Aug. 21: McKinley and the Beginnings of American Empire

Readings: None

End of Add/Drop Period

Aug. 23: The Diplomacy of Theodore Roosevelt

Readings: None

Aug. 28: Theodore Roosevelt, Part 2; Taft's "Dollar Diplomacy"

Readings: None

Aug. 30: Woodrow Wilson, International Crusader

Readings: None

Sept. 4: No Class – Holiday

Sept. 6: Origins of World War I; Discussion, Wilson and WWI

Readings: Fleming, Chapters 1-2

Sept. 11: Discussion, Wilson and WWI

Readings: Fleming, Chapters 3-7

Sept. 13: Discussion, Wilson and WWI

Readings: Fleming, Chapters 8-11

- Sept. 18: Discussion, Wilson and WWI
Readings: Fleming, Chapters 12-13; Merrill, 34-36, 55-61
- Sept. 20: Returning to “Normalcy” in the 1920s
Readings: None
- Sept. 25: Discussion – Interwar Diplomacy
Readings: Merrill, 72-82, 87-109
- Sept. 27: Franklin Roosevelt’s New Course
Readings: None
First Short Paper Due
- Oct. 2: Discussion: The Road to World War II
Readings: Hearden, Preface-chapter 4
- Oct. 4: Discussion: The Road to World War II
Readings: Hearden, Chapters 5-8
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes without Academic Penalty
- Oct. 9: America and the Holocaust; Discussion – The US in the Second World War
Readings: Merrill, 115-133
- Oct. 11: Origins of the Cold War
Readings: None
Second Short Paper Due
- Oct. 16: Discussion – Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Merrill, 192-232
- Oct. 18: The Cold War Turns Hot - Korea
Readings: None
- Oct. 23: Discussion – Containment in Asia
Readings: Merrill, 238-274
- Oct. 25: Eisenhower’s Foreign Policy and the Cold War at Home
Readings: None
- Oct. 30: Cuba and the Cold War
Readings: None
- Nov. 21: Discussion- The Diplomacy of John F. Kennedy
Readings: Merrill, 362-392
- Nov. 6: Propaganda Presentations

Nov. 8: Propaganda Presentations

Nov. 13: The US and the Middle East, 1948-1973

Readings: None

Nov. 15: The Path to Vietnam, War, and Dissent

Readings: None

Nov. 20/22: No Class – Break

Nov. 27: Discussion – The Vietnam War and its Consequences

Readings: Merrill, 409-421; 430-444

Nov. 29: Nixon and Détente; Carter – Peace and Paralysis

Readings: Merrill, 470-472, 503-516

Dec. 1: History Department Makeup Exam Day

Dec. 4: Reagan and the End of the Cold War

Readings: Merrill, 524-537

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.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which

includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

Include a statement of consequences for violation of this code. It is recommended that you review the Student Code of Conduct as related to Academic Integrity with your students by following the link above. You might also include a link(s) to websites designed to avoid plagiarism.

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.

ADA Compliance:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470- 578-6443.

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

E-Mail Contact Requirement

Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

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. To promote and reward regular attendance, assignments will no longer be posted on Desire2Learn.

Zero Tolerance Policy for Wiki-Idiocy: If your exams or assignments are found to contain incorrect, inaccurate, or irrelevant information not drawn from the readings or class lecture, and I trace this material to Wikipedia or similar garbage websites, you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and an F for the course.

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.