Kennesaw State University
History 3321
Diplomatic History of the United States Since 1890
M/W 6:30-7:45 p.m.
SS3010

Dr. Jim Piecuch
SS4092
Office Phone: 770-423-6059
E-mail: jpiecuch@kennesaw.edu (do not e-mail me on Web-CT)
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:
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 – 25%
- Propaganda Exercise – 10%
- Short Paper – 10%
- Research Paper – 20%
- 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)

Jan. 12: Introduction
   Readings: None

Jan 14: General Aspects of Diplomacy and Diplomatic History
   Readings: None

Jan. 19: No Class – Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 21: Influences on American Foreign Policy
   Readings: None

Jan. 26: McKinley and the Beginnings of American Empire
   Readings: None

Jan. 28: The Diplomacy of Theodore Roosevelt
   Readings: None

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

Feb. 4: Woodrow Wilson, International Crusader
   Readings: None

Feb. 9: No Class – Instructor has Speaking Engagement

Feb. 11: Wilson, Part 2; Discussion – Wilsonian Foreign Policy
   Readings: Merrill, 35-47; 57-69

Feb. 16: Returning to “Normalcy” in the 1920s

Feb. 18: Discussion – Interwar Diplomacy
   Readings: Merrill, 73-104
Feb. 23: Franklin Roosevelt’s New Course
Readings: None

Feb. 25: Discussion: The Road to World War II
Readings: Hearden, all
Short Paper Due

Mar. 2: America and the Holocaust; Discussion – The US in the Second World War
Readings: Merrill, 119-151

Mar. 4: Mid-Term Exam

Mar. 9, 11: No Class – Spring Break

Mar. 16: Origins of the Cold War
Readings: None

Mar. 18: Discussion – Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Merrill, 208-242

Mar. 23: Propaganda Presentations

Mar. 25: The Cold War Turns Hot - Korea
Readings: None

Mar. 30: Discussion – Containment in Asia
Readings: Merrill, 248-280

Apr. 6: Eisenhower’s Foreign Policy and the Cold War at Home
Readings: None

Apr. 8: Cuba and the Cold War
Readings: None

Apr. 13: Discussion- The Diplomacy of John F. Kennedy
Readings: Merrill, 332-335; 369-386; 388-401

Apr. 15: The US and the Middle East, 1948-1973
Readings: None

Apr. 20: The Path to Vietnam, War, and Dissent
Readings: None

Apr. 22: Discussion – The Vietnam War and its Consequences
Readings: Merrill, 421-424; 426-428; 437-452
Apr. 27: Nixon and the New Policy of Détente; Carter – Peace and Paralysis
Readings: Merrill, 471-494

Apr. 29: Reagan and the End of the Cold War; Review
Readings: None
Research Paper Due

Final Exam Monday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m.

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.