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:
- Final Exam – 30%
- Propaganda Exercise – 15%
- First Short Paper – 20%
- Second Short 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. 8: Introduction  
Readings: None

Jan. 13: Influences on American Foreign Policy and the Push for Expansion  
Readings: None

Jan. 14: End of Add/Drop Period

Jan. 15: McKinley and the Beginnings of American Empire  
Readings: None

Jan. 20: No Class – Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 22: The Diplomacy of Theodore Roosevelt  
Readings: None

Jan. 27: Theodore Roosevelt, Part 2; Taft’s “Dollar Diplomacy”  
Readings: None

Jan. 29: Woodrow Wilson, International Crusader  
Readings: None

Feb. 3: Origins of World War I; Discussion, Wilson and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, Chapters 1-2

Feb. 5: Discussion, Wilson and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, Chapters 3-7
Feb. 10: Discussion, Wilson and WWI
Readings: Fleming, Chapters 8-11

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

Feb. 17: Returning to “Normalcy” in the 1920s
Readings: None

Feb. 19: Discussion – Interwar Diplomacy
Readings: Merrill, 72-82, 87-109

First Short Paper Due

Feb. 24: Franklin Roosevelt’s New Course
Readings: None

Feb. 26: Discussion: The Road to World War II
Readings: Hearden, Preface-chapter 4

Mar. 3: Discussion: The Road to World War II
Readings: Hearden, Chapters 5-8
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes without Academic Penalty

Mar. 5: America and the Holocaust; Discussion – The US in the Second World War
Readings: Merrill, 115-133

Mar. 10: Origins of the Cold War
Readings: None

Second Short Paper Due

Mar. 12: Discussion – Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Merrill, 192-232

Mar. 17: The Cold War Turns Hot - Korea
Readings: None

Mar. 19: Discussion – Containment in Asia
Readings: Merrill, 238-274

Mar. 24: Eisenhower’s Foreign Policy and the Cold War at Home
Readings: None

Mar. 26: No Class – Instructor has speaking engagement

Mar. 31, Apr. 2: No Class – Spring Break
Apr. 7: Cuba and the Cold War  
   Readings: None

Apr. 10: Discussion- The Diplomacy of John F. Kennedy  
   Readings: Merrill, 362-392

Apr. 14: Propaganda Presentations

Apr. 16: Propaganda Presentations

Apr. 21: The US and the Middle East, 1948-1973  
   Readings: None

Apr. 23: The Path to Vietnam, War, and Dissent  
   Readings: None

Apr. 28: Discussion – The Vietnam War and its Consequences  
   Readings: Merrill, 409-421; 430-444

Apr. 30: Nixon and Détente; Carter – Peace and Paralysis; Reagan and the End of the Cold War  
   Readings: Merrill, 470-472, 503-516; 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.

**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 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.
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.