History 434
America and the World since 1902
(4 credits for all students)

Professor Jeremi Suri
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Office: 5119 Humanities
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Teaching Assistants:
(608) 263-1852
Office hours:
Mondays 10:AM – Noon
or by appointment

Spring 2005
Lectures: MWF 8:50-9:40 AM – 2650 Humanities
Teaching Assistants:
Scott Burkhardt
Michel Hogue
Thomas Robertson

Discussion 301: W 9:55 to 10:45am – 2231 Humanities
Discussion 302: W 11:00 to 11:50am – 2221 Humanities
Discussion 303: W 1:20 to 2:10pm – 2221 Humanities
Discussion 304: W 2:25 to 3:15pm – B203 Van Vleck
Discussion 305: W 12:05 to 12:55pm – 2211 Humanities
Discussion 306: R 3:30 to 4:20pm – 2231 Humanities
Discussion 307: R 4:35 to 5:25pm – 2611 Humanities
Discussion 308: R 8:50 to 9:40am – 2611 Humanities
Discussion 309: R 9:55 to 10:45am – 2231 Humanities
Discussion 310: M 2:25 to 3:15pm – 2637 Humanities
Discussion 311: M 3:30 to 4:20pm – 2625 Humanities
Discussion 312: M 4:35 to 5:25pm – 2625 Humanities
Course Aims

This is a history course designed to enrich our understanding of America’s place in the world since the beginning of the twentieth century. The class follows upon History 433 – American Foreign Relations before the Twentieth Century. Lectures, discussions, and readings will start with the aftermath of the war of 1898 and close with the war against terrorism at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

We will define “foreign relations” broadly to explore the ways in which interactions with peoples and places identified as “foreign” transformed the nature of American society. The course will touch on issues of national power, territorial acquisition, market penetration, warfare, racial subjugation, class conflict, and gender subordination. We will study how America’s foreign relations helped determine what it means to be “American.” Situating the history of the United States in an international context we will learn how American debates about identity and power reflected and influenced events in distant venues.

This course will also highlight how contemporary assumptions about American society and foreign policy build, for better and for worse, on the past. The history of American foreign relations matters because we live with its consequences every day – at home and abroad. Lectures, readings, and discussions this semester will highlight important historical “legacies.”
**Lecture Attendance**

The course will meet three times per week for lectures by the professor. These lectures will complement the readings, but they will also present empirical material and interpretive perspectives not available elsewhere. **Students are required to attend all lectures.** The professor will monitor each student’s attendance. Unexcused absence from lecture will adversely affect the student’s grade.

**Weekly Discussion Sections**

All students are required to attend weekly discussion sections. Students must complete the assigned readings through the meeting date, **before discussion begins.** The teaching assistants will lead the discussions, with the exception of the honors section (Discussion 301) that the professor will lead. The professor will also participate in other sections on occasion. We expect all students to attend the weekly sections prepared for a serious and wide-ranging conversation about the issues raised in the assigned readings and the class lectures. Students are encouraged to think creatively and voice individual opinions. We will not look for “right” answers, as much as thoughtful comments. Informed and active participation in discussions should allow each student to receive full credit for this 20% of the course grade.
**Book Review Assignment**

All students will write a 6 to 7 page book review of John Milton Cooper, Jr.’s text: *The Warrior and the Priest: Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt*. **A printed copy of each student book review is due at the start of lecture (8:50am) on Monday, February 21.** The book review will constitute 20% of the student grade.

Book reviews should follow this form:

Page 1: Begin your book review with a thesis paragraph that outlines your critique of the book and your assessment of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson;

Pages 1-2: summarize Cooper’s main arguments about Theodore Roosevelt’s approach to foreign policy – how did his views and actions change over time?;

Pages 2-3: summarize Cooper’s main arguments about Woodrow Wilson’s approach to foreign policy – how did his views and actions change over time?;

Pages 4-5: assess the importance of ideas in the making of foreign policy during the period covered by Cooper’s book – which ideas mattered? How did they matter?;

Pages 5-6: critique the strengths and weaknesses of Cooper’s book – which parts of the book do you find most and least persuasive? How good is Cooper’s evidence? Which issues does he neglect?;

Pages 6-7: offer your own judgment on Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson – which man made better foreign policy in his time?

We expect these papers to reflect polished writing. You should proofread them before submission! Make sure that each paragraph contains a topic sentence and offers evidence to support your point. Make sure that each sentence is clear and facilitates the purpose of the paragraph where it is situated. Avoid passive constructions, clichés, and sloppy sentences. Choose your words carefully. Check your grammar.
Mid-term Examination

On Monday, March 14 the professor will distribute two mid-term essay questions in class. Students should write a 1000 word answer to each of the two questions. The essays should make use of material from assigned readings, class lectures, and weekly discussions. Students may consult books and discuss their answers with one another. Each essay, however, should reflect the original writing of each student. Students should proofread their essays for clarity, substance, and style (grammatical mistakes, passive voice, and sloppy writing will incur grade deductions.) The mid-term essays are due at the start of lecture (8:50am) on Wednesday, March 16. Students should print their essays and bring them to class. We will not accept late submissions. The mid-term essays will account for 25% of the student grade.

Final Examination

The course will conclude with a take-home final examination. It will cover material from the entire semester. The professor will distribute the final examination questions at the end of class on May 6. Students must print and submit their final examination answers by Noon on May 11 in 5119 Humanities Building. I will not accept late submissions. The final examination will account for 35% of each student’s grade.

Grades

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Review:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Mid-term Examination:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Examination:</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Weekly Discussions:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Assigned Books**

Available in new and used editions at the University Bookstore


Week 1:
1/19 Introduction

1/21 America’s Emergence as a Global Military Power

Week 2:
1/24 The Open Door and American Imperialism
Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 18-57;
Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 3-37.

1/26 The Limits of American Imperialism at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century

1/28 The Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt

Week 3:
1/31 Ideals, Interests, and Culture
Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 58-89;
Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 38-62.

2/2 America and the World at a Crossroad
Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, 137-221.

2/4 President Wilson Before World War I
Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, 225-87.

Week 4:
2/7 The Origins of World War I
Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 63-107.

2/9 America’s Entry into World War I
Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, 288-323.

2/11 Fighting World War I

Week 5:
2/14 Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles
Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, 324-61.

2/16 Wilson versus Lenin

2/18 The Myth of American Isolation in the 1920s
Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 108-60.

**Week 6:**
2/21 The American Military Between the Wars  
**Book reviews due at 8:50am in lecture**

2/23 The Great Depression and the Great Powers  

2/25 The United States and the Coming of World War II  
Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 202-34.

**Week 7:**
2/28 Fighting World War II  

3/2 Great Power Diplomacy during World War II and the Origins of the Cold War  

3/4 The Atomic Revolution and the Origins of the Cold War  

**Week 8:**
3/7 American Omnipotence and the Origins of the Cold War  

3/9 The International System and the Origins of the Cold War

3/11 George F. Kennan and the American Doctrine of Containment  

**Week 9:**
3/14 Review for mid-term examination  
**Take-home mid-term examination questions distributed at the end of lecture**

3/16 The American Occupation of Japan  
**Mid-term examination essays due at 8:50am in lecture**

3/18 The Division of the Two Germanys
Week 10:
3/21 Spring Break
3/23 Spring Break
3/25 Spring Break

Week 11:
3/28 The Chinese Communist Revolution and the Korean War
3/30 Eisenhower and the “New Look”
4/1 Kennedy and “Flexible Response”

Week 12:
4/4 Kennedy and the “New Frontier”
4/6 Decolonization, Nationalism, and Cold War Dissent
4/8 America and the Vietnam Wars

Week 13:
4/11 The American Failure in Vietnam
   Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 441-77;
4/13 The Global Disruption of 1968 and the Revolt against Cold War Politics
4/15 Nixon, Kissinger, and Détente
Week 14:
4/18 The Limits of Détente: Human Rights

4/20 The Limits of Détente: The Iranian Revolution and the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

4/22 Ronald Reagan and the “New Cold War”

Week 15:
4/25 Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of Communism

4/27 Globalization and the Post-Cold War Landscape
   Reading: Bacevich, *American Empire*, chapters 1-3;

4/29 Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and “the Coming Anarchy”

Week 16:
5/2 The Rise of Global Terrorism

5/4 The United States, the “War on Terrorism,” and Future Prospects

5/6 Review for final examination
   Take-home final examination questions distributed at the end of lecture

Take-home final examinations are due by Noon on Wednesday, May 11.
Submit them in Professor Suri’s Office – 5119 Humanities.
We will not accept late exams, no exceptions!