

History 433

American Foreign Relations Before the Twentieth Century

Fall 2002
Professor Jeremi Suri
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Office hours: M 1-3 PM, or by appointment

Lectures: MWF 9:55-10:45 AM – 1641 Humanities
Discussion 301: W 12:05-12:55 – 2637 Humanities
Discussion 302: W 2:25-3:15 – 2653 Humanities
Discussion 303: R 9:55-10:45 AM – 6304 Soc Sci
Discussion 304: R 11:AM-11:50 – 2239 Engr Hall

Teaching Assistant: Hiroshi Kitamura

All undergraduates must take this course for 4 credits.

Course Aims

This is a history course designed to enrich our understanding of America's place in the world since the years before the American Revolution. The course will end at the dawn of the twentieth century. Next semester's continuation (History 434) will take our story through the twentieth century and up to the present.

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 or 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."

Weekly Discussion Meetings

All students are required to attend weekly discussion meetings. Students must complete the assigned readings through the meeting date, **before discussion begins**. The teaching assistant – Hiroshi Kitamura – will lead the discussions. I will also participate in discussions on occasion. We expect all students to attend the weekly meetings 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 5 to 6 page book review of Lawrence Kaplan's book: *Alexander Hamilton: Ambivalent Anglophile*. **A printed copy of each student book review is due at the start of class on Friday, October 11**. The book review will constitute 20% of the student grade.

Book reviews should follow this form:

Pages 1-2: summarize Kaplan's main arguments about Hamilton's approach to foreign policy – how did Hamilton's views and actions change over time?

Pages 2-3: discuss the policy differences between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson – what were their main points of disagreement? What were the consequences of their debate for early American foreign relations?

Pages 3-4: evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Kaplan's book – what did you find most and least persuasive?

Pages 4-6: provide your own judgment on Hamilton. How did his policies contribute to the realization of a Federalist vision for the United States? Did his ideas and actions contribute to the long-term strength of the United States? Did Hamilton betray the nation's "republican" ideals? What role did democracy play in Hamilton's worldview?

I 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 Wednesday, October 23 I will distribute two mid-term essay questions in class. Students should write a 1000 to 1200 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 9:55 AM (in class) on Friday, October 25. Students should print their essays and bring them to class. I 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. More details will follow later in the semester. The final examination will account for 35% of each student's grade.

Grades

Book Review: 20%
Mid-term Examination: 25%
Final Examination: 35%
Participation in Weekly Discussions: 20%

Assigned Books

Available in new and used editions at the **University Bookstore**

Cohen, Warren I. *America's Response to China*, fourth edition
(New York: Columbia University Press, 2000).

Dull, Jonathan. *A Diplomatic History of the American Revolution*
(New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987).

Ferrer, Ada. *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution 1868-1898*
(Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Kaplan, Lawrence S. *Alexander Hamilton: Ambivalent Anglophile*
(Wilmington, Del.: SR Books, 2002).

LaFeber, Walter. *The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion*
(Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Perkins, Bradford. *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations, Volume 1:*
"The Creation of a Republican Empire, 1776-1865"
(New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993).

Weigley, Russell F. *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy* (New York: Macmillan, 1978).

Week 1:

9/4 Introduction

9/6 Myths and Hypotheses about American Diplomacy

Week 2:

9/9 The Origins of American Diplomacy: The International System in the 18th Century

Reading: Dull, *A Diplomatic History of the American Revolution*, 3-72.

9/11 The Origins of American Diplomacy: Ideas and Interests

Reading: Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 1-16;
Kaplan, *Alexander Hamilton*, 1-22.

9/13 The Origins of American Diplomacy: African Slavery and Native Americans

Week 3:

9/16 Yom Kippur – NO CLASS

9/18 The Diplomacy of the American Revolution, Part I

Reading: Dull, *A Diplomatic History of the American Revolution*, 75-174

9/20 The Diplomacy of the American Revolution, Part II

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, xvii-xxiii, 3-39

Week 4:

9/23 The Constitution and Early Federalist Diplomacy

Reading: Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 17-110

9/25 Hamilton and the Constitution

Reading: Kaplan, *Alexander Hamilton*, 47-77.

9/27 Hamilton and Washington

Reading, Kaplan: *Alexander Hamilton*, 79-142.

Week 5:

9/30 Jefferson and Revolution

Kaplan, *Alexander Hamilton*, 143-65

10/2 Jefferson and Hamilton

Kaplan, *Alexander Hamilton*, 167-77

10/4 Jefferson and Hamilton's Legacy for American Diplomacy

Week 6:

10/7 The War of 1812

Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 111-46;

Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 40-55

10/9 The Monroe Doctrine

Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 147-69

10/11 The International System in the Early 19th Century

5-6 page book review of Lawrence Kaplan, *Alexander Hamilton: Ambivalent Anglophile* due at 9:55 (start of class).

Week 7:

10/14 Manifest Destiny and Nation Building

Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 59-91

10/16 Manifest Destiny and Race
Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 170-99

10/18 Manifest Destiny and Class

Week 8:

10/21 Manifest Destiny and Gender

10/23 Take-home mid-term examination distributed in class

10/25 Take-home mid-term examination due at 9:55 (start of class)

Week 9:

10/28 The Civil War, Part I
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 92-152

10/30 The Civil War, Part II
Reading: Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 205-29

11/1 The Civil War, Part III

Week 10:

11/4 America's Indian Diplomacy after the Civil War
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 153-63

11/6 America's "Second Industrial Revolution"
Reading: Perkins, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, 230-3
LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 1-24.

11/8 Commerce, Imperialism, and Diplomacy after 1865
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 150-96.

Week 11:

11/11 William Henry Seward and the "New Empire"
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 24-61

11/13 Josiah Strong and "America's Mission"
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 72-80

11/15 America and China: Early Relations
Reading: Cohen, *America's Response to China*, 1-25

Week 12:

11/18 America's Emergence as an East Asian power
Reading: Cohen, *America's Response to China*, 26-54

11/20 The Cuban Revolution
Reading: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 1-42, 93-111.

11/22 Frederick Jackson Turner and the "Closing of the American Frontier"
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 63-72

Week 13:

11/25 Alfred Thayer Mahan and America's Emergence as a Global Military Power
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 80-101, 197-283

11/27 Anglo-American Rapprochement

11/29 Thanksgiving Recess: NO CLASS

Week 14:

12/2 The War of 1898

Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 284-406

12/4 The Cuba and the War of 1898

Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 141-69

12/6 The Philippine War

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 167-91

Week 15:

12/9 The Legacy of the War of 1898

Reading: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 170-202

12/11 The Legacy of Early American Diplomacy for the Twentieth Century

12/13 Final Examination questions distributed

Warning: The readings for Week 15 will figure prominently on the final exam

Final Examination Answers due in Hard Copy

Wednesday, December 18 by 4:PM

5119 Humanities Building

I will not accept late exams.