

## History 433: American Foreign Relations before the Twentieth Century

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22 Ingraham  
Lectures: M, W, F, 12:05 - 12:55  
Office Hours: W, 1 - 3, by appt.

### Course Goals

This course will explore America's place in the world from before the American Revolution until the beginning of the twentieth century. The United States' encounters with people and places defined as "foreign" have affected profoundly American identity and development. Through a broad definition of "foreign relations," we will explore an array of events, places, and peoples to investigate how these international interactions have transformed both American and foreign societies. We will consider issues such as territorial expansion, warfare, market growth, racial and gender subjugation, nationalism, and identity formation. We will seek to better understand the nature of rising American power and how this power affected, and was affected by, distant lands and peoples. The legacies of these early international encounters continue to shape our daily lives - this course will consider how our current understandings and assumptions about America and the world are built upon the past.

The course will have two full lectures a week. Fridays will be a combination of lecture and discussion and we will focus on drawing connections between readings and lecture material. These discussions do not look for "right" answers, as much as thoughtful and informed comments. I encourage you to think broadly and creatively; historical study is driven forward by dialogue, debate, and discussion. Attendance and participation at all class sessions will be factored into your grade.

### Primary Document Analysis

Each student must write a 5 - 6 page analysis of any primary document relating to American foreign policy prior to 1820. This assignment is due on **Friday, October 7 at the beginning of class (12:05 pm)**. I will not accept late papers or email submissions. This assignment will constitute 20% of your grade.

You may choose a document because you find the document itself interesting, or because it discusses an event, issue, person, or topic that you would like to write about (i.e. Alexander Hamilton, relations with native peoples, the Louisiana Purchase). I encourage you to take a broad view of foreign relations in making your document selection. We will discuss where and how to find documents in class several weeks before the assignment is due. People are welcome to analyze the same document, but the final product **must be your own work**.

The goal of this assignment is to allow you to analyze closely a document or topic of interest and to familiarize you with the thinking and methods of historical research. Essentially, I want you to make an argument about how your document helps us to better understand early American foreign policy. What key insights does it provide? Your paper should include a consideration of the following questions.

- Summarize the document briefly:
  - What does it say?
  - Who is the author of this document? Give some background on this person.
  - When was this document written? Place the document in a historical context: what events were going on at the time?
- Why was the document written? What do you think the author was trying to accomplish? Who is this document's intended audience?
- What attitudes or commonly accepted beliefs do you think went into the creation of this document? Does the author have any discernable biases? Does that affect the reliability or usefulness of this document?
- Analyze your document in the context of the course: what insights does this document offer into the main themes and events that we have covered? Does it make you look at the readings or lectures differently? Does it raise new questions? This section should be the majority of the paper.

You are welcome to use information contained in course readings and lectures to answer these questions. You may also have to do a small amount of outside research. You must cite all sources using footnotes, including quotes from the document itself, lectures, and course readings (proper citation format: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>). Your paper should be in 12 point font and double-spaced, with one inch margins. These papers should reflect careful, polished work. Make sure that each paragraph has a clear topic sentence and includes evidence to support your point. Spell-check and proofread your work before turning it in! Please attach a copy of your document to your finished paper.

### Midterm Examination

The midterm will be a take-home exam that consists of short answer questions and an essay. I will distribute the questions at the end of class on Wednesday, October 26. The exam will be based on materials from reading and class lectures – no outside reading will be required. I encourage you to discuss the questions with each other but **your final product must be your own original work**. Proofread your work before turning it in – each answer must demonstrate careful thinking and clear, concise writing. Your essay response should have a thesis/argument that you support with evidence in each of your body paragraphs. The midterm is due at the start of class on **Friday, October 28 at 12:05 pm**. I will not accept late papers or email submissions. The midterm will count for 25% of the final grade.

### Final Examination

The final exam will cover material from the entire semester in the form of a take-home exam. I will distribute the final exam questions on the last day of class, Wednesday, December 14. The final exam will be due in my office on **Monday, December 19 by 12 pm**. The final exam will count for 35% of the final grade.

### Grading

Document Analysis:	20%
Midterm Examination:	25%
Final Examination:	35%
Attendance/Participation:	20%

## Readings

All books, except Walter McDougall, are available in both used and new editions at the **University Bookstore**. McDougall will not be available until the end of September and I recommend purchasing it online before that point. I also have placed all of the books on reserve at Helen C. White. You must complete all reading by the day it is listed on the syllabus.

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

Jonathan Dull, *A Diplomatic History of the American Revolution*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985).

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

Michael H. Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987).

Walter LaFeber, *The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion, 1860 - 1898*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Walter A. McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State: The American Encounter with the World Since 1776* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997) [First chapter on electronic reserve - accessible through myUW].

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

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

### Week 1:

9/2 Introduction: Myths and Hypotheses about American Foreign Policy

### Week 2: Contexts

9/5 Labor Day - No Class

9/7 Eighteenth Century America: At Home and Around the World

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

9/9 Discussion: Ideas and Ideologies in American Foreign Policy

Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 11 - 18

McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State*, 15 - 38

### Week 3: The American Revolution

9/12 The Diplomacy of the American Revolution: Wartime Diplomacy

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

9/14 The Diplomacy of the American Revolution: the Peace of 1783

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

9/16 No Class

### Week 4: Federalist Diplomacy

9/19 Early Federalist Diplomacy: the 1780s and 1790s

Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 19 - 28

9/21 Washington's Farewell Address

Reading: McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State*, 39 - 56

9/23 Discussion: Establishing the United States

In-class discussion of Document Analysis

### Week 5: Thomas Jefferson

9/26 Jefferson and Revolution

Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 92 - 102

9/28 Jefferson, Expansion, and Geopolitics

9/30 Discussion: Jefferson

Week 6: Becoming a Hemispheric Power?

10/3 The War of 1812

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

10/5 The International System in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the Monroe Doctrine

Reading: McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State*, 57 - 75

10/7 Discussion: The Nature of American Power

**5 - 6 page Document Analysis due at the start of class.**

Week 7: Manifest Destiny

10/10 Manifest Destiny: Ideologies

Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 29 - 36, 46 - 58

McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State*, 76 - 98

10/12 Manifest Destiny: Territorial Annexation and the War with Mexico

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 59 - 76

10/14 Discussion: Manifest Destiny - why?

Week 8: The Civil War

10/17 Civil War Diplomacy (I)

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 92 - 127

10/19 Civil War Diplomacy (II)

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 128 - 152

10/21 Discussion: Civil War Diplomacy

Week 9: Civil War Legacies

10/24 The Legacies of the Civil War

10/26 Midterm Review

Midterm questions distributed at the end of class

10/28 America and the World after the Civil War  
**Midterm due at the beginning of class.**

Week 10: Postbellum Frontiers

10/31 Domestic Frontiers: Diplomacy and the "Indian Wars"  
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 153 - 163

11/2 International Frontiers: William Henry Seward and the "New Empire"  
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 1 - 61, 150 - 196

11/4 Discussion: Frontiers

Week 11: The United States and East Asia

11/7 Early Relations between America and China  
Reading: Cohen, *America's Response to China*, 1 - 25

11/9 America as an East Asian Power  
Reading: Cohen, *America's Response to China*, 26 - 54

11/11 Discussion: Looking across the Pacific  
Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 69 - 77

Week 12: Ideologies of Expansion

11/14 Frontiers: Old and New  
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 62 - 80

11/16 America as an Emerging Military Power: Alfred Thayer Mahan  
Reading: LaFeber: *The New Empire*, 80 - 101,

11/18 Discussion: Expansion  
Reading: LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 197 - 283

Week 13: Looking South

11/21 Latin American Contexts: Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela  
Reading: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 1 - 42, 93 - 111

11/23 Imperialism and the War of 1898  
Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 36 - 45  
McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State*, 101 - 121

11/25 Thanksgiving Recess - No Class

Week 14: The War of 1898

11/28 Gender, Race, and the War of 1898

Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 58 - 67, 77 - 91  
Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 141 - 169

11/30 Cuba and the War of 1898

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

12/2 Discussion: The hows and whys of 1898

Week 15: What Next?

12/5 War in the Philippines

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 167 - 191

12/7 What did 1898 mean?

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

12/9 Discussion: Where do we go from here?

Reading: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 106 - 124  
Cohen: *America's Response to China*, 55 - 81

Week 16:

12/12 Final Review

12/14 Final Exam distributed

**Final Exam due in hard copy.**

**Monday, December 19 by 12 pm.**

**I will not accept late exams.**