

History 434
America and the World since 1902

(4 credits for all students)

Professor Jeremi Suri	Spring 2005
University of Wisconsin-Madison	Lectures: MWF 8:50-9:40 AM – 2650 Humanities
Office: 5119 Humanities	
suri@wisc.edu	Teaching Assistants:
(608) 263-1852	Scott Burkhardt
Office hours:	Michel Hogue
Mondays 10:AM – Noon	Thomas Robertson
or by appointment	

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

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

Bacevich, Andrew J. *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S.*

Diplomacy (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2002). Paperback.

Cooper, John Milton, Jr. *The Warrior and the Priest: Woodrow Wilson and Theodore*

Roosevelt (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1983). Paperback.

Gaddis, John Lewis. *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of Postwar*

American National Security Policy (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982). Paperback.

Rosenberg, Emily S. *Spreading the American Dream* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1982). Paperback.

Suri, Jeremi. *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente*

(Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003). Paperback.

Weigley, Russell F. *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military*

Strategy and Policy (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1977, originally published by Macmillan in 1973). Paperback.

Williams, William Appleman. *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*

(New York: W.W. Norton, 1972, originally published in 1959). Paperback.

Week 1:

1/19 Introduction

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

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

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

Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, preface, 1-62.

1/28 The Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt

Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, 69-136.

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

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 192-222.

Week 5:

2/14 Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles

Reading: Cooper, *The Warrior and the Priest*, 324-61.

2/16 Wilson versus Lenin

Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 90-161.

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
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 223-65.
Book reviews due at 8:50am in lecture
- 2/23 The Great Depression and the Great Powers
Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 162-201;
Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 161-201.
- 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
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 269-359.
- 3/2 Great Power Diplomacy during World War II and the Origins of the Cold War
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 3-24.
- 3/4 The Atomic Revolution and the Origins of the Cold War
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 363-81.

Week 8:

- 3/7 American Omnipotence and the Origins of the Cold War
Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 202-75.
- 3/9 The International System and the Origins of the Cold War
- 3/11 George F. Kennan and the American Doctrine of Containment
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 25-88.

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
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 89-126.

3/30 Eisenhower and the “New Look”
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 127-97.

4/1 Kennedy and “Flexible Response”
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 198-273.

Week 12:

4/4 Kennedy and the “New Frontier”
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 7-43.

4/6 Decolonization, Nationalism, and Cold War Dissent
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 44-130.

4/8 America and the Vietnam Wars
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 131-63.

Week 13:

4/11 The American Failure in Vietnam
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 441-77;
Williams, *The Tragedy of American Empire*, 306-12.

4/13 The Global Disruption of 1968 and the Revolt against Cold War Politics
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 164-212.

4/15 Nixon, Kissinger, and Détente
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 213-59.

Week 14:

- 4/18 The Limits of Détente: Human Rights
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 274-344.
- 4/20 The Limits of Détente: The Iranian Revolution and the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 345-57.
- 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;
Suri, *Power and Protest*, 260-65.
- 4/29 Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and “the Coming Anarchy”
Reading: Bacevich, *American Empire*, chapters 4-7.

Week 16:

- 5/2 The Rise of Global Terrorism
Reading: Bacevich, *American Empire*, chapters 8-9.
- 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!**