

HISTORY 434:

AMERICA AND THE WORLD SINCE 1898
SPRING 2016



Instructor: David Fields

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Office: Humanities 4271

Office Hours: M 1:00–3:00 pm (See below for instructions)

Lecture: M W F 12:05–12:55 Humanities 1217

Course Description

Evil empire or global force for good? Bumbling giant or canny manipulator? From the occupations of Cuba and the Philippines to the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, American foreign policy during the 20th Century was as consequential as it was controversial. This course will survey the issues and questions that united and divided Americans over their nation's foreign policy and divided peoples across the globe in their opinions of the United States. Is the United States an empire? Is international cooperation or unilateral action more effective as a foreign policy? When is intervening in the affairs of a sovereign state justified, if ever? Should democracy be promoted under all circumstances? This course will address these and many other questions and expect students to develop their own answers and construct their own narrative of the history of American foreign relations. This task requires that students read critically, think analytically, and engage each other in thoughtful and respectful debate. Only in community can we gain the perspectives necessary for a critical understanding of American history. By the end of this course students are not expected to have reached the same conclusions or to have developed a “correct” narrative, but they should be able to offer insightful explanations of the history of American foreign relations and a sophisticated understanding of its current state.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all course meetings as indicated in the syllabus. Please arrive on time for all course meetings and be prepared to fully participate. Failure to do so will be damaging to your participation grade, but more importantly it will sap the potential of this course to be an intellectually engaging experience for you and others.

Office Hours

I will hold in-person office hours on Monday from 1-3pm. Please sign-up for office hours at <https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/> prior to the beginning of lecture on Mondays. Alternatively, you can use the QR code to the right. If I have no appointments by the beginning of lecture, I may not be in my office. If this time slot does not work for you, please contact me and we can make other arrangements.



Participation

Your participation is an important part of this course and is essential to creating the communal learning environment we are seeking. Participation in lecture means active listening, note taking, and refraining from activities that are likely to distract you and students around you, such as doing anything on your computer apart from note taking. Participation also means coming to class having fully read the material and prepared to engage with your classmates and instructor. To that end you are required to write weekly postings and take weekly reading quizzes.

Weekly Posting (every Thursday)

Starting with week two, you will be expected to post **two analytical questions** (2-3 sentences each) to the course's online discussion board by 11:59pm **each Thursday**. These questions may draw on material covered in lecture, but must also incorporate the readings assigned in the syllabus. Use these questions to demonstrate your critical thinking and to show that you are engaging with the course readings. These questions serve as an evaluation tool, making sure that you are engaging with the readings, and also as a platform for you to present your own concerns and areas of interest. You are encouraged to read and comment on each other's questions, thus beginning a conversation before class. **This assignment may be modified on a weekly basis at the discretion of the instructor.**

Weekly Reading Quiz (every Wednesday)

Prior to lecture **each Wednesday**, all students will be required to complete an online reading quiz through this course's Learn@UW homepage. These quizzes will have a strictly enforced **3-minute** time limit and will be designed to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading. If you have done the reading, these quizzes will be very easy.

Book Review Assignment

All students will write a 5–6 page book review of Dawley's *Changing the World*. Your reviews must be **uploaded to the course dropbox as MS Word files by 11:00 am on Day 14**.

The book review should follow the following form:

Page 1: Begin your review with a paragraph that summarizes your assessment of the book and of Dawley's arguments. The final line of this paragraph should contain your thesis statement.

Pages 1–2: Summarize Dawley's key arguments about the nature of the Progressive movement. What were its successes? What were its failures?

Pages 2–3: Summarize 1 or 2 historical examples that Dawley uses to support his position that you find most convincing.

Pages 3–4: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Dawley's book. Which parts were most and least persuasive? Assess the evidence he uses and what he leaves out.

Pages: 4–6: Offer your own overall assessment of the book. Does this book change our understanding of the Progressive movement? If yes, explain how. If no, what would have made his arguments more compelling?

Midterm

The midterm exam will be a take-home exam distributed on Day 21 at the end of lecture and **must be uploaded to the course dropbox as MS Word files by 11:00 am on Day 22. Late submissions will not be accepted.** The exam will consist of one broad interpretive question that covers course material up to that point. Your answers should be 1200 words (4–5 pages, 12 pt. font). Along with the question will be a list of terms, ideas, authors, etc. that **must** be included in your answer. You are encouraged to discuss the question together and to brainstorm possible answers, but your submitted answer must be solely your own. You will be strictly held to the university's policies regarding plagiarism and academic misconduct, which can be found at <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>.

Final

The final exam will be a take-home exam and will be distributed on the last day of class at the end of lecture and must be uploaded to the **course dropbox as MS Word files by 4:45 pm, Tuesday 10 May (our scheduled final exam time).** Late submissions will not be accepted. The exam will consist of two questions: one that covers course material between the midterm and the end of the semester and one that asks a broad interpretative question about the entire course. Each of your answers should be 1000 words (4 pages, 12 pt. font). Along with the questions will be a list of terms, ideas, authors, etc. that **must** be included in your answers. As with the midterm, you are encouraged to discuss the questions together and to brainstorm possible answers, but your submitted answer must be solely your own. You will be strictly held to the university's policies regarding plagiarism and academic misconduct, which can be found at <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>.

Grading Breakdown

Book Review	15%
Participation	25%
Midterm	25%
Final	35%

Required Texts

Dawley, Alan. *Changing the World: American Progressives in War and Revolution*. (Princeton N.J. Princeton University Press, 2003).

Williams, William Appleman. *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (50th Anniversary Edition). (New York: W.W. Norton, 2009). Paperback.

Cobbs Hoffman, Elizabeth. *American Umpire*. (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2013).

Gaddis, John Lewis. *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War*, Revised and Expanded Edition. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005). Paperback.

Lederer, William J., and Eugene Burdick. *The Ugly American*. New York: Norton, 1999.

Wright, Lawrence. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*. (New York: Knopf, 2006).

Course Schedule

Week 1

Day 1 (1/20): Major Themes

Day 2 (1/22): American Power and Vulnerabilities

Readings: Williams, Intro and Ch. 1

Practice Reading Quiz and Weekly Posting to be completed before lecture

Week 2

Day 3 (1/25): Spanish American War

Readings: Williams, Ch. 2 & 3

Day 4 (1/27): The Open Door in Asia

Readings: Hoffman, Intro

Day 5 (1/29): Discussion

Readings: Hoffman, Ch. 5

Week 3

Day 6 (2/1): Theodore Roosevelt and the International Balance of Power

Readings: Hoffman, Ch. 6

Day 7 (2/3): William Howard Taft and Dollar Diplomacy

Readings: Dawley, Intro & Ch. 1

Day 8 (2/5): Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom

Readings: Dawley, Ch. 2 & 3

Week 4

Day 9 (2/8): The Origins of WWI

Readings: Dawley, Ch. 4

Day 10 (2/10): The US and World War I

Readings: Dawley, Ch. 5

Day 11 (2/12): Discussion

Readings: Dawley, Ch. 6 & 7

Week 5

Day 12 (2/15): The Fighting of World War I

Readings: Dawley, Ch. 8

Day 13 (2/17): The Versailles Treaty

Readings: Dawley, Ch. 9 & Conclusion & Epilogue

Day 14 (2/19): The Myth of American Isolationism

Readings: Williams, Ch. 4

BOOK REVIEW UPLOADED TO COURSE DROP BOX BY 11:00 AM

Week 6

Day 15 (2/22): Fascism and the New Deal (compared)

Readings: Williams, Ch. 5

Day 16 (2/24): Origins of WWII

Readings: Hoffman, Ch. 7

Day 17 (2/26): Discussion

Readings: Hoffman, Ch. 8

Week 7

Day 18 (2/29): The Diplomacy and Fighting of WWII

Readings: Hoffman, Ch. 9

Day 19 (3/2) With Friends like These (Alliance Politics in World War II)

Readings: Williams, Ch. 6

Day 20 (3/4): Atomic Revolution

Readings: Williams, Ch. 7 & 8

Week 8

Day 21 (3/7): REVIEW SESSION

Readings: Williams, Conclusion and Epilogue

****MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED AT END OF CLASS****

Day 22 (3/9): World War II Society

Readings: none

****MIDTERM UPLOADED TO COURSE DROP BOX BY 11:00 AM****

Day 23 (3/11): Discussion (Athán Biss)

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 1

Week 9

Day 24 (3/14): Occupation of Japan

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 2

Day 25 (3/16): Occupation of Europe

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 3

Day 26 (3/18): The Doctrine of Containment

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 4

Week 10

Spring Break

Week 11

Day 27 (3/28) Who Lost China?

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 5

Day 28 (3/30): The Korean War

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 6

Day 29 (4/1): Discussion

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 7

Week 12

Day 30 (4/4): Dilemmas of Decolonization

Readings: Lederer, 1–73

Day 31 (4/6): The Cold War in the Third World I

Readings: Lederer, 74–143

Day 32 (4/8): Cold War Society

Readings: Lederer, 144–204

Week 13

Day 33 (4/11): JFK and the New Frontier

Readings: Lederer, 205–71

Day 34 (4/13): The US and the Vietnam War

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 8

Day 35 (4/15): Discussion

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 9

Week 14

Day 36 (4/18): Global Revolutions of 1968

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 10

Day 37 (4/20): Politics and Diplomacy of Détente

Readings: Gaddis, Ch. 11–12

Day 38 (4/22) The Cold War in the Third World: II

Readings: Wright, Prologue – Ch. 2

Week 15

Day 39 (4/25): End of the Cold War

Readings: Wright, Ch. 3–5

Day 40 (4/27) The Unipolar Moment

Readings: Wright, Ch. 6–9

Day 41 (4/29): Discussion

Readings: Wright, Ch. 10–14

Week 16

Day 42 (5/2): The Global War on Terror

Readings: Wright, Ch. 15–17

Day 43 (5/4): The Rise of Regionalism

Readings: Wright, Ch. 18–20

Day 44 (5/6): REVIEW SESSION (FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED AT THE END OF CLASS)

Readings: Hoffman, Ch. 10 & Conclusion