

History 434:

American Foreign Relations since 1901

Online Summer 2016

Instructors

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Class Structure

Welcome to History 434: American Foreign Relations Online! This course examines the history of 20th century United States foreign relations through the lens of the concept of “empire.” We will explore various ways to understand and define what an empire is and what constitutes imperial actions, and how these terms relate to US foreign relations. By the end of the course you will be able to form your own narrative about US foreign relations through the 20th and into the 21st century. We will, of course, talk about a lot more than empire, but that will be the guiding theme of the course.

Logistics

As this is an all-online course, there are some simple logistical things that we need to cover first. There are 19 topics or modules (1 module per day) in the course over a 4 week period. Each topic contains audio lecture portions and a combination of reading and video activities. You should plan on taking at least 3 hours a day to study the materials in any given module as well as participate in discussion and work on graded assignments. You should consider these time obligations seriously before committing to this course.

This course relies heavily on technology. You will need to have a reliable computer and internet connection in order to access and use all the course materials. **If you have not done so yet, please watch the introductory video as well as the technology video outlining the technology in the course. This course is not in D2L (Learn@UW), but will be taught in UW-Madison’s new Learning Management System, Canvas. To Access the course go to wisc.instructure.com and log-in with your NetID.** If you run into any technical difficulties, please call, e-mail or chat with the UW-Madison Help Desk. ([Click here for a link explaining how to contact the Help Desk](#))

Groups

In an effort to help you navigate a fully online course, we have split the class into groups of 6-7. View the members of your group as your own personal learning cohort. You will work closely and extensively with your group members. They will be your first point of contact for questions, they will be the people with whom you discuss ideas from the course, and they will be the people who will play a critical role in how you perform in the course.

The final group assignment will be a peer assessment of your group members. Those who do not fully participate in and help their group will find that their learning experience, and consequently their grade, will suffer. In addition to your group assignments, your discussion grade in the course largely rests on your interactions with your peers. Each group will have its own discussion board (there will also be a class wide discussion board) as well as a web conferencing room (please watch the technology video if you haven't yet!). We highly encourage you to use google docs to work collaboratively on group assignments.

Grade Overview:

Module Reflections and Discussions	20%
Assignments	
Week One	5%
Week Two	15%
Week Three	20%
Week Four	10%
Final Essay	25%
Reading Quizzes	5%

NOTE: ALL COURSE MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE. NO TEXTBOOKS ARE NEEDED.

1. Module Reflections and Discussions

There will be five modules per week (one each day of class). Each week you will pick one module and post a reflection "paper" to your group's content discussion board each Wednesday by 11:59 PM CDT. (The first week you will choose from the first three modules, after that you will choose from Wednesday to Wednesday, i.e. you will have five modules to choose from starting Thursday after the reflection is due). The reflections must include at least 1) a paragraph summarizing the module's significance, 2) a paragraph on the connections you see between the module and previous modules, and 3) a paragraph with a question you had as a result of studying the module. **Please post your reflections to your group content discussion board.** By the end of the course you will have posted 4 reflection assignments.

Your discussion grade will largely stem from posting the reflection papers and interacting with your group on the discussion board. In your group board, please respond to each other's reflections, as well as post other thoughts and questions. When posting avoid thoughtless and/or trite responses. Try to incorporate at least two of the following:

- Compliment (e.g. "I like how...", "I like that...")
- Comment (e.g. "I agree that...because....," "I disagree that...because....")
- Connection (e.g. "I have also read/seen/heard/thought that...")
- Question (e.g. "I wonder why/how/who/what/when/where...")
- Evidence (e.g. post a quote from a reading or module and explain its relevance to the discussion...)

We, your instructors, will be active in your forums, helping answer questions, encourage discussion, etc. We expect you to interact daily with substantive comments on these group discussion boards.

The classwide logistics and administration forum will be where you will post any questions related to the logistics of the course, i.e. questions about assignments, technical issues, due dates, expectations etc. You can also contribute to general discussions about course material on the course wide content discussion forum.

Even though discussion will take place online, you are still expected to treat everyone with respect. Personal attacks of any nature will not be tolerated and could affect your standing in the class.

2. Assignments

All assignments and rubrics are under the "Assignments" tab.

Week One

This is a group assignment. Each student in the group needs to find one current op-ed piece (written in the last year in a major American news outlet) focused on foreign policy. As a group, read and discuss each op-ed piece and vote on which one most convincingly uses historical evidence to help its argument. Submit a brief explanation, no more than one page, why your group considers it a strong candidate.

Week Two

This is an individual assignment. Write a paper interpreting Filipino-American relations in the context of the theme of empire. In what ways was the American occupation of the Philippines

imperialistic? In what ways was it not? The paper should be 800-1000 words and reference lecture materials and readings.

Week Three

This is a group assignment. In your groups collaboratively write an Op-ed on any topic related to US foreign relations. Your topics can be historical (i.e. “The United States should apologize for Nagasaki) or contemporary (i.e. “The United States should establish a ‘no-fly zone’ in Syria.”) Whatever topic your group chooses, you should reference course materials (lectures and readings). This paper should be 600-800 words in length.

Week Four

This is an individual assignment. Each person will fill out a peer assessment of each member of the group and grade them on their contribution to the group. We will, as a class, collaboratively build the form and template for assessing your peers on the group discussion board under the forum labeled “Peer Assessment.”

Final Essay (due August 8 at 11:59PM CST)

This is an individual assignment. Write a 1200-word (strict-limit (_~,~_)) paper responding to the final exam question prompt. We will distribute the prompt the final Friday of the course, papers need to be submitted by the following Monday, August 8 at 11:59pm CDT.

3. *Reading Quizzes*

To ensure you are keeping pace in the course as well as to guide your reading, there will be daily reading quizzes. These quizzes will generally be 2–5 questions long. Reading quizzes have a **10 minute** time limit and close at **midnight** on the day they are assigned. Do not fall behind. While only 5% of your grade, reading quizzes will most likely be the difference between an A and a B in the course (or a B and a C).

Office Hours and Q&A Sessions

We will post individual office hours for each of us by Sunday night of that week. We will conduct our office hours in the Office Hours webconferencing space. While we encourage you to go to the office hours of the instructor who is overseeing your group, any student is welcome to any set of office hours. Instructors are also available by appointment.

We will conduct our first Q&A session on Friday, July 15 at 4:00pm CST in the Office Hours webconferencing space. We will be online to discuss the material from Week 1, your assignments, or any other aspects of the course. Based on the feedback we get from this first session, we will schedule more throughout the course if there is a demand.

Writing Assistance

Good writing is absolutely crucial to getting a good grade in this class. If you struggle with writing I advise you to talk to me and/or visit the writing center. The writing center has multiple locations and is a fantastic resource. For hours, locations and other information please see their website at www.wisc.edu/writing/.

Plagiarism

Rule of thumb: if you didn't write it, you need to cite it. If the idea is not yours, you should include a citation. If you have any questions, contact us. The consequences of plagiarism range from a poor grade to expulsion from class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

A module is divided into submodules, each of which has some combination of audio, media, and reading components which you will find located under the Modules tab. **All assignments, reflection essays, quizzes, and exams are due by 11:59pm on their due date.**

WEEK 1

7/11 Monday	Module 1: The U.S. Emerges as a Global Power
7/12 Tuesday	Module 2: The Open Door
7/13 Wednesday	Module 3: America's Entry into World War I <u>Reflection One Due.</u>
7/14 Thursday	Module 4: Woodrow Wilson and the Legacy of World War I
7/15 Friday	OFF <u>Assignment One Due.</u>

WEEK 2

7/18 Monday	Module 5: Isolationism and Empire
7/19 Tuesday	Module 6: Fascism, The New Deal, and the Origins of World War II
7/20 Wednesday	Module 7: World War II—Dilemmas of Policy & Strategy <u>Reflection Two Due.</u>
7/21 Thursday	Module 8: The American Occupations of Japan and Germany
7/22 Friday	Module 9: Cold War Origins—Fear and Containment

Assignment Two Due.

WEEK 3

7/25 Monday

Module 10: The Chinese Revolution

7/26 Tuesday

Module 11: The Korean War

7/27 Wednesday

Module 12: The U.S. and the Era of Decolonization

Reflection Three Due.

7/28 Thursday

Module 13: The Hot Cold War: Covert Action and the Third World

7/29 Friday

Module 14: Cold War Society

Assignment Three Due.

WEEK 4

8/1 Monday

Module 15: The Vietnam War

8/2 Tuesday

Module 16: The Global Disruption of 1968 and Détente

8/3 Wednesday

Module 17: The End of the Cold War

Reflection Four Due.

8/4 Thursday

Module 18: Globalization and the Unipolar World

8/5 Friday

Module 19: The Global War on Terror and the Rise of Regionalism

Assignment Four Due.

WEEK 5

8/8 Monday

Final Essay Due.