

Fall 2015

HIST 5581

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University of New Orleans

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HIST 5581
Fall 2015
LA 250, T Th 2 – 3:15 pm
Office: LA 159
gjbischo@uno.edu

Dr. Günter Bischof
Office hours: T Th 1 – 2 pm, 3:30-5

American Diplomatic History in the Twentieth Century

Graduate Section

Basic Themes and Objectives

This course will discuss the major trajectory and outline the crucial turning points of American foreign policy in the 20th century. It will also try to study the art of American diplomacy and compare it with European practices. The course will start with 1898 and the U.S.'s entering of the world arena and its rise as an imperial power. It will investigate the question whether, why and from what point in time onward the 20th century can be called the “**American Century**” and whether the projection of American power abroad took the form of empire building in the traditional European way. Major historiographical debates will be addressed as well in the course of the semester.

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend the class lectures regularly. Only one **unexcused absence** will be tolerated. All further classes absences need to be explained. NO explanation counts as an unexcused absence. After one unexcused absence, the student will be reported to the Dean's office. All assignment are to be handed in on time; no late papers will be accepted (except if student is sick and brings in a doctor's notice). Repeated absences and late paper will result in a drop(s) of the student's class grade.

Required Class Readings:

Michael H. Hunt. *The American Ascendancy: How the United States Gained & Wielded Global Dominance*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press 2007.

Jeffrey A. Engel – Mark Atwood Lawrence – Andrew Preston, eds. *America in the World: A History in Documents from the War with Spain to the War on Terror*. Princeton: Princeton University Press 2015.

Kristin L. Hoganson. *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press Pb., 1998

Samantha Power. *“A Problem from Hell”: America and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Basic Book Pb, 2007

Course Grade

| | | |
|---------------------|------|--|
| Midterm | 30 % | (basic facts from lectures and readings) |
| Papers | 50 % | (research, analysis, and basic writing skills) |
| Class Participation | 20 % | (based on class participation) |

Graduate Credit

Graduate students taking the class are required to make the written assignments longer and more exhaustive than undergraduates and consult additional sources. Additionally, they are expected to demonstrate a deeper understanding of historiographical debates in class discussions and their papers than undergraduates.

Graduate students will be required to attend two special lectures (Center Austria, National World War II Museum, World Affairs Council etc.) in the course of the semester and write a one-page summary paper on the talks.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm.

Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

Student Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Have a basic understanding of world political geography in the 20th century
- ◆ Understand and be able analyze the major turning points in American foreign policy in the 20th century within its global context
- ◆ Identify the major figures in American diplomacy
- ◆ Comprehend the basic decision-making process in American foreign policy
- ◆ Have a basic understanding of American diplomatic practice
- ◆ Critically discuss the changing position of America's place in the world
- ◆ Was there a "rise and fall of American empire" during the 20th century?
- ◆ Understand world empires from a comparative perspective

Weekly Course Assignments

The readings assigned for individual each class must be done before class; students must be able to summarize the major theses of each reading assignment; Hunt's textbook discusses American's trajectory in the 20th century world from continental power to global hegemony/empire. The documents in the Engel/Lawrence/Preston Reader will be discussed in detail.

Week I. Aug 20 Introduction of Class Proceedings and Core Themes

II. Aug 25 The Rise of American Empire – The War of 1898 and Its Consequences
READ: Hunt, ch. 1
Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 1

Aug 27 T.R. and His “Corollary” and Dollar Diplomacy
Readings: Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood* (entire)
READ: Hunt, ch. 2
Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 2

III. Sep 1 The Origins of World War I
READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 3

Sep 3 **NO CLASS!**

❖ **First Written Assignment Due (4 pp): Do you agree with Hoganson that the War of 1898 was about reasserting American manhood? Is gender a useful category in understanding U.S. foreign relations?**

IV. Sep 8 The Origins of American Involvement in World War I

Sep 10 Woodrow Wilson, the Struggle for a Liberal World Order, and
1920s American Diplomacy: Isolationism or Internationalism?
READ: Hunt, ch. 3
Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 4

V. Sep 15 The U.S. & Origins of WW II
READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 5

The Rise of American Globalism: The Advent of the American Century?
Readings: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 6
Henry Luce, “The American Century” (handout)

Sep 17 F.D. Roosevelt's Wartime Diplomacy: Planning for Peace
READ: Hunt, ch. 5
Henry Luce, “The American Century” (handout)

VI. Sep 22 The A-Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War
READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 7

- Sep. 24 The Cold War at Home: The Politics of Anti-Communism
- VII. Sep 29 The Advent of Public Diplomacy:
Cultural and Intellectual Cold Wars in Europe
- Oct 1 **NO CLASS!**
- VIII. Oct 6 The Cold War in Asia : The “Loss” of China; “Reverse Course” in Japan;
War in Korea
READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 8
- Oct. 8 **Midterm Examination**
- IX. Oct. 13 American Hegemony: Eisenhower and the Nuclear Arms Race
- Oct 15 **NO CLASS (Midsemester Break)**
- X. Oct 20 Kennedy’s Wars: Cold War in the Third World
READ: Hunt ch. 6
Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 9
- Oct 22 **SHOW DOCUMENTARY: *JFK Betrayed***
- XI. Oct 27 **Guest Lecture:** Dr. Jana Lipman (Tulane University)
Cold War Refugees: A History
- Oct. 29 Cold War in Latin America
READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 10
- XII. Nov. 3 Decolonization: The Vietnam War
READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 11
- Nov. 5 **SHOW DOCUMENTARY by Errol Morris (2003)**
***The Fog of War* [on McNamara and the Vietnam War]**
- 6 pm at NWWII Museum – required attendance of Windell Lecture
- Tara Zahra , PhD, University of Chicago
*Emigration, Ethnic Cleansing, or Humanitarianism:
The Campaign to Resettle Eastern European Jews in the 1930s*
- XIII. Nov 10 Case Study: Cold War Turning Point? The Crisis Year 1968 and the
Invasion of Czechoslovakia

Nov. 12 Nixon-Kissinger Diplomacy
 READ: Hunt, ch. 7
 Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 12

XIV. Nov. 17 **NO CLASS**

Nov. 19 American Malaise: Carter, Human Rights, and Islamic Fundamentalism

XV. Nov 24 Reagan's Foreign Policies

Nov. 26 **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)**

XVI. Dec. 1 Reagan/Bush and the End of the Cold War
 READ: Engel/Lawrence/Preston, ch. 13

Dec. 3 Post-Cold War Anarchy or New American Hegemony?
 Readings: Hunt, ch. 8 & Conclusion;
 Power, "*A Problem from Hell*", chs. 8-14
 Engel/Lawrence/Preston, chs. 14-15

❖ **Second Paper Due = Research Paper (12 pages):**

Is the Post-Cold War World a Post-American World? Is American Empire/Hegemony in Decline? How Has Terror Changed the American Presence in the world?