

# HIST 4328: Modern American Diplomatic History

MWF 10:10-11:05  
Arts and Sciences 00158

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Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00

## **Course Overview:**

This course covers United States foreign relations and the interactions between America and the world from 1895 to the present day. Special focus will be placed on domestic debates about America's role in the world, the varieties of grand strategies different US administrations have pursued, the influence of Congress and public opinion on foreign policy, and the roles of race, gender, and ideology in foreign affairs.

## **Grading:**

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Final Paper: 20%

Discussion Leading: 15%

Class Participation: 15%

**Exams:** There will be two in-class exams – a brief midterm exam right before Spring Break, and a longer final exam during exam week. These written blue-book exams will contain identifications, short answer questions, and an essay question. Exams will only cover material learned in class. Both exams are closed-book.

**Final Paper:** This will be a 10-page paper, due on the final day of class. Each student will choose a topic of interest to them involving US foreign relations and diplomacy, and produce a review of the scholarly literature on this topic. The paper must discuss and cite at least 10 books that have **NOT** been assigned for this class. In this paper, students will summarize the arguments presented in these books, identify themes in the scholarly literature, and offer their own original opinions on which arguments they find most – and least – compelling. Proof of plagiarism or the use of AI software on your paper will result in a grade of zero for this assignment.

**Discussion Leading:** There will be 12 discussion days on Fridays during the semester. For each discussion day, I have assigned excerpts from works on a certain topic. Each discussion will be led by one student. You will be graded on how well your discussion leading shows you understand the assigned material.

**Class Participation:** There are two components to this grade. First, your participation during our lecture classes. There will be brief primary sources assigned for most lecture classes. These readings relate to the lecture's topic. Please read these assigned readings before class. During the

lecture, I will call on students to comment on the primary source readings. Second, I will grade your participation on the class discussion days you are not the discussion leader. I expect all students to be prepared for each discussion and to contribute.

**Attendance:** For each unexcused absence, I will subtract 3 percentage points from your overall course grade. If you are unable to attend a class for a legitimate reason, please provide proof and confirmation for the reason you were unable to attend. You will incur no penalty for excused absences.

**Assigned Readings:**

You will purchase one textbook containing primary source documents and brief analytical essays. All other readings will be excerpts from books that you do not need to buy. I will post PDF files of these book excerpts on the course's Canvas page for you to download and read.

**Book to Buy:**

- Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Since 1914*, Seventh Edition

**Books Provided by Instructor:**

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*

Daniel Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire*

Alan McPherson, *The Invaded*

Michael Neiberg, *The Path to War*

Robert Hannigan, *The Great War and American Foreign Policy, 1914-1924*

Adam Tooze: *The Deluge*

Frank Costigliola, *Awkward Dominion*

Frank Costigliola, *Lost Alliances*

John Lewis Gaddis, *We Now Know*

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*

Melvyn Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*

Melvyn Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power*

Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History*

Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*

Thomas Borstelman, *The Cold War and the Color Line*

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*

Paul Chamberlain, *The Cold War's Killing Fields*

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War*

Michael Dobbs, *One Minute to Midnight*

John Prados, *Vietnam: The History of an Unwinnable War, 1945-1975*

Mark Atwood Lawrence, *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History*

Mary Elise Sarotte, *1989: The Struggle to Crean Post-Cold War Europe*

Mary Elise Sarotte: *Not One Inch: America, Russia, and the Making of Post-Cold War Stalemate*

Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War*

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*

Carter Malkasian, *The American War in Afghanistan*

**Course Schedule:**

01/17: American Grand Strategy

01/19: The Spanish-American War

01/22: The United States and Asia

01/24: The United States and Europe

01/26: **Discussion 1: American Empire**

- Hoganson: Introduction, Chapters 1, 4, 8, Conclusion
- Immerwahr: Introduction, Chapters 5, 14, Conclusion

01/29: The “Big Stick” and “Dollar Diplomacy”

01/31: Woodrow Wilson and American Occupations

02/02: **Discussion 2: Latin America**

- McPherson, Introduction, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, Conclusion
- Thomas O’Brien in *Major Problems*, pp. 102-109

02/05: The Powder Keg of Europe

02/07: America Enters the War (*Major Problems* 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8)

02.09: **Discussion 3: World War I**

- Neiberg: Introduction, Chapters 1, 6, Conclusion
- Hannigan, Chapters 3, 5, Conclusion
- Robert Tucker in *Major Problems*, pp. pp. 55-61

02/12: The Fragile 1920s

02/14: The Rise of Fascism (*Major Problems* 3.2, 3.4)

02/16: **Discussion 4: Interwar Diplomacy**

- Hannigan, Chapter 8
- Tooze: Chapters 21, 25, 26, Conclusion
- Costigliola, Introduction, Chapter 4
- Victoria de Grazia in *Major Problems*, pp. 94-102

02/19: US Entry into World War II (*Major Problems* 3.1, 3.2, 3.6)

02/21: Planning the Postwar World (*Major Problems* 5.3, 5.7)

02/23: **Discussion 5: World War II**

- Immerwahr: Chapter 11
- Costigliola: pp. 193-204, Chapter 6, Conclusion
- Warren Kimball in *Major Problems*, pp. pp. 166-176
- John Harper in *Major Problems*, pp.176-184

02/26: The Beginnings of the Cold War (*Major Problems* 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8)

02/28: “Who Lost China?” and the Korean War (*Major Problems* 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8)

03/01: **Discussion 6: The Early Cold War**

- Gaddis, *We Now Know*, Chapter 1
- Leffler, “Do We Now Know?”
- Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power*, Conclusion
- Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, Chapter 3

- Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, Chapter 1
- Westad, Chapter 1

03/04: Eisenhower's Total Cold War (*Major Problems* 8.2.8.5, 8.6, 8.8)

03/06: The Kennedy Years (*Major Problems* 9.3, 9.5, 9.8)

**03/08: MIDTERM EXAM**

03/11-03/15: Spring Break

03/18: Why Vietnam? (*Major Problems* 11.4, 11.5)

03.20: The Vietnam War (*Major Problems* 11.6, 11.7, 11.8)

**03/22: Discussion 7: Race and Gender in Foreign Policy**

- Dudziak: Introduction and Conclusion
- Borstelmann: Chapter 2
- Michael Krenn in *Major Problems*, pp. 17-20
- May: Introduction, Chapter 4
- Laura McEnaney in *Major Problems*, pp. 14-17
- Christina Klein in *Major Problems*, pp. 342-350

03/25: The Global Realignment of the 1970s (*Major Problems* 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.10)

03/27: America in the Middle East (*Major Problems* 9.4, 9.6, 12.7, 12.9)

**03/29: Discussion 8: The Third World**

- Chamberlain, Introduction, Chapters 8, 19, Conclusion
- Westad, *The Global Cold War*, Introduction Chapter 3, Conclusion
- Westad, *The Cold War*, Chapters 10, 11, 13
- Thomas Paterson in *Major Problems*, pp. 393-404
- Jeremi Suri in *Major Problems*, pp. 473-480
- Salim Yaquib in *Major Problems*, pp. 488-497

04/01: Reagan and the "Second Cold War"

04/03: How the Cold War Ended (*Major Problems* 13.4, 13.5)

**04/05: Discussion 9: The Cold War in Asia**

- Prados, pp. 62-83
- Lawrence, Chapters 5, 6
- Crean, Chapters 6, 8
- Chen Jian in *Major Problems*, pp. 264-268
- Thomas Christenson in *Major Problems*, pp. 268-274
- Randall B. Woods in *Major Problems*, pp. 430-439

04/08: Europe in the 1990s (*Major Problems* 13.8)

04/10: Russia under Putin

**04/12: Discussion 10: The Cold War's End**

- Westad, Chapter 20
- Sarotte, Chapter 1
- Crean, Chapter 9

04/15: The Afghanistan War (*Major Problems* 14.1, 14.3)

04/17: The Iraq War (*Major Problems* 14.4, 14.6)

04/19: **Discussion 11: The War on Terror**

- Filkins, Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 12
- Chandrasekaran, Chapters 2, 3, 10, 13
- Malkasian, Chapters 1, 21
- Odd Arne Westad in *Major Problems*, pp. 545-548
- John Lewis Gaddis in *Major Problems*, pp. 578-585
- George Herring in *Major Problems*, pp. 585-594

04/22: The Rise of the Global South

04/24: The Rise of China

04/26: **Discussion 12: The Post-Cold War World**

- Crean, Chapters 10, 11
- Sarotte, Introduction, Chapters 6, 8, Conclusion
- Michael Hunt in *Major Problems*, pp. 545-548

**FINAL EXAM: Day and Time TBD**