

PLS 350: US Diplomatic History / HIS350: US Diplomatic History

Spring Term: MW 15:30-16:45

Room: B 103

Instructor: Itsuki Kurashina

Office: C 3-8

Office Hour: T 10:30-12:00, 13:00-14:30

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Course Goals

This course has three primary goals:

1. Provide basic information about the US development to the only superpower in the current world.
2. Encourage students to consider current issues in historical contexts.
3. Improve students' ability to understand academic writings, to analyze these arguments, and to present their understanding in English.

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce the historical development of the US foreign relations since the end of the 19th century. We will explore this developing process in the contexts of international relations and domestic changes at political, economic, and social levels. This course also examines continuities and breaks in the US foreign policy, past and present.

Classroom Activities

This course is provided in a lecture style. Students are expected to understand basic information provided during lectures and to set it in frameworks presented in the two textbooks. They should show their ability to grasp information given in the lectures and express their understanding in written forms.

Prerequisite: None

Evaluation

Take-Home Examination 20%: Students have to answer to the question(s) from the instructor based on textbook explanations of US diplomatic history.

Response Paper 10%: Students should express their opinions and comments to the Special Lecture on June 2nd in a written form.

Review Paper 40%: Students are required to review a book or an article on particular issues of US diplomatic history. They will choose the book/article to be reviewed from "Further Reading" sections of the textbook.

Final Examination 30%: Students are expected to express their understanding of the textbooks based on the lectures in the form of a Take-Home examination.

Course Materials

Textbook: *American Foreign Relations: A History*, seventh edition, Volume 2, since 1895, by Thomas G. Paterson, J. Garry Clifford, Shane J. Maddock, Deborah Kisatsky, and Kenneth J. Hagan, Boston: Wardsworth, 2010

Reference Books: Students are able to use following books to deepen their understanding.

*George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, expanded edition, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984 (1951)

*William A. Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, new edition, New York: W. W. Norton, 1972 (1959)

*Emily S. Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945*, New York: Hill & Wang, 1982

*G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001

*Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2002*, updated ninth edition, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002 (1967)

*Michael J. Hogan & Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004

Course Schedule

APRIL

12th **Introduction**

14th **From Colonies to Independence**

Based on handouts distributed by the instructor

19th **“Isolationism” in the 19th Century**

Based on handouts distributed by the instructor

21st **Road to the War of 1898**

Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 1-16

26th **The Spanish-American-Cuban-Filipino War**

Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 16-29

28th **Theodore Roosevelt and Latin America**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 34-49

MAY

7th **Mexico and Asia in front of Woodrow Wilson**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 49-64

10th **US Participation to World War I**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 70-90

12th **Toward the post-WWI World**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 90-106

17th **Expansion and Depression**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 112-125

19th **US Policy against the Coming War**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 125-139

24th **US and Asian Crises**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 144-157

****Take-Home Examination is due on May 24th****

26th **Franklin Roosevelt and Latin American Neighbors**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 157-172

31st **US Participation to World War II**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 178-203

JUNE

2nd **Special Lecture by Prof. Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu (Michigan State U.)**

7th **Emerging Conflicts for the Postwar World**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 203-217

9th **Harry Truman and the Soviets**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 226-243

- 14th **Cold War in Europe**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 243-250
- 16th **Cold War in Asia**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 251-259
- 21st **Tensions and Stalemate in US-Soviet Relations**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 268-291
- 23th **Third World in the Cold War**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 292-310
- 28th **John F. Kennedy and the “New Frontier”**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 320-343
- 30th **Vietnam War**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 343-359

JULY

- 5th **Détente and the Vietnam War**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 368-394
- 7th **Lessons of Vietnam?**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 394-414

****Review Paper is due on July 7th****

- 12th **Ronald Reagan and US Revival**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 422-443
- 14th **US in the Post-Cold War Period**
Required Reading: *American Foreign Relations*, pp. 443-471
- 21st **Review**

****Final Take-Home Examination is due on July 21st****