



SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
Washington, D.C.



SIS-653-011: Continuity and Change in U.S. Foreign Policy

Spring 2012

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Office: SIS 307
Hours: Monday: 3:45-5:15 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:15-9:45 p.m., and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is intended to help you to:

- Understand broad historical trends and traditions in US foreign policy
- Acquire knowledge of key historical events
- Gain experience in the use of primary sources
- Improve analytical skills and the ability to conduct research
- Develop presentation skills

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of key events and trends in the history of US foreign relations
- The ability to work collaboratively on a common product
- Results of primary research presented appropriately
- Analytic skills applied in appraisals of existing scholarship

REQUIREMENTS: A take-home mid-term exam due on **March 5**, a paper due on **April 30**, a class presentation, and a memo summarizing the class presentation. The mid-term exam is worth 40% of your grade; the paper is worth 40%; the class presentation and the memo are each 10% .

- **Paper** (due on **April 30**): Evaluate the thesis implicit in Anna Kasten Nelson's *The Policy Makers* – that individual actors are the most important factor in a shaping policy – by examining the importance that one (1) of the seven officials analyzed in the book had with respect to the related policy. Your examination must make use of both primary and secondary sources, and make use of at least five (5) assigned authors and/or documents. The paper should be no longer than 3,000 words.
- **Presentation and memo:** Groups of four students will make 15-minute class presentations (and then lead a discussion) on one of the following questions on the specified dates below. Each student also will submit an individual memo (maximum 600 words) due by the next class after the presentation that addresses one aspect of the question. The memo must make use of at least four (4) assigned authors and/or documents.

February 6: Was the War of 1812 a “necessary” war?

February 13: Was the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine a continuation of “Manifest Destiny,” or did it establish a new pattern?

February 27: Did the invention and use of the atomic bomb fundamentally alter the global context for US foreign policy and thereby change the goals and nature of US foreign policy?

April 2: Did the Vietnam War end the American Century?

April 16: Did the United States win the Cold War?

April 23: Did 9/11 “change everything,” did it merely accelerate and/or provide the justification for the emergence of a new U.S. foreign policy pattern that was already developing, or was there almost no change in the pattern after 9/11? [**Note:** Students responsible for this topic have an extension until **May 7** for the Nelson paper.]

BOOKS

The following books have been ordered through the Campus Store:

- > Walter LaFeber, *The American Age: United States Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad, 1750 to the Present*, Second edition (1994); ISBN: 978-0-3939-64745
- > Anna Kasten Nelson, *The Policy Makers: Shaping American Foreign Policy from 1947 to the Present* (2009); ISBN: 978-0-742-550421
- > Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*, Concise Edition (2006); ISBN: 978-0-618-376391
- > Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War* (2007); ISBN: 978-0-521-703147

PAPER REQUIREMENTS: All papers must meet the following minimum standards:

- Papers must be printed in a font size no smaller than 10 pt. Papers may be printed on both back and front.
- There should be a title, your name and the date of submission. This should be at the top of the first page, or on a separate title page. Either form is acceptable.
- Each page, except the first, needs to be numbered. If you use a title page, it should not be counted toward page limits.
- Papers should have no grammatical or spelling errors. Take care to use semi-colons sparingly. You should be able to convey your ideas in simple sentences.
- References to authors must be cited using a standard citation method. See the *St. Martin's Handbook*, or a similar reference work for guidance. Either footnotes or endnotes are acceptable. When an author's work is paraphrased, credit must be given to the author, preferably in the body of your paper and in a footnote/endnote. Anything quoted must be indicated with quotation marks and a citation. A quote used without quotation marks is plagiarism, even if the author is cited.
- Do not use plastic covers or binders. A staple or binder clip at a corner of the paper is sufficient.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University's Academic Integrity Code. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code. Violations of the Academic Integrity Code will result in disciplinary actions. Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code, which is available at:
<<http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm>>.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR DISRUPTION OF CLASSES: In the event of an emergency, American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU e-mail and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence. Students are responsible for checking their AU e-mail regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of an emergency, students should refer to the AU Student Portal, the AU Web site (www.prepared.american.edu) and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean's office for course and school/ college-specific information.

DISABILITY SUPPORT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY: American University is committed to ensuring accessibility for all qualified students with disabilities to university programs and activities. In order to promote full participation on campus, one of two offices may be of assistance. The Academic Support Center (ASC) works with students with learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder. Disability Support Services (DSS) works with students with physical and psychological disabilities.

Reading Assignments

I. The First Century

January 23 [Introduction]

January 30 [Isolationism or Unilateralism: 1763-1803]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapter 1 and pp. 40-52

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations* [Note: in all cases, read the chapter introduction by the editors]

Chapter 1: Essays: McCormick, Iriye, McEnaney, Hunt, Leffler, Clifford

Chapter 2: Documents: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8; Essays: Kaplan, Onuf and Sadosky

Chapter 3: Documents: 1 and 3; Essay: Appleby

Westad, *Global Cold War*, pp. 8-16

Anna Kasten Nelson, "The Diplomacy of the Republic," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol 25, No. 3 (Winter 1995)

February 6 [1803-1898: Expanding the U.S. Horizon]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, pp. 52—67 and Chapters 3-6

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 4: Documents: 1-8; Essays: Wills, Watts

Chapter 5: Documents: 1,4-7; Essay: Weeks

Chapter 6: Documents: 3-8; Essays: Stephanson, Hietala

Michael Paul Rogin, "Liberal Society and the Indian Question," *Politics and Society*, vol 2 (May 1971)

II. The "American Century"

A. The Emergence of the "American Century"

February 13 [1898 - 1913: A Turning Point?]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapters 7 and 8

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 7: Documents: 4-9; Essays: LaFeber, Hoganson, Pérez

Chapter 8: Document: 1; Essay: Knock

Thomas G. Paterson, "United States Intervention in Cuba, 1898: Interpretations of the Spanish-American-Cuban-Filipino War," *The History Teacher*, vol 29, No. 3 (May 1966)

February 20 [Wilsonianism and the World Wars]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapters 9-12

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 8: Documents: 2, 4-7; Essays: Schulte-Nordholt, Smith

Chapter 9: Documents: 1,3, 4, 6-8; Essay: Weinberg, Russett

Westad, *Global Cold War*, pp. 16-21

B. The Cold War Begins

February 27 [From Allies to Rivals]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapters 13-14

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 10: Documents: 1, 2, 4, 5; Essays: Bernstein, Offner, Gaddis

Westad, *Global Cold War*, Chapter 2

Peter J. Kuznick, "The Decision to Risk the Future: Harry Truman, the Atomic Bomb and the Apocalyptic Narrative," *Japan Focus*, September, 2007

Vladislav Zubok, "Stalin's Plans and Russian Archives," *Diplomatic History*, vol 21, No. 2 (Spring 1997)

March 5 [Pax Americana, Containment, and NSC-68]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapter 15

Nelson, *The Policy Makers*, Chapter 1 (Reardon)

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 10: Documents: 5-7

X (George Kennan), "Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947

Westad, *Global Cold War*, Chapter 3

"NSC-68: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security," April 14, 1950

Anna Nelson, "The Evolution of the National Security State: Ubiquitous and Endless," in *The Long War: A New History of U.S. National Security Policy since World War II*, ed., A. J. Bacevich (2005)

Robert Griffith, "American Politics and the Origins of McCarthyism," in *The Specter: Original Essays on the Cold War and the Origins of McCarthyism*, eds., R. Griffith & A. Theoharis, (1974)

C. The Global Cold War

March 19 [The Arms Race, Europe, Asia, and the Third World]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapter 16

Nelson, *The Policy Makers*, Chapter 2 (Tudda)

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 11: Documents: 1- 4; Essays: Heiss, Hoffman

Chapter 15: Documents: 1-4

Westad, *Global Cold War*, pp. 21-32, Chapter 4, and pp. 158-170

Hal Brands, "Third World Politics in an Age of Global Turmoil: The Latin American Challenge to U.S. and Western Hegemony, 1965–1975," *Diplomatic History*, vol 32, No. 1 (January 2008)

March 26 [Cuban Missile Crisis]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, pp. 580-604

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 12: Documents: 1-8; Essays: Dallek, Paterson

Westad, *Global Cold War*, pp. 170-180

James G. Blight and Philip Brenner, *Sad and Luminous Days: Cuba's Struggle with the Superpowers after the Missile Crisis* (2002), chapter 1 ("The October Crisis")

Michael Dobbs, "Why We Should Still Study the Cuban Missile Crisis," US Institute of Peace, Special Report No. 205 (June 2008)

Piero Gleijeses, "Ships in the Night: The CIA, The White House, and the Bay of Pigs," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol 27, No. 1 (February, 1995)

April 2 [Vietnam Wars]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, pp. 604-654

Nelson, *The Policy Makers*, Chapter 3 (Gardner)

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 13: Documents: 1-9; Essays: Buzzanco, Logevall, Brigham

Westad, *Global Cold War*, pp. 180-194

Larry Berman and Stephen R. Routh, "Why the United States Fought in Vietnam," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2003

Hearts and Minds - Library Non-Print Media (DVD 395, VHS 32)

April 9 and 16 [From Détente to the End of the Cold War]

LaFeber, *The American Age*, pp. 654-674 and Chapter 19

Nelson, *The Policy Makers*, Chapters 4-6 (Nelson, Vaughn, Prados)

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 14: Documents: 1-10; Essays: Gaddis, Garthoff

Chapter 15: Document: 5

Westad, *Global Cold War*, pp. 32-38, 194-206, and Chapters 6, 8-10

Piero Gleijeses, "Moscow's Proxy? Cuba and Africa 1975-1988," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, vol 8, No. 2 (Spring 2006), pp. pp. 3-23, 31-36, 43-51

Fredrik Logevall, "A Critique of Containment," *Diplomatic History*, vol 28, No. 3 (September 2004)

III. The New (American?) Century: Continuity or Change?

April 23

LaFeber, *The American Age*, Chapter 20

Nelson, *The Policy Makers*, Chapter 7 (LaFeber)

Merrill and Paterson, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*

Chapter 15: Documents: 6-10; Essay: Makdisi

Jussi M. Hanhimäki, "Global Visions and Parochial Politics: The Persistent Dilemma of the 'American Century'," *Diplomatic History*, vol 27, No. 4 (September 2003)

Michael Mandelbaum, "David's Friend, Goliath," *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2006

April 30

Max Paul Friedman, "Anti-Americanism and U.S. Foreign Relations," *Diplomatic History*, vol. 32, No. 4 (September 2008)

Carolyn Eisenberg, "The New Cold War," *Diplomatic History*, vol 29, No. 3 (June 2005)

Francis Fukuyama, "The Future of History: Can Liberal Democracy Survive the Decline of the Middle Class?" *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2012

Charles A. Kupchan, "The Democratic Malaise: Globalization and the Threat to the West," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2012

Wolfgang Streeck, "The Crises of Democratic Capitalism," *New Left Review*, No. 71 (Sept/Oct 2011)