

History 724: 20th Century Topics: The United States and the World (Fall 2018)
Time and Place: M 3:30-6:20pm, Bryan Building 112

Professor David M. Wight (dmwight@uncg.edu)

Office Hours and Location: MW 2:00-3:00pm & by appointment, MHRA 2116

STRUCTURE & SCOPE

Welcome! This course examines the historiography of a subfield called everything from “US diplomatic history” to “US foreign relations” to “US and/in the World.” We will look at some of the major analytical shifts in the field as well as some more recent, cutting-edge scholarship on topics across the chronology of the United States as a sovereign state.

REQUIRED READINGS

There are twelve books assigned for the course, listed below. Books with a “****” after them are available for free as ebooks through the UNCG library. The books can also be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional articles/excerpts will be provided on Canvas.

Akira Iriye, *Global Community: The Role of International Organizations in the Making of the Contemporary World* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002) ****

Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease, eds., *Cultures of United States Imperialism* (Durham, Duke University Press, 1993)

George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy, 1900-1950, 60th Anniversary Expanded Edition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012, orig. 1951)

Melvyn P. Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1992)

Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004)

Emily S. Rosenberg, *A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003)

Edward B. Rugemer, *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008) ****

Daniel J. Sargent, *A Superpower Transformed: The Remaking of American Foreign Relations in the 1970s* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) ****

Alan Taylor, *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010)

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

William A. Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy, 50th Anniversary Edition* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2009, orig. 1959)

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, *Radicals on the Road: Internationalism, Orientalism, and Feminism during the Vietnam Era* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013) ***

GRADING

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Participation	30%
Presentation	10%
Papers	60%

Grades follow this scale: A+ = 97 and up; A = 94-96; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87 to 89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = <60

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Daily class attendance and participation is mandatory. If you arrive late, leave early, or are absent, your participation grade for that day may be half or zero credit. You will be given one excused absence for any reason (i.e. your lowest participation score will be dropped), but no more, so plan accordingly.

You are required to complete the readings listed below each week before arriving to class on Monday. The “supplemental readings” are NOT part of the weekly readings.

The class will primarily consist of discussing the readings, with minimal guidance from my part. Discussions should cover the following four points, roughly sequentially: First, what are the main arguments of the book. Second, how does the arguments of the book seek to challenge or build upon other historiographical trends that preceded it? Third, what evidence, sources, methods, theories, and/or logics are utilized in the book to defend its arguments? Fourth, what critiques do you have of the book?

PRESENTATION

Each student will read one of the “supplementary readings” books and give a ten to fifteen-minute oral presentation in class, covering the four points outlined for class discussions as they pertain to this book. I will explain how books will be selected at the end of the first seminar.

PAPERS

You will submit nine papers, each 2-3 pages, double-spaced, on the readings for that week (thus you have four “free” weeks). The papers should focus upon the book for that week, addressing the four points outlined for class discussion. These papers will serve as a useful summarization of books and themes that you can use in your qualifying examinations and future research and teaching.

I require that you submit a hard copy of your paper at the start of class. Late papers will not generally be accepted.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

UNCG provides a variety of useful services for you, the student. Check them out!

The UNCG Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/>) provides assistance with writing assignments; contact staff members to set an appointment either in person or via instant-messaging.

The UNCG Speaking Center (<https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/>) provides assistance in improving your skill and confidence in public, group, and individual speaking.

If you have any needs or questions related to disability issues, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) (<https://ods.uncg.edu/>). I prioritize making this course accessible to all of the students in it, and I will work with OARS to accommodate students’ requests. You do not need to disclose details about your disability to me or your TA to receive accommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student’s responsible to know what constitutes academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and to be familiar with UNCG policies on academic integrity laid out here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Students who engage in an academically dishonest act (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating during an exam) will receive a grade of “F” in the course and be reported to the Academic Dean for possible

additional disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the university. Do not attempt it.

CONTACTING ME

I encourage you to meet with me at my office hours or at another arranged time. You can also ask me questions by email. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on the weekends), but I'll usually reply sooner.

USEFUL WEBSITES

History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements regarding any alterations.

CLASS TOPICS

Week 2 – 8/20 – Introduction to the Course

Emily S. Rosenberg, “America and the World: From National to Global” (2007)

No Papers This Week

Week 3 – 8/27 – Historiography: Diplomatic, Greater America, Progressive, and Realist

James B. Angell, “The Inadequate Recognition of Diplomats by Historians” (1893)
<https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/presidential-addresses/james-b-angell>

Herbert E. Bolton, “The Epic of Greater America” (1932)
<https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/presidential-addresses/herbert-e-bolton>

Charles A. Beard, *The Idea of National Interest* (1934) [excerpts]

George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy, 1900-1950* (1951) [skip Part III]

Week 4 – 9/3 – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Week 5 – 9/10 – Historiography: Wisconsin School, International, and Postrevisionism

William A. Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (1959)

Ernest R. May, *Imperial Democracy: The Emergence of America as a Great Power* (1961) [excerpts]

John Lewis Gaddis, *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1947* (1972) [excerpts]

Supplemental Readings:

Walter LaFeber, *The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion* (1963)

Marilyn B. Young, *The Rhetoric of Empire: American China Policy, 1895-1901* (1968)

William Roger Louis, *Imperialism at Bay: The United States and the Decolonization of the British Empire, 1941-1945* (1978)

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War* (1982)

Week 6 – 9/17 – Historiography: National Security

Melvyn P. Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War* (1992)

Supplemental Readings:

Nancy Mitchell, *The Danger of Dreams: German and American Imperialism in Latin America* (1999)

William O. Walker, *National Security and Core Values in American History* (2009)

Jay Sexton, *The Monroe Doctrine: Empire and Nation in Nineteenth Century America* (2011)

Curt Cardwell, *NSC 68 and the Political Economy of the Cold War* (2011)

Week 7 – 9/24 – Historiography: The Cultural Turn

Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease, eds., *Cultures of United States Imperialism* (1993) [Chapters Will Be Assigned to Different Students]

Supplemental Readings:

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940* (2001)

Eric T.L. Love, *Race Over Empire: Racism and U.S. Imperialism, 1865-1900* (2004)

Kristin Hoganson, *Consumers' Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920* (2007)

John Dower, *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima, 9-11, Iraq* (2010)

Week 8 – 10/1 – Historiography: Transnational/Globalization

Akira Iriye, *Global Community: The Role of International Organizations in the Making of the Contemporary World* (2002)

Supplemental Readings:

Alfred E. Eckes Jr. and Thomas Zeiler, *Globalization and the American Century* (2003)

Ian Tyrrell, *Transnational Nation: United States History in Global Perspective since 1789* (2007)

Robert Vitalis, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (2007)

Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008)

Week 9 – 10/8 – BREAK WEEK

Week 10 – 10/15 – Chronological: The Early United States

Alan Taylor, *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies* (2010)

Supplemental Readings:

Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean* (2000)

David Armitage, *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* (2007)

Ussama Makdisi, *Artillery of Heaven: American Missionaries and the Failed Conversion of the Middle East* (2008)

Brian Rouleau, *With Sails Whitening Every Sea: Mariners and the Making of an American Maritime Empire* (2014)

Week 11 – 10/22 – Chronological: Manifest Destiny and the Civil War

Edward B. Rugemer, *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War* (2008)

Supplemental Readings:

Reginald Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny* (1981)

Charles M. Hubbard, *The Burden of Confederate Diplomacy* (1998)

Howard Jones, *Abraham Lincoln and a New Birth of Freedom: The Union and Slavery in the Diplomacy of the Civil War* (1999)

Robert E. May, *Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering* (2002)

Week 12 – 10/29 – Chronological: Dawn of the American Century

Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2004)

Supplemental Readings:

Brian McAllister Linn, *The Philippine War, 1899-1902* (2000)

Victoria De Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America's Advance through 20th-Century Europe* (2005)

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (2007)

Greg Grandin, *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* (2009)

Week 13 – 11/5 – Chronological: World War II

Emily S. Rosenberg, *A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory* (2003)

Supplemental Readings:

Warren F. Kimball, *The Juggler: Franklin Roosevelt as Wartime Statesman* (1994)

David Reynolds, *From Munich to Pearl Harbor: Roosevelt's America and the Origins of the Second World War* (2001)

Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights* (2005)

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan* (2005)

Week 14 – 11/12 – Chronological: The Cold War

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (2005)

Supplemental Readings:

Michael J. Hogan, *A Cross of Iron: Harry S. Truman and the Origins of the National Security State, 1945-1954* (1998)

Christina Klein, *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961* (2003)

Bradley R. Simpson, *Economists with Guns: Authoritarian Development and U.S.-Indonesian Relations, 1960–1968* (2008)

Andrew Bacevich, *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War* (2010)

Week 15 – 11/19 – Chronological: The Vietnam War

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, *Radicals on the Road: Internationalism, Orientalism, and Feminism during the Vietnam Era* (2013)

Supplemental Readings:

Christian G. Appy, *Working Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam* (1993)

Mark Philip Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950* (2000)

Fredrik Logevall, *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam* (2012)

Edward Miller, *Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and the Fate of South Vietnam* (2013)

Week 16 – 11/26 – Chronological: The Long 1970s

Daniel J. Sargent, *A Superpower Transformed: The Remaking of American Foreign Relations in the 1970s* (2015)

Supplemental Readings:

Betty Glad, *An Outsider in the White House: Jimmy Carter, His Advisers, and the Making of American Foreign Policy* (2009)

Paul Thomas Chamberlin, *The Global Offensive: The United States, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Making of the Post-Cold War Order* (2012)

David F. Schmitz, *Richard Nixon and the Vietnam War: The End of the American Century* (2014)

Barbara J. Keys, *Reclaiming American Virtue: The Human Rights Revolution of the 1970s* (2014)