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.


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


**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


No Papers This Week

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

James B. Angell, “The Inadequate Recognition of Diplomatists by Historians” (1893)

Herbert E. Bolton, “The Epic of Greater America” (1932)

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


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:**


Week 6 – 9/17 – Historiography: National Security


**Supplemental Readings:**


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:


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


**Week 9 – 10/8 – BREAK WEEK**

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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


