SYLLABUS FOR HIS 300.001
US DIPLOMATIC HISTORY 1775-PRESENT

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe
Class Time MWF 11-11:50 AM
Room: F 477
Office: Liberal Arts North 310
Office Hours: MWF 10-11, T-Th 9:30 – 11, and by appointment
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Objective and Purpose: The purpose of this class is for students to understand and evaluate the various social, political, ideological, and economic factors that shaped American foreign policy. Students will demonstrate their mastery of material through their performance on exams, papers, and classroom participation. By the end of the semester students will be able to use their newly acquired knowledge to interpret, analyze, and assess historical sources and contemporary interpretations of the past heuristically so as to recognize their biases and place current societal debates in historical context.

Texts:
1. Beisner’s From the Old Diplomacy to the New.
2. Herring’s From Colony to Superpower.

MakeUps: You have 24 hours to contact me if you miss a test. I will give all make-up exams on Friday, 16 November at 6:30 AM. Make-up exams are more difficult than the originals.

Grading Rationale:
First Exam 20%
Second Exam 20%
Final Exam 20%
First Short Paper 20%
Second Short Paper 20%

Grading Scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 or less. You must complete and pick up all assignments, except for the final exam, to pass the class.

Attendance Policy: You can skip up to and including six classes for any reason, excused or unexcused, but I will deduct a letter grade off your final grade for each class missed after that, regardless of the reason.

Plagiarism and Cheating: If I catch you cheating on an exam or the paper, I will fail you for the exam or for the course.

Disability Services: If you have a proven disability, I am willing to make reasonable accommodations if you contact me and fill out the appropriate paperwork. I define what is and is not “reasonable.”

Pet Peeve: If I catch you scanning your cellphone during class, I can and will throw you out, and you won’t be allowed back until you write a paper for me. You cannot use computers in class either without my permission.

Tentative Schedule and Assignments:
Week 1: Herring, chapter 1
Mon 27 Aug Revolutionary War Diplomacy
Wed 29 Aug Constitution and Foreign Policy Power
Fri 31 Aug Discussion
Week 2: Herring, chapters 2-3
Mon 3 Sep Washington’s Foreign Policy
Wed 5 Sep  Troubles With France
Fri 7 Sep  Jeffersonian Foreign Policy
**Week 3:**  Herring, chapters 4-5
Mon 10 Sep  War of 1812 Foreign Policy
Wed 12 Sep  Discussion
Fri 14 Sep  Latin America and the Monroe Doctrine
**Week 4:**  Herring, chapter 6
Mon 17 Sep  Texas and the Mexican War
Wed 19 Sep  Civil War Foreign Policy
Fri 21 Sep  Discussion
**Week 5:**
Mon 24 Sep  First Exam
Wed 26 Sep  Post Civil War Foreign Policy
Fri 28 Sep  Building an American Empire
**Week 6:**  Herring, chapters 7-8
Mon 1 Oct  China’s Open Door
Wed 3 Oct  Discussion
Fri 5 Oct  Entry into World War One
**Week 7:**  Herring, chapters 9-11
Mon 8 Oct  World War One and the Versailles Peace Treaty
Wed 10 Oct  Discussion
Fri 12 Oct  Republican Foreign Policy in the 1920s
**Week 8:**  Herring, chapter 12
Mon 15 Oct  Good Neighbor Policy
Wed 17 Oct  Going to War with Germany
Fri 19 Oct  Going to War with Japan
**Week 9:**  Herring, chapter 13
Mon 22 Oct  World War Two Foreign Policy
Wed 24 Oct  Discussion
Fri 26 Oct  Second Exam
**Week 10:**
Mon 29 Oct  Origins of the Cold War
Wed 31 Oct  Cold War in East Asia
Fri 2 Nov  Korean War
**Week 11:**  Herring, chapter 14
Mon 5 Nov  Discussion
Wed 7 Nov  Eisenhower’s New Look
Fri 9 Nov  Kennedy’s Flexible Response
**Week 12:**  Herring, chapter 15
Mon 12 Nov  Vietnam War
Wed 14 Nov  Discussion
Fri 16 Nov  Nixon’s Detente
**Week 13:**  Herring, chapter 16
Mon 26 Nov  Playing the China Card
Wed 28 Nov  Carter’s Diplomacy
Fri 30 Nov  Reagan Targets the Soviet Union
**Week 14:**  Herring, chapters 17-20
Mon 3 Dec  End of the Cold War
Wed 5 Dec  Trouble in Iraq
Fri 7 Dec  Discussion

**Final:**  Monday, 10 December, at 10:30 AM
Program Learning Outcomes:
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

(1) The student will evaluate the role of the historian in society.
(2) The student will assess the significance of historical events/phenomena and analyze their historical contexts.
(3) The student will locate, identify and critically analyze primary and secondary sources appropriate for historical research.
(4) The student will interpret evidence found within primary sources and place those sources within their appropriate historical context.
(5) The student will effectively communicate historical arguments in support of a central thesis, including the proper citation of sources using the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

(1) The student will be able to explain the causes and consequences of American expansionism.
(2) The student will be able to explain the causes and consequences of American roles in the World Wars.
(3) The student will be able to explain the causes and consequences of the Cold War.
(4) The student will be able to explain the major themes and issues American foreign policy from 1775 to the present.
(5) The student will be able to explain the roles of national security, economics, and ideology in American foreign policy.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.