

Instructor: Hal M. Friedman  
Class Period: M W, 12:30-2 PM, L-5 Liberal Arts Building.  
Office Hours: 8-9 AM, MWF; 2-3 PM, W; 12-2 and 3:30-4 PM, T TH; and 12-1 PM, F; or by appointment in L-106 Liberal Arts Building. The instructor can be reached at 313-845-6387 or by email at friedman@hfcc.edu

**Catalog Description:**

An interdisciplinary humanities course that examines a given topic or problem from a variety of approaches. Emphasis is placed on the interchange of ideas among the Honors students under the direction of a teacher.

**Course Themes:**

This course emphasizes the evolution of American Thought and Language represented by the History of American Foreign Relations from 1607 to the present. This medium will be used to teach critical thinking skills and, more importantly, to get students to think in new ways about the United States and its place in the world. Covering the entire sweep of American interaction with other nations and cultures, the assignments will emphasize exploring the role of the frontier in American thought and culture; the continuing American search for a mission in the modern world; and the role which conceptions of race, ethnicity, and gender have played in American thought, culture, and foreign relations. By "foreign relations," I do not mean to emphasize government-to-government relations at the expense of various forms of social history, literature, film, and music. As broad a coverage of interaction between peoples and cultures as possible will be the focus of the course, i.e., diplomatic-political relations, economic intercourse, American attitudes toward war and military service, emigration, technology transfer, etc. Primary and secondary historical material, as well as media presentations, will be employed to teach about the US' impact on the world and the world's impact on the US.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the Honors Colloquium, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze diverse aspects of US foreign relations, and the US' interaction with the world community.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills such as the ability to quote, interpret, analyze, critique, compare, contrast, argue, define, classify, summarize, and synthesize a diversity of readings and other concrete source material on the international experience of the United States.
3. Show independent thinking about the US' place in the world that goes beyond the obvious and stereotypical.

4. Demonstrate the ability to identify, critique, and incorporate a variety of academic and popular approaches to the representation of the US experience in the world and to the study of the problems associated with the conduct of United States foreign relations.
5. Research and explore the connections and disjunctions between US perceptions of its role in the world and those held by significant portions of the rest of the world.
6. Relate one's own conceptions of the US and its role in the world held at the beginning of the Colloquium to one's conceptions at the end of the Colloquium.

**Prerequisites:** Henry Ford II Honors Program.

**Co-requisites:** There are no co-requisites for this course.

**Reading Assignments:**

Readings will focus around documents and essays listed in the bibliography on pages 11-12 of this syllabus. This collection of primary sources and secondary essays will provide the framework for class discussions about the weekly topics and writing assignments. "Texts" will also include films that pertain to course and weekly themes. In addition, there will be assignments focused on primary sources and films chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The intent of the readings and films is to expose the students to as broad a literature as possible (history, political and economic thought, culture clash and interaction, immigration, gender and class) on the theme of US interaction with the world and to bring that exposure to the class discussions and writing assignments. **Reading assignments must be completed before the designated lecture.** Prompt completion of the readings will improve the student's understanding of the lectures as well as stimulate questions about the material and the assignments.

**Graded Assignments:**

Students will be required to write four, five-page, double-spaced papers. Two papers will analyze a primary source or series of primary sources from one of the main texts that addresses one of the weekly topics from the course schedule. The other two papers will analyze two of the films assigned to the class, with the students analyzing the films in as many contexts as possible from the perspective of US interaction with the world. Students will also be graded on class participation. **Student participation will be evaluated on the student's active participation in classroom discussions. While the quality of student participation will obviously be of primary importance in this assessment, the amount of participation by each student will also be tracked by the instructor.**

\*\*\*\*All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade. Late papers can be turned in within 7 days of the original exam. All late papers, however, will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade (A to A-, for example). After 7 days, a late assignment will count as a 0.0, unless there are circumstances that are determined by the instructor to be extenuating.\*\*\*\*

**Revisions:**

Students are allowed two revisions of the four required essays. Revisions are due two weeks after the original graded assignment is handed back. I will write detailed suggestions on your papers to help you with revision. You should conference with me during my office hours to make sure you understand what is required for each essay or revision. Initial grades on your essays may seem low, but your goal should be to rewrite your work until it is a more effective piece of writing. In this way, you should learn from your mistakes. **Remember that the basic philosophy for revision is learning from mistakes.**

**Evaluation and Grading Standards:**

Final grades for the course will be determined in the following manner:

Participation:	=	200 pts.	=	20%
Primary Source Paper: (Due on September 24th)	=	200 pts.	=	20%
Film Critique: (Due on October 22nd)	=	200 pts.	=	20%
Primary Source Paper: (Due on November 21st)	=	200 pts.	=	20%
Film Critique: (Due on December 12th)	=	200 pts.	=	20%
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Final Grade:		1000 pts.	=	100%

\*\*\*\* Grading Scale:

A	=	1000-950
A-	=	949-900
B+	=	899-875
B	=	874-850
B-	=	849-800
C+	=	799-775
C	=	774-750
C-	=	749-700
D+	=	699-675
D	=	674-650
D-	=	649-600
E	=	599-0

**Students will be responsible for analyzing two of the following films during the semester:**

*Black Robe* (French Catholic missionaries attempting to convert Algonkian Indians in the St. Lawrence River Valley in the winter of 1634-1635)

*Last of the Mohicans* (James Fenimore Cooper's classic about the French and Indian War)

*Mary Silliman's War* (The wife of a Continental politician attempts to get her husband's release from British captivity during the Revolutionary War)

*Amistad* (The diplomacy revolving around the fate of a Spanish slave trade ship and its African "cargo" in the late 1830s and early 1840s)

*The Sand Pebbles* (Life aboard a US Navy gunboat during Chiang Kai-shek's attempted unification of China in the 1920s)

*Fail Safe* (The accidental bombing of the USSR by the US in the 1950s and the diplomatic fallout ensuing from that)

*Dr. Strangelove* (A very comical, satirical version of *Fail Safe*)

*Gardens of Stone* (Regular US Army soldiers deal with the reality of the Vietnam War on the home front)

*The Killing Fields* (The Cambodian genocide in the 1970s)

*White Nights* (Espionage and defection in the 1980s Soviet Union)

*Red Dawn* (The Soviets invade Kansas during the Reagan Administration!)

*Hotel Rwanda* (Ethnic cleansing in Sub-Sahara Africa in the 1990s)

**Participation:**

**Active** participation is absolutely required for successful completion of this course. Students who are absent a great deal will be at a serious disadvantage when it comes to completing the assignments since the assignments are "built into" class through lectures, presentations, and discussions. To add an incentive, the instructor will be using **participation** as 20% of the final grade. Do not miss class! The instructor is also required to take attendance on a daily basis because of Federal financial aid regulations. Since the Federal Government wants to ensure that students on financial aid are actually attending class, the instructor must keep a daily record of who is in class and who is not. This record can be reported by the College to the Federal Government each semester and the Federal Government can audit the College for these records. Therefore, if

you are on Federal financial aid, lack of attendance may endanger your eligibility for such aid in the future. Again, it pays to be in class each and every day!

Punctuality is also a key to success. Research has shown that students who come as little as 10 minutes late to class, for all intents and purposes, miss that entire day's lesson. In order to be successful in this class, you must be in class on time. In addition, attendance is taken at the beginning of class. If students are late to class, for whatever reason, they must inform the instructor of their presence **at the end of the class period!** Attendance credit for the day will not be given after that point! For both attendance and scholastic purposes, students should not be late!

### **Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

HFCC considers academic dishonesty to be a serious offense to the integrity of the institution. The College's official policy on the matter is that enforcing academic integrity in the College's courses is a professional obligation of the faculty. Therefore, determination of a student's academic dishonesty by an instructor empowers that instructor to take appropriate action, up to and including failing the guilty student in the particular course. I am fully supportive of the College's policy. A student who is caught cheating on an assignment will fail that assignment, and the instructor will determine on an individual basis whether or not failure of the course is also warranted. An example of cheating includes copying another student's work during an examination. Cheating also includes copying material out a text or from other media such as the Internet for an essay assignment rather than writing that assignment in one's own words. In addition, cheating includes permitting another person to take a test in your place or receiving unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received. Instructors (or their designees) reserve the right to require students to provide picture identification for test taking, graded papers or projects, or other appropriate purposes. In other words, your work, in every form it takes, has to be your work and your work only. **Anything else is unacceptable.**

### **Drop Policy:**

HFCC's drop policy is that a student can drop a course on her or his own initiative up until the end of the tenth week of classes, which is November 8th this semester. After that date, student drops are at the discretion of each instructor. However, Honors students should be aware that dropping from this course can only take place under **extraordinary and extenuating** circumstances that are determined by the instructor and the Honors Program Director. Students contemplating dropping **must** obtain the permission of these two individuals first. Students not complying with this policy will face serious academic and financial penalties, potentially including the loss of scholarship and ejection from the Honors Program. In addition, a student cannot drop a class if failing for reasons of academic dishonesty. If caught cheating on an assignment, the student will receive the grade assigned by the instructor (an E on that assignment, if not for the entire course), not a drop from the Registrar's Office.

### **Electronic Devices Policy:**

The use of any electronic devices during tests or post-test reviews is strictly forbidden. All electronic devices must be turned off and stowed during examinations and post-test reviews of those examinations. In addition, all pagers, cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off during regular class periods, with the exception of tape recorders which may be used to record lectures. A student who needs to keep a cell phone or pager on silent mode for emergency purposes must let the instructor know beforehand. **There will be no exceptions to this policy!**

### **Classroom Behavior:**

Appropriate classroom behavior is absolutely demanded by the instructor, and inappropriate behavior can be grounds for removal from the course for that day and loss of attendance points for that day. Students shall refrain from behavior that interrupts classroom proceedings, the instructor's duties, or other students' abilities to participate. Talking out of turn, consumption of food or drink in ways that disrupts the classroom, the use of electronic items, and inappropriate language directed to the instructor or other students are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated. The continuation of these types of activities deemed by the instructor to be inappropriate will be grounds for removal from the course.

### **Suggested Materials:**

A three ring binder with loose-leaf paper, a double-pocketed folder for storing notes, a *Roget's Thesaurus*, and a pocket dictionary are suggested for this course. Students should bring these materials to class on a regular basis.

### **Daily Class Schedule (Subject to Change)**

#### **August 27th:**

Topic: Introduction to the Course and Course Policies.

#### **August 29th:**

Topic: "Life in the British Empire, 1600s-1700s."

Reading Assignments: Kupperman, *Major Problems in American Colonial History*, 181-203, 366-378, and 401-419.

#### **September 3rd:**

Topic: Labor Day! College Closed! HON 151-1 Will Resume on September 5th!

#### **September 5th:**

Topic: "The American Revolution and the Age of Revolutions in the Atlantic World"; and View and Discuss Film *Mary Silliman's War*.

Reading Assignment: Kupperman, *Major Problems in American Colonial History*, 436-453; and Shannon, *Atlantic Lives*, 180-185 and 217-221.

**September 10th:**

Topic: “Americans and Wars of National Liberation: The American Revolution and the Vietnam War Compared.”

Guest Lecturer: Sam Plaza, Department of History, HFCC

Reading Assignment: Nash, *Red, White, and Black*, 265-287; and McMahon, *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War*, 17-24 and 274-293.

**September 12th:**

Topic: “Americans and Wars of National Liberation Continued: The United States and Great Power Imperialism.”

Reading Assignment: Kaplan and Pease, *Cultures of United States Imperialism*, 219-236.

**September 17th:**

Topic: “The US and Republicanism in the Modern World: America and the Cutting Edge of Global Change.”

Reading Assignment: Jakes, *The Bastard*, 377-460.

**September 19th:**

Topic: “The US and Republicanism Continued: The American Fear of Revolutionary Change.”

Reading Assignment: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 92-124.

**September 24th:**

Topic: “The Frontier in American Life: Multiculturalism and Parochialism in Early America.”

Guest Lecturer: Dr. John Rietz, English Division, HFCC.

\*\*\*Primary Source Paper Due!\*\*\*

Reading Assignment: Rath, *How Early American Sounded*, 43-96; and Baym, 516-520, 614-619, and 805-811.

**September 26th:**

Topic: “Frontier in American Life” Continued: The Frontier Outside of North America or Frontier as a Frame of Mind.”

Reading Assignment: Gibson, *Yankees in Paradise*, 3-11, 379-420.

**October 1st:**

Topic: “Technology, the World, and American Culture: Defining ‘Americanism’.”

Reading Assignment: Smith and Clancey, *Major Problems in the History of American Technology*, 192-202; Merchant, *Major Problems in American Environmental History*, 134-137, 240-245, and 281-283.

**October 3rd:**

Topic: "Technology, the World, and American Culture Continued: The Costs and Benefits of American Technological Prowess."

Reading Assignment: Smith and Clancey, *Major Problems in the History of American Technology*, 429-448 and 502-510.

**October 8th:**

Topic: "Race and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations": View and Discuss the Film *Amistad*.

Reading Assignment: Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 46-91.

**October 10th:**

Topic: "Race and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations Continued."

Reading Assignment: Krenn, *Black Diplomacy*, 3-8 and 112-162.

**October 15th:**

Topic: "Class Consciousness and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations Continued: Joining the American Foreign Service in the 1920s."

Reading Assignment: Kennan, *Memoirs, 1925-1950*, 3-34.

**October 17th:**

Topic: "Class Consciousness and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations."

Guest Lecturer: Mr. Ed Demerly, English Division, HFCC, on the US Peace Corps

Reading Assignment: Hoffman, [\*All You Need is Love\*](#), 1-10, 121-147, and 235-259.

**October 22nd:**

Topic: "Gender and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations: Women and the Conduct of American Diplomacy."

\*\*\*Film Critique Due!\*\*\*

Reading Assignment: Allegor, "A Republican Women in a Monarchy," 15-43.

**October 24th:**

Topic: "Gender and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations Continued: Concepts of Masculinity and the Conduct of American Diplomacy."

Reading Assignment: Albright, *Madam Secretary*, 272-305 and 408-428.



**October 29th:**

Topic: "Immigration and American Foreign Relations."

Guest Lecturer: Shatha Baydoun, Department of History, HFCC

Reading Assignment: Gjerde, *Major Problems in American Immigration and Ethnic History*, 31-44, 70-81, 382-394, and 451-465.

**October 31st:**

Topic: "Immigration and American Foreign Relations Continued: View and Discuss Film *White Nights*."

Reading Assignment: Shain, *Marketing the American Creed Abroad*, 92-131 and 196-209.

**November 5th:**

Topic: "War and American Society."

Reading Assignment: Chambers and Piehler, *Major Problems in American Military History*, 38-48, 66-74, 95-108, 120-133, and 188-203.

**November 7th:**

Topic: "War and American Society Continued: View and Discuss Film *Gardens of Stone*."

Reading Assignment: Chambers and Piehler, *Major Problems in American Military History*, 223-231, 249-260, 278-287, 319-320, 375-379, 382-384, 422-426, 446-454, and 466-471.

**November 12th:**

Topic: "Bureaucracy and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations: View and Discuss Film *The Hunt for Red October*."

Reading Assignment: Leffler, "The American Conception of National Security," 346-400.

**November 14th:**

Topic: "Bureaucracy and the Conduct of American Foreign Relations Continued: View and Discuss Film *Clear and Present Danger*."

Reading Assignment: Skaggs and Browning, *In Defense of the Republic*, 459-475; Eckert, *In War and Peace*, 384-410; and *The 9/11 Commission Report*, 399-428.

**November 19th:**

Topic: “American Foreign Relations in Film, The Reality: View and Discuss Film *Failsafe*.”

Reading Assignment: Winkler, *Life Under a Cloud*, 109-135.

**November 21st:**

Topic: “American Foreign Relations in Film Continued, The Fantasy: View and Discuss Film *Red Dawn*.”

\*\*\*Primary Source Paper Due!\*\*\*

Reading Assignment: Conquest and White, *What To Do When The Russians Come*, 7, 9-12, 17-31, 63-75, 147-159, 163-173, and 175-177.

**November 26th:**

Topic: “American Foreign Relations in Music: Discuss ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ and ‘Oh Michigan, My Michigan’.”

Reading Assignment: Branham and Hartnett, *Sweet Freedom’s Song*, 3-44 and 205-220.

**November 28th:**

Topic: “American Foreign Relations in Music Continued: Discuss ‘Over There’ and ‘Goodnight Saigan’.”

Reading Assignment: Prevots, *Dance for Export*, 7-35, 69-91, and 127-135.

**December 3rd:**

Topic: “The United States and the Global Environment in the Modern World: American Consumer Culture and the US’ Place in the Modern World.”

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Tarek Joseph, Social Science Division, HFCC.

Reading Assignments: Wharton, *Building the Cold War*, 104-130 and 158-198; and Tucker, *Insatiable Appetite*, 226-282.

**December 5th:**

Topic: “Art and Architecture in American Foreign Relations.”

Reading Assignment: Cohen, *East Asian Art and American Culture*, xiii-xvii and 3-34.

**December 10th:**

Topic: “The United States and the Global Environment in the Modern World: The Future of the World?”

Reading Assignment: Merchant, *Major Problems in American Environmental History*, 503-541.

**December 12th:**

Topic: \*\*\*Film Critique Due!\*\*\* Final Meeting, 1:40-3:25 PM! Have a Safe Winter Break!

## **Bibliography**

- Madeline Albright, *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* (New York: Miramax Books, 2005).
- Catherine Allegor, "A Republican in a Monarchy': Louisa Catherine Adams in Russia," *Diplomatic History* 21 (Winter 1997): 15-43.
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