

HIST 3P45
U.S. Foreign Policy Since 1945

Brock University
Fall 2006
Lectures: Tuesdays, 10am-12noon, AS 201

Instructor:	Prof. Tami J. Friedman	Teaching Assistant:	Charmaine McKnight
Office:	GL 225 (573 Glenridge)	Office:	GL 240
Phone:	(905) 688-5550, ext. 3709	Office hours:	Friday 10-11:30am
Email:	tfriedma@brocku.ca		
Office hours:	Friday 9-11 am, and by appointment		

Seminars:	1	Friday	1-2pm	GL 212	C. McKnight
	2	Friday	8-9am	EA 105	C. McKnight
	3	Thursday	3-4pm	EA 106	T. Friedman

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Throughout U.S. history, the nation's leaders have argued that their dealings with other countries are driven by a desire to spread freedom and democracy around the globe. The voices emanating from the prisons of Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo, however, tell a different story: a story of torture, violence, and denial of human rights. How do we reconcile these dramatically different versions of the U.S. role in the world?

In this course, we will conduct an in-depth investigation of U.S. foreign policy since the end of World War II. What are the strategic interests—particularly economic interests—that have motivated U.S. foreign relations in the last sixty years? How have those interests coincided—or conflicted—with the goals of other people and nations? In what ways has the United States influenced other countries and cultures, not just through diplomatic maneuvers and military action but also through economic restructuring and cultural change? How have conditions on the “home front” helped shape U.S. foreign policy goals? By exploring these and other questions, we will aim to develop a greater understanding of how U.S. foreign policy has unfolded historically – and how it has shaped the balance of power in the world today.

REQUIRED READING

Required texts can be purchased at the Brock University Bookstore and also are on three-hour reserve in the James A. Gibson Library:

Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2002*, updated 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Truong Nhu Tang, *A Viet Cong Memoir: An Inside Account of the Vietnam War and its Aftermath*. New York: Vintage/Random House, 1985.

Additional required readings are in a **course packet** (CP) that can be purchased at the Bookstore.

Strongly recommended:

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2007.

ASSIGNMENTS

30% Seminar participation (20%) and facilitation (10%) While seminar attendance is mandatory, attendance alone will not count significantly toward your grade. You are expected to participate actively and thoughtfully in seminar discussions, based on weekly readings. You will also co-facilitate one seminar discussion during the semester. You must work with your co-facilitator ahead of time to plan the seminar and develop discussion questions.

10% Primary-source analysis (3-5 pages) You will critically analyze a primary source from the early Cold War period, due in seminar, week of October 3. See paper guidelines.

35% Research paper (8-10 pages) There are three parts to this assignment: proposal (5% of grade, due in seminar, week of October 17), annotated bibliography (10% of grade, due in seminar, week of November 7), and final paper (20% of grade, due in lecture, November 28). See paper guidelines.

25% Final exam TBA

CLASS POLICIES

- You must complete all components of the course in order to pass the course..
- If an assignment is late, the grade will be reduced by 5% for each day past the due date. Late penalties will be waived *only in the event of a documented medical or personal emergency, and at the discretion of the instructor.*
- Seminar absences will result in a grade of 0 for the missed seminar (*except for documented emergencies, at the instructor's discretion*).
- Requirements for writing assignments:
 - Type and double-space your paper, leaving one-inch margins.
 - Number the pages, and staple them together.
 - On a separate title page, include your name, course number/name, and seminar number.
 - Check spelling and grammar before turning in your paper.
 - Keep backup copies of all written work you have turned in.
 - Keep all original assignments that have been graded and returned to you.
 - Do not submit your work electronically; it will not be accepted.
 - If you use someone else's words or ideas, give them credit! Otherwise you are committing *plagiarism* – a serious form of academic misconduct that can have severe consequences for your academic career. For more information, consult Rampolla, chapter 6, and these sites: <www.brocku.ca/webcal/2004/undergrad/acad.html>, <www.brocku.ca/library/plagiarism.htm>, and <www.brocku.ca/history/resources.html>.

UNIVERSITY DEADLINES

Friday, September 22 – last day for late registration and course changes without instructor's permission; last day to drop courses without financial penalty.

Friday, November 3 – last date for withdrawal without academic penalty; last day to change from Credit to Audit without academic penalty

See the *Undergraduate Calendar* for other important deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require disability-related accommodations, please obtain the necessary documentation from the Student Development Center, ext. 3240.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Sept. 12

- Introduction
- The prewar picture

Reading

- LaFeber, introduction and chapter 1 (pp. 1-31)

First seminar meetings this week: sign up for seminar co-facilitation

Week 2: Sept. 19

- Origins of the Cold War
- Containment in Europe

Reading

- LaFeber, chapters 2-3 (pp. 33-78)
- (CP) Excerpts from George F. Kennan, "Long Telegram," Feb. 22, 1946
- (CP) Truman Doctrine ("Recommendation for Assistance to Greece and Turkey"), March 12, 1947
- (CP) Speech by George M. Marshall, Secretary of State, "European Initiative Essential to Economic Recovery," June 15, 1947
- (CP) "The Marshall Plan (Economic Cooperation Act) Provides Aid for European Reconstruction, 1948," in Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Volume II: Since 1914*, 6th ed.

Week 3: Sept. 26

- Rollback in Asia
- The Red Scare at home

Reading

- LaFeber, chapters 4-5 (pp. 81-129)
- (CP) Excerpts from National Security Council Paper No. 68, in Ernest R. May, *American Cold War Strategy: Interpreting NSC-68*
- (CP) Selected documents on federal loyalty program and Hollywood blacklist, in Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*

Week 4: Oct. 3 – primary-source analysis due

- Film: *The Atomic Café* (88 min.)

Reading

- LaFeber, chapter 6 (pp. 131-148)
- (CP) Gregg Herken, “‘A Most Deadly Illusion’: The Atomic Secret and American Nuclear Weapons Policy, 1945-1950,” *Pacific Historical Review*
- (CP) Dr. Albert Schweitzer, “Appeal to End Nuclear Tests,” and reply, Dr. W. F. Libby, “A Letter from Dr. Libby,” in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*
- (CP) Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., “The Manned Missiles” (1958), in Vonnegut, *Welcome to the Monkey House* [fiction]

Week 5: Oct. 10

- Coca-colonization: cultural diplomacy in the 1950s
- The challenge of Third World nationalism: Cold War and “hot spots”

Reading

- LaFeber, chapters 7-8 (pp. 151-201)
- (CP) Reinhold Wagnleitner, “The Irony of American Culture Abroad: Austria and the Cold War,” in Lary May, ed., *Recasting America: Culture and Politics in the Age of Cold War*
- (CP) Excerpt from declassified CIA document, “Clandestine Service History: Overthrow of Premier Mossadeq of Iran, November 1952-August 1953”

Week 6: Oct. 17 – paper proposal due

- Diplomacy and race: foreign policy confronts the “American dilemma”
- Covert and overt operations: the Cuban case

Reading

- LaFeber, chapter 9 (pp. 203-230), plus pp. 233-40 (in chapter 10) on Cuban missile crisis
- (CP) Brenda Gayle Plummer, “Castro in Harlem: A Cold War Watershed,” in Allen Hunter, ed., *Rethinking the Cold War*
- (CP) Excerpt from speech by Fidel Castro, “Revolutionary Reforms and U.S. Retaliation,” in Martin Kenner and James Petras, eds., *Fidel Castro Speaks*
- (CP) Selected documents on Cuban missile crisis (Kennedy, Khrushchev, Castro, Mikoyan), in Merrill and Paterson, eds., *Major Problems*

Week 7: Oct. 24

- Trade and aid: how to win friends and influence nations
- Shifting alliances, East and West

Reading

- (CP) Selected documents on Peace Corps in Ghana, in Merrill and Paterson, eds., *Major Problems*
- (CP) Vladislav Zukov and Constantine Pleshakov, *Inside the Kremlin’s Cold War: From Stalin to Khrushchev*, chapter 7
- (CP) Frank Costigliola, “The Nuclear Family: Tropes of Gender and Pathology in the Western Alliance,” *Diplomatic History*

Week 8: Oct. 31

- The Vietnam wars: part I
- The Vietnam wars: part II

Reading

- LaFeber, remainder of chapter 10 (pp. 240-65)
- Truong, *Viet Cong Memoir*, chapters 1-12 (pp. 1-144) plus appendices (pp. 319-40)
- (CP) Selected documents in William Appleman Williams et al., eds., *America in Vietnam: A Documentary History*

Week 9: Nov. 7 – annotated bibliography due

- Film: *Two Days in October* (90 min.)

Reading

- Truong, *Viet Cong Memoir*, chapters 13-24 plus epilogue (pp. 145-310)
- (CP) Harold “Light Bulb” Bryant, in Wallace Terry, *Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans*
- (CP) Col. Robert D. Heintz, Jr., “The Collapse of the Armed Forces,” 1971, in Marvin E. Gettleman et al., eds., *Vietnam and America: A Documented History*
- (CP) Selected documents in Christian G. Appy, *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides*

Week 10: Nov. 14

- Remapping the Middle East
- From Nixon to Reagan

Reading

- LaFeber, chapter 11-12 (pp. 267-342)
- (CP) Bernard Lewis, “The Revolt of Islam,” *The New Yorker*
- (CP) Ussama Makdisi, “‘Anti-Americanism’ in the Arab World: An Interpretation of a Brief History,” *Journal of American History*
- (CP) Selected documents on Nicaragua, in Robert S. Leiken and Barry Rubin, eds., *Central American Crisis Reader*

Week 11: Nov. 21

- The end of the Cold War?
- Unleashing a single superpower

Reading

- LaFeber, Chapters 13-15 (pp. 345-440)
- (CP) Selected documents on end of Cold War (Arbatov, Bush), in Merrill and Paterson, eds., *Major Problems*
- (CP) Selected documents on war in Iraq (Bush, bin Laden), in Merrill and Paterson, eds., *Major Problems*

Week 12: Nov. 28 – final paper due

- Corporate globalization and its discontents
- Summing up

No seminar this week; no reading