

History 583.01  
United States Diplomacy  
From Independence to 1920

Lecturer: Dr. Peter Hahn

Course Description:

In this course we will study United States foreign policy prior to 1920. During this time period, the United States grew from a small republic nestled along the eastern seaboard of central North America to a vast empire that spanned the continent, exerted substantial influence in the Caribbean Basin, reached across the Pacific Ocean to the edge of Asia, and projected political and military power on the First World War in Europe. In this course we will study the major trends in the United States's foreign policy during its rise to power, notably its territorial and commercial expansion. We will comparatively analyze competing visions for expansion advocated by various Americans; explore the domestic economic, intellectual, and political origins of expansionism; examine the methods used to extend the nation's borders, trade, and influence; and seek to understand the effect of expansion on the nation's values, institutions, and history. Lectures and readings will introduce you to historical controversies and conflicting interpretations, which you will be expected to analyze critically in writing and discussions.

Academic Objectives:

- From this course you should gain the following skills:
1. To develop the ability to assess and think critically about historical issues and how people interpret those issues;
  2. To gain a basic factual knowledge of this historical period;
  3. To develop some skills in analyzing historical data and reaching informed conclusions about those data.

Required Books:

The following books are required reading and should be available at the bookstores.

LaFeber, Walter. The American Age: U.S. Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad, 2nd ed. Volume 1: to 1920.

Dull, Jonathan. A Diplomatic History of the American Revolution.

Brown, Roger H., The Republic in Peril: 1812.

Graebner, Norman A. Empire on the Pacific: A Study in American Continental Expansion.

Beisner, Robert L. From the Old Diplomacy to the New, 1865-1900, 2nd ed.

Raymond Esthus, Theodore Roosevelt and the International Rivalries.

Lloyd Ambrosius, Wilsonian Statecraft: Theory and Practice of Liberal Internationalism during World War I.

Meetings:

Classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:18 am. Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. Attendance will be taken five times, at random, during the quarter, and you will earn one point for each time you are recorded present.

Office Hours:

My office is in Dulles Hall 271 (telephone 292-7200; e-mail hahn.29@osu.edu). My office hours are Mondays 12:00-1:00 and 3:30-4:30, Wednesdays 11:30-12:30, and by appointment. Modifications of these hours will be announced in class as far in advance as possible.

Enrollment:

All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

Examinations:

A midterm exam will be given during class on Wednesday, October 25 and a final exam will be administered from 7:30 to 9:18 am on Tuesday, December 5. Both exams will cover material from lectures and assigned readings and will consist primarily of essay questions. The final exam will be comprehensive. You will NOT be permitted to consult books, notebooks, or other aids during the exams. Any student with an unexcused absence from an exam will earn an E for that test. The time and place of the graduating seniors' exam will be announced in class as soon as it is scheduled.

Make-up exam policy:

If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me before the exam and have my consent to your absence if you wish to take a make-up exam. The date and time of any make-up exam will be announced in class.

Essay:

You must complete one out-of-class writing assignment that is due on Wednesday, November 22. Early submissions are welcome. Papers turned in late will be assessed penalties of a half letter grade per day late; papers will not be accepted more than one week after the due date. To be fair to all students, exceptions to this rule will not be granted. More details on this assignment will be provided in class.

Method of determining final grade:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Attendance 5%	Essay 30%
Midterm exam 30%	Final exam 35%

Other expectations:

Given the size of this class, your fellow students depend on your cooperation in maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning. Late arrivals, early departures, and other disruptive behaviors are strongly discouraged. On the other hand, you are encouraged to ask questions and raise substantive issues at all times.

You are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarizing, or practicing other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated and, consonant with university regulations, may result in failure of the course.

Suggestions:

If you do not understand a course requirement or course material, please ask about it. If you do not understand the grading of your examination, please seek clarification at the earliest opportunity. I am here to help you and welcome opportunities to answer your questions.

Consider the following suggestions to assist you in writing essay exams:

1. Always relate exam points to time. If the exam has three sections of equal value, apportion your time equally. DO NOT spend longer on one of the sections than the percent of the grade justifies.
2. Before beginning to write, outline your essay to ensure orderliness as you write. Then compose an essay including an introduction, a body of several paragraphs, and a brief concluding paragraph. Following this advice rather than writing down thoughts as they come to mind will help you produce an organized, coherent essay.
3. Remember that the prime concern of history is to analyze change over time. When, why, and how the changes occurred and the significance of the changes to American history are central questions in this course. Bear this in mind as you take notes, read, and review.
4. You should succeed on the exams in general proportion to the time and effort you invest in studying. If this does not happen on the midterm, please talk to me at once.

Schedule of assignments:

Lectures and assignments are tentatively scheduled below. Each class will consist primarily of lecture, but ample time will be reserved for questions and discussion. Please be prepared to make thoughtful contributions to each class. Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. You are expected to familiarize yourself with the topics of reading assignments and complete them in conjunction with the appropriate lectures.

- Sep. 20 Introduction to the course  
READINGS: LaFeber, 3-17
- 25 Origins of American Empire  
27 Diplomacy of the American Revolution  
READINGS: LaFeber, 18-39; Dull, xi-174
- Oct. 2 Problems of the Confederation  
4 Federalist Diplomacy, 1789-1801  
READINGS: LaFeber, 40-52
- 9 Jeffersonian Diplomacy, 1801-09  
11 War of 1812  
READINGS: LaFeber, 52-70; Brown, vii-196
- 16 Monroe Era  
18 Manifest Destiny to the 1840s  
READINGS: LaFeber, 71-115; Graebner, vii-228
- 23 The War with Mexico  
25 MIDTERM  
READINGS: LaFeber, 115-129
- 30 Diplomacy in the Civil War era
- Nov. 1 Expansionism after the Civil War  
READINGS: LaFeber, 130-71;
- 6 The New Consensus on Empire  
8 The Spanish-American War  
READINGS: LaFeber, 171-217; Beisner, 1-157
- 13 The Open Door in Asia, 1898-1917  
15 The Closed Door in Latin America, 1898-1917  
READINGS: LaFeber, 217-68; Esthus, 1-150
- 20 Woodrow Wilson, revolution, and world war, 1913-1917  
22 ESSAYS DUE  
U.S. belligerence in World War I, 1917-1919  
READINGS: LaFeber, 269-313; Ambrosius, ix-148
- 27 Paris Peace Conference and Versailles Treaty  
29 REVIEW FOR FINAL  
READINGS: LaFeber, 313-33

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December 5 (Tuesday) FINAL EXAM 7:30-9:18 am