

History 583.02
American Diplomatic History Since 1920

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Academic Objectives:

1. Students will gain a basic factual knowledge of the diplomacy of this period in United States history.
2. Students will develop or improve skills in analyzing historical data and drawing informed conclusions about such material.
3. Students will gain or further develop critical skills necessary to assess arguments based on historical facts or analogies.
4. Students will cultivate in essay examinations and class discussions the logical and persuasive communication and analytical skills that are the marks of a liberally-educated person.

Course Requirements:

1. The course will be conducted through lectures and class discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to raise questions and make comments in class. Class attendance and active participation will count significantly toward the course grade.
2. Students are required to complete each reading assignment on the date that it is assigned, and should be prepared to discuss it in class. Keeping abreast of the readings will facilitate understanding of the lectures. It is highly recommended that students take notes of the readings in order to help them with discussion sessions.
3. Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the due date. Late papers or exams will be accepted only with prior approval, or under the most exceptional circumstances.
4. Students will be required to complete a long research paper on a topic of his/her choice (with the approval of the professor) related to the diplomacy of the United States since 1920. This paper must be at least 10 pages, must be typed, and must conform to accepted rules of grammar and style. Papers need to make use of at least two primary sources. Paper proposals, which briefly articulate the topic, thesis, and prospective resources, are due midway through the quarter, and must be approved by the instructor before the paper will be accepted.
5. Students will be required to complete one take-home final exam. This examination will be essay, and must be completed within the allotted time (approximately one week). Final exams must be typed, and should demonstrate both a knowledge of the material and the ability to analyze historical evidence.
6. Students are required to write a series of short papers on a narrowly focused topic assigned by the instructor. Four papers have been assigned, and students are required to choose three of them. Students may do all four, in which case the lowest grade will be dropped. These papers

must be typed, and must not exceed two pages. Papers left in my mailbox in Dulles Hall will be accepted until 5:00 pm on the day that they are due.

7. Students are expected to conform to established classroom etiquette. Disruptive behavior, such as smoking, sleeping, talking and persistent tardiness is unfair both to the instructor and to serious students, and will not be tolerated. Anyone repeatedly violating these rules will be brutally tortured.
8. Students will scrupulously observe all university policies on academic honesty. All cases of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course, in addition to any sanctions imposed by the university.
9. The instructor reserves the right to make jokes whenever the spirit so moves him. They don't even have to be good jokes, but students are expected to laugh uproariously each time they hear one.

Grading:

Your grade will be determined according to the following breakdown:

- 35%: Research paper
- 30%: Short papers
- 25%: Final exam
- 10%: Class participation and attendance

To earn an "A" for the class, students must attain a final average of 89.5%; to make a "B," the average must be 79.5%; to make a "C" the average must be 69.5%; to make a "D" the average must be 59.5%. Anything below 59.5% will be considered failing.

Graduating seniors need to make arrangements with the professor to complete all course requirements early enough to meet graduation requirements.

Required Reading:

The following six books are required for the course:

LaFeber, Walter. *The American Age, Volume II (Since 1896)*, Second edition, W.W. Norton & Co., 1994.

Divine, Robert. *Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*. Texas A&M University Press, 2000.

Hunt, Michael. *Lyndon Johnson's War*. Hill and Wang Publishers, 1996.

LaFeber, Walter. *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*. W.W. Norton & Co., 1999.

Leffler, Melvyn. *The Specter of Communism*. HarperCollins, 1994.

Takaki, Ronald. *Hiroshima*. Little, Brown, and Company, 1995.

Students unfamiliar with the secondary literature might want to utilize any of the following bibliographical sources before writing their papers: Robert Beisner (ed.), *American Foreign Relations Since 1600*; Robert Schulzinger, *A Companion to American Foreign Relations*, or the on-line guide at <http://astro.temple.edu/~rimmerma/461bib.html#coldwar>.

Students without experience in writing length papers in the field of diplomatic history should peruse Marc Trachtenberg's *Guide to Doing Cold War History* at: <http://www.polisci.ucla.edu/faculty/trachtenberg/guide/guidehome.html>.

Course Schedule and Assigned Reading:

Week 1: The Roots of American Foreign Policy

Jan 6: Course Introduction

Jan 8: The New Superpower (LaFeber, chapter 7)

Week 2: Dollar Diplomacy

Jan 13: The Ideology of American Foreign Policy (Divine, all)

Jan 15: Dollar Diplomacy (LaFeber, chapter 11)

Week 3: The Path Toward War

Jan 20: The New Deal and the World (LaFeber, chapter 12-13)

Jan 22: America and the Second World War (Takaki, 1-4)

Week 4: World War III?

Jan 27: Atomic Diplomacy (Takaki, 5-end)

Paper #1: What was the most significant reason for the American decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan at the end of World War II?

Jan 29: Origins of the Cold War (LaFeber, chapter 14, Leffler chapter 1)

Week 5: The Cold War and Korea

Feb 3: Implementing Containment (Leffler, chapter 2-4)

Feb 5: The Forgotten War (LaFeber, chapter 15)

Paper #2: What does Mel Leffler mean by the phrase "a political economy of freedom?" How did it contribute to the rise of the Cold War?"

Week 6: The Cold War at Home

Feb 10: The Red Scare

Feb 12: The Cold War and the Color Line

Paper proposals due

Week 7: Early Cold War

Feb 17: The New Look (LaFeber, chapter 16)

Feb 19: The New Frontier (LaFeber, chapter 17)

Paper #3: Dwight Eisenhower left office with a farewell address that contained a series of warnings about foreign policy (see LaFeber, p. 572). Did his successor heed this advice? Had Eisenhower followed it himself?

Week 8: The Vietnam War

Feb 24: Into the Quagmire (Hunt, chapters 1-3)

Feb 26: The War in Vietnam (Hunt, chapters 4-5)

Paper #4: Why does Michael Hunt consider Vietnam to be "Lyndon Johnson's War"?
Do you agree with his assessment?

Week 9: Beyond Vietnam

Mar 2: DÈtente and Human Rights (LaFeber, 18 and Michael Jordan 1-3)

Mar 4: The US and the Middle East (Michael Jordan 4-end)

Week 10: The Last Years of the Cold War

Mar 9: The Last Years of the Cold War (LaFeber, chapter 19)

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Final Exams distributed (due March 16)

Important Dates, Winter 04:

January 6: My Birthday

January 19: Martin Luther King Holiday

January 27: Paper #1 Due

February 1: Super Bowl XXXVIII

February 5: Paper #2 Due

February 13: Research Proposals Due

February 14: Pitchers and Catchers Report for Spring Training

February 19: Paper #3 Due

February 20: Last day to drop course without petition

February 26: Paper #4 Due

March 9: Research Paper Due

March 16: Final exam due

Helpful Websites for Diplomatic History

Some Good Places to Start:

<http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/sarantakes/stuff.html> The mother of all diplomatic history websites, with links to everything you can imagine (and some things you can't).

<http://astro.ocis.temple.edu/~rimmerma/461bib.html> The most comprehensive list of secondary sources

<http://www.loyola.edu/dept/politics/milintel.html> Various military intelligence documents and links

<http://www.loyola.edu/dept/politics/intel.html> Various strategic intelligence links and documents

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm> Documents in American law and diplomacy

Some General Document Collections:

http://wwics.si.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=topics.home&topic_id=1409 Home of the Cold War International History project, with on-line bulletins and documents

<http://www.archives.gov/> The National Archives and Records Administration home page

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/> A great collection of State Dept. documents starting in 1861

<http://www.gwu.edu/%7Eensarchiv/index.html> The National Security Archive with many good documents post-1945

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/feros-pg.htm#documents> Assorted documents at Mt. Holyoke College

Presidential Libraries:

<http://www.clinton.archives.gov/>

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/>

<http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/>

<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/>

<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/>

<http://www.archives.gov/nixon/>

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/>

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/>

<http://www.eisenhower.utexas.edu/>

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/>

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/>

<http://hoover.archives.gov/>

Miscellaneous Topics

<http://www.odci.gov/csi/books/princeton/index.html> Assorted CIA analyses of the Soviet Union, 1947-91

<http://www.nsa.gov/docs/venona/index.html> Collections from the National Security Agency's Venona Program, which intercepted Soviet communications during the Cold War

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/> Great collection of WWII materials, especially related to Pearl Harbor

<http://www.boondocksnet.com/ai/kipling/> Anti-imperialism in the United States, 1898-1935

<http://www.nsa.gov/docs/history/index.html> Various NSA documents about cryptology and the Cold War

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/> A collection of Vietnam War documents with a focus on American military strategy

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/> Assorted World War I documents

<http://www.vwip.org/vwiphome.html> Assorted collection of Vietnam War documents and oral histories

<http://web.uccs.edu/~history/index/vietnam.html> Various documents and more regarding the Vietnam War

<http://www.doug-long.com/> Great material about the Hiroshima bombing including documents, excerpts from diaries and personal papers, and many relevant articles.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html> Basic information from the CIA about the countries of the world

<http://www.un.org/> The United Nations website