

History 370/550: American Foreign Relations, 1900–Present
Towson University
Spring 2006

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Linthicum 217
Office hours: Mon., 12:30–2 p.m.
Wed., 12:30–2 p.m.
and by appointment

M W, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Linthicum 209
Office: 410-704-2917

Books available for purchase:

John Lewis Gaddis, *Surprise, Security, and the American Experience* (Harvard University Press, 2004)

Gary R. Hess, *The United States at War, 1941–1945* (Harlan Davidson, 2000)

Thomas G. Paterson, J. Garry Clifford, Shane J. Maddock, Deborah Kisatsky, and Kenneth J. Hagan, *American Foreign Relations, Vol. II: A History Since 1895* (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Emily S. Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890–1945* (Hill and Wang, 1982)

An additional packet of required sources is available for purchase at the University Store.

Learning objectives:

The United States was rising to international prominence in 1900. In the 20th century, internationalists won out over those who called for restricted American involvement in global affairs. The country fought and helped win two world wars, then fought two more—in Korea and Vietnam—as part of the Cold War effort to prevent the spread of communism. With the demise of the Soviet Union, the United States became the world's lone superpower. But the Cold War's simplistic dichotomy ("us versus them") gave way to a more complicated world, and the attacks of September 11, 2001, have led to a War on Terror. And in the 21st century, the debate continues as to whether the United States should chart its own path or work in concert with other nations.

The history of American foreign relations is undeniably a political story, but it is also an economic, social, and cultural one. Throughout the era under review and to this day, American foreign policy is strongly influenced by the business community's quest for markets, raw materials, and cheap labor. Wars require the commitment of American soldiers to fight and (usually) public willingness to make homefront sacrifices. When that support wanes, public protests can affect prosecution of war. And American culture strongly influences foreign policy, whether in Americans' perceptions of their nation's role in the world, news media presentations of international stories, or popular public perceptions of foreign nations, regions, and peoples.

This course will explore all these aspects of American foreign policy since 1900.

Grading:

1. **Class participation.** Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive prepared. "Class participation" comprises posting comments on the Blackboard website and participating in class discussions. **20%**
 - By 10 a.m. on each class day, each student will post to the Blackboard website (<http://bbweb.towson.edu>) a comment or question that the readings raised—the more perceptive, the better. These posts will help form the basis of class discussions. If you cannot post your comment to Blackboard, call my office number (410-704-2917) and leave your comment on my voicemail.
 - Participation in a seminar class is crucial, so I look forward to everybody contributing to class discussions.
2. **Midterm exam.** The midterm exam will be an in-class exam on Wednesday, March 15. **20%**
3. **Research paper.** Each student will write a 10–15 page research paper on a topic of some aspect of American foreign relations from 1898 to the present. Students will turn in topics and annotated bibliographies on Monday, March 6, and final drafts on Monday, May 1. **30%**

4. **Final exam.** The final exam is scheduled for Friday, May 19, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. It will mainly—if not exclusively—cover material from the second half of the course. **30%**
5. **Attendance.** Each student's final grade will be reduced by one step (e.g., from a B- to a C+) for every three unexcused absences.

Grades on all assignments will be numeric, but your final grade will be a letter grade, and I will include pluses and minuses.

93–100 = A	80–82 = B-	67–69 = D+
90–92 = A-	77–79 = C+	60–66 = D
87–89 = B+	70–76 = C	Below 59.5 = F
83–86 = B		

To ascertain the numeric value of the letter grade to calculate your GPA (i.e., on the 4.0 scale), see the conversion chart on page 25 in the “Academic Regulations” section of the *2005–2006 Undergraduate Catalog*.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:

It is crucial that students do their own work. In order for you to benefit from the course—and to be fair to all students—I will not tolerate academic dishonesty, whether it is in the form of cheating, plagiarism, or other dishonest behaviors. If you lift material from the Internet and paste it into your paper without giving credit to the source, that is a form of plagiarism. If I believe that you have cheated or borrowed another person's work for an assignment, I will confront you on the matter. If I am not satisfied with your explanation, you will fail the assignment and **you may fail the course due to that single infraction.**

If you are unclear as to what the different violations are, it is your responsibility to find out. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please feel free to see me. I will be happy to explain. Additional information is available at:

<http://wwwnew.towson.edu/provost/facultyhandbook>, ch. 7, pgs. 7-22–7-23.

The Daily Schedule:

Mon., Jan. 30: Introduction

Wed., Feb. 1: The Imperial Leap

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 1–21.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, ch. 1, “Introduction: The American Dream,” pgs. 3–13.

Mon., Feb. 6: American Expansion, Public and Private

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 22–45.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, ch. 2, “Capitalists, Christians, Cowboys: 1890–1912,” pgs. 14–37.

Wed., Feb. 8: Prelude to World War I

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 46–55.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, ch. 3, “The Promotional State: 1890–1912,” pgs. 38–62.

Mon., Feb. 13: World War I and the League of Nations

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 55–73.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, ch. 4, “World War I and the Triumph of the Promotional State,” pgs. 63–86.

Wed., Feb. 15: “Between the Acts”

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 74–95.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, ch. 5, “International Communications: 1912–1932,” pgs. 87–107.

Mon., Feb. 20: The 1920s

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, chs. 6–8: “Forging a Global Fellowship: The Internationalist Impulse of the 1920s,” “Economic Expansion: The 1920s,” and “The Cooperative State of the 1920s,” pgs. 108–60.

Wed., Feb. 22: Setting the Stage for World War II

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 96–118.

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago, 1918–1956: An Experiment in Literary Investigation*, vol. 1 (Harper & Row, 1974), pgs. 93–107.

Mon., Feb. 27: World War II

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 119–39.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, ch. 9, “Depression and War: 1932–1945,” pgs. 161–201.

Wed., March 1: World War II

Hess, *The United States at War*, chs. 1–3, “To Pearl Harbor: The United States and World Crisis,” “Allied Defeats and the Axis Ascendancy, 1941–1942,” and “The War in Europe: The Turn of the Tide” pgs. 1–57.

Mon., March 6: Planning the Postwar World

PAPER TOPIC STATEMENT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Hess, *The United States at War*, ch. 4, and “The Pacific Theater: The War Against Japan, 1942–1945,” pgs. 58–85.

Wed., March 8: World War II Ends

Hess, *The United States at War*, ch. 5, “The Diplomatic Front—Roosevelt’s Vision of the Postwar World,” pgs. 86–107.

Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, chs. 10 and 11, “The Cultural Offensive: 1939–1945” and “Spreading the Dream?” pgs. 202–34.

Mon., March 13: Reflecting on World War II

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 139–52.

Hess, *The United States at War*, ch. 6, “The Dilemmas of Victory,” and Conclusion, “Why the Allies Won,” pgs. 108–39.

Wed., March 15: MIDTERM EXAM

MARCH 19–26: SPRING BREAK

Mon., March 27: Anticommunism

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 153–80.

Richard M. Fried, “Springtime for Stalin: Mosinee’s ‘Day Under Communism’ as Cold War Pageantry,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History* (1993–94), pgs. 83–108.

Wed., March 29: The Korean War and Eisenhower

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 181–212.

Mon., April 3: The “Third World” and Foreign Aid

Thomas G. Paterson, “Foreign Aid Under Wraps: The Point Four Program,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History* (1972/73), pgs. 119–26.

David S. Painter, “Explaining U.S. Relations with the Third World,” *Diplomatic History* (1995), pgs. 525–48. (Available online.)

Wed., April 5: Vietnam

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 213–47.

George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant," from *A Collection of Essays* (Harcourt Brace, 1981), pgs. 148–56.

Mon., April 10: Choosing War

Fredrik Logevall, *Choosing War: The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation of War in Vietnam*, ch. 9, "The Freedom to Change, November and December 1964," pgs. 252–99.

Wed., April 12: Dissent and Vietnam

Lynda Van Devanter, "Nursing and Disillusionment," in Andrew J. Rotter, ed., *The Light at the End of the Tunnel*, pgs. 207–14.
"George Kennan Chastises the Student Left" (1968), pgs. 444–47.

Mon., April 17: Race and Vietnam

Gerald Gill, "From Maternal Pacifism to Revolutionary Solidarity: African-American Women's Opposition to the Vietnam War," *Sights on the Sixties*, pgs. 177–95.
The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam" (1967)
Muhammad Ali with Richard Durham, "The Greatest," in *Eyes on the Prize*, pgs. 444–57.
Commander George L. Jackson, "Constraints of the Negro Civil Rights Movement on American Military Effectiveness" (1970), in *Vietnam and America*, pgs. 321–26.

Wed., April 19: Nixon and Kissinger

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 248–77.
Tom Grace, *From Camelot to Kent State*, pgs. 329–35.
President James L. Fisher, Towson State College Senate document, May 12, 1970.

Mon., April 24: Carter and the Olympics

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 278–93.
Craig Nickerson, "Red Dawn in Lake Placid: The Semi-Final Hockey Game at the 1980 Winter Olympics as Cold War Battleground," *Canadian Journal of History of Sport* (1995), pgs. 73–85.

Wed., April 26: The Age of Rambo

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 293–312.
Walter L. Hixson, "'Red Storm Rising': Tom Clancy Novels and the Cult of National Security," *Diplomatic History* (Fall 1993), pgs. 599–613. (Available online.)

Mon, May 1: After the Cold War

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN CLASS

Wed., May 3: "Between the Acts"

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 317–49.
Robert S. McNamara, *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam* (1995), Preface and Chapter 11, "The Lessons of Vietnam," pgs. xv–xviii, 319–35.

Mon., May 8: The War on Terror in Historical Context

Gaddis, *Surprise, Security, and the American Experience*, chs. 1–3, "A Morning at Yale," "The Nineteenth Century," and "The Twentieth Century," pgs. 1–67.

Wed., May 10: The War on Terror in Historical Context

Gaddis, *Surprise, Security, and the American Experience*, chs. 4 and 5, "The Twenty-First Century" and "An Evening at Yale," pgs. 69–118.

Mon., May 15: Sept. 11 and Beyond

Paterson et al, *American Foreign Relations*, pgs. 313–17.
Emily S. Rosenberg, "Rescuing Women and Children," *Journal of American History* (September 2002), pgs. 456–65.

The final exam is scheduled for Friday, May 19, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.