

History 461  
J. Combs

Fall 2006  
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### **THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS**

(This course fulfills the requirement for General Education Segment III, Cluster on America and World Affairs, Category A)

#### **Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge of the most significant events, personalities, and driving forces in the history of American foreign relations from the American Revolution to the present.

Knowledge of policies and attitudes of other nations and peoples toward past and present American foreign policy.

Ability to compare and contrast interpretations of the history of American foreign relations offered by analysts of differing political persuasions from the United States and abroad.

Ability to analyze issues in past and present American foreign relations based on perspectives drawn from other disciplines, including history, economics, and international relations/political science policy analysis.

#### **Required Texts**

Jerald A. Combs, The History of American Foreign Policy (2d ed.)

Douglas Little, American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945

Micah L. Sifry and Christopher Cerf, The Iraq War Reader

D. Clayton Brown, Globalization and America Since 1945

	<b><u>Lecture/Discussion Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Reading</u></b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>		
Aug. 29, 31	Nationalist, Realist, and Radical Views of American Diplomacy	Combs: Preface
<b>2. The Triumph of Non-Entanglement</b>		
Sept. 5, 7	Diplomacy of the American Revolution Federalist Diplomacy--The Path to the Farewell Address	Combs: Ch. 1-2
Sept. 12, 14	Republican Diplomacy and the War of 1812	Combs: Ch. 3

Study Question: Compare Federalist foreign policy as exemplified by the Jay Treaty with Republican foreign policy as exemplified by the Embargo and the War of 1812 .

### 3. The Age of Territorial Expansion

Sept. 19, 21	The Monroe Doctrine, Indian Removal, And The Mexican War	Combs: Ch. 4-6
Sept. 26, 28	The Spanish American War and the Decision for Imperialism	Combs: Ch. 7-8
Oct. 3	The Open Door in Asia;	Combs: Ch. 9
Oct. 5	Big Stick Diplomacy in Latin America	Combs: Ch. 10

Study Question: Many historians consider James K. Polk one of the most successful presidents in U.S. history. Others consider him an unprincipled and war-mongering imperialist. Analyze Polk's diplomacy toward Great Britain and Mexico in light of those contrasting opinions.

Study Question: In what ways was American expansion in the period before the Civil War similar to U.S. expansion in Asia and Latin America between 1890 and 1914. In what ways was it different?

### 4. America and Two World Wars

Oct. 10, 12	American Intervention into World War I and The Failure at Versailles	Combs: Ch. 11-12
Oct. 17, 19	The Coming of World War II in Europe and Asia	Combs: Ch. 13-14

Study Question: Many historians and politicians have argued that the way in which the United States entered World War I and the nature of the peace at Versailles made World War II inevitable? What is their evidence? Is it convincing?

### **OCTOBER 24: MID-TERM EXAM** (30% of final grade)

The mid-term will consist of two questions derived from the study questions listed after sections 2, 3, and 4.

### 5. The Origins of the Cold War

Oct. 26, 30	The Diplomacy of World War II	Combs: Ch. 15
Nov. 2, 7	Harry Truman & the Cold War	Combs: Ch. 16

Study Question: Describe the stages through which America's policy toward the Soviet Union escalated during the administrations of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Was there a stage at which the United States should have continued its existing policy rather than escalating to the next stage?

### 6. The Path to Vietnam

Nov. 9                      From Eisenhower's "New Look" to  
the Kennedy-Johnson "Flexible Response"                      Combs: Ch. 17-18

Nov. 2                      Vietnam and U.S. Foreign Policy:                      Combs: Ch. 19-20

Study Question: Describe the history of America's involvement in Vietnam and analyze the ways in which the experience of the Vietnam War affected later American foreign policy.

## **7.      The United States and the Middle East**

Nov. 14, 16              U.S. Policy toward the Middle East before                      Combs: Ch. 21 and pp. 521-527;  
the end of the Cold War                      Middle East Time Line Handout  
Douglas Little, AMERICAN ORIENTALISM

Study Question: Discuss U.S. policy toward the Arab-Israeli issue from 1948 to the present.

## **8.      The End of the Cold War**

Nov. 19, 30              The End of the Cold War                      Combs: Ch. 22-23

Study Question: What were the forces and events that brought an end to the Cold War? To what extent did the policies of the Reagan administration deserve credit for ending the Cold War?

**Take-Home Midterm Due in class December 5 (35% of final grade. No late papers except in cases of extreme emergency.)**

1. Based on your reading of D. Clayton Brown, Globalization and American Since 1945 and the handout of short essays debating globalization, describe and analyze the controversy over the issue of globalization in the post-Cold War era. (no more than 7 double-spaced typed pages)

2. Based on your reading of Douglas Little, American Orientalism and selections from Micah L. Sifry and Christopher Cerf, The Iraq War Reader, describe and analyze the dispute over George W. Bush's new strategic policy and the war in Iraq. (no more than 7 double-spaced typed pages)

## **9.      Terrorism and Globalization**

Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14              U.S. Policy After the Cold War

**Tuesday, December 19, 8-10:30 AM (35% of final grade)**

Final Exam will be based on study questions for sections 5-8.