COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will explore the major themes and problems of the history of U.S. foreign relations from the American Revolution to the current conflict in Afghanistan. In addition to covering issues such as the duality of pragmatism and idealism, expansionism, imperialism, and global hegemony, we will examine the influence of individuals, ideology, cultural values, domestic politics, national security imperatives, and the so-called “lessons of history” on the creation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy. Above all, the course aims to stimulate your thinking about American foreign relations and the role the United States has played in the world since 1776—and what role it can and should play in the 21st century.

COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: The lectures in this course will be designed to highlight specific issues and complement the material in the assigned readings. Thus, it is in your best interest to attend each lecture and take notes (please be aware that, as a policy, I do not circulate my PowerPoint slides). Please be on time and do not leave lecture early without notifying me in advance and refrain from reading newspapers, using social media, or being disruptive during class (this includes turning cell phones and pagers to off or vibrate). You are expected to do ALL of the reading for the course and participate in class discussions (failure to do so will have a detrimental effect on your grade); and you will be accountable for this material and everything presented in lecture on the exams. Ultimately, you will get out of this course what you put into it (a cliché to be sure, but an appropriate one). You may be tempted to ignore this advice, but as Professor Dave Jennings said to the students at Faber College, “that doesn’t relieve you of your responsibility for this material....Listen, I’m not joking. This is my job!”

COURSE COMMUNICATION: This course will not be on the BYU Learning Suite, so please be sure to check your e-mail regularly for updates and announcements from me relating to the course. If you do not have an e-mail account, please obtain one (either through the university or one of the many free e-mail services) and update your preferred e-mail contact information on Route Y as soon as possible so that I can contact you if necessary. This is also the best way to contact me outside of lecture or posted office hours.

COURSE CONTENT: As we explore the history of U.S. foreign relations, we will read, listen to, watch, and discuss material that could potentially be shocking or even offensive (morally or politically) to some of you. The course material has not been selected for your entertainment, but rather for your education. It aims to expand your understanding beyond your own experience. Parts may be startling or challenge your assumptions and/or beliefs, but at the same time will be descriptive of the human condition and relevant to the events and themes central to the course. If you have questions or concerns about the course content, please discuss them with me as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC CIVILITY: Feel free to express opinions that are contrary to what I say, what other students say, or what the readings say. Often, it is through debates over interpretation of historical material that clarity (if not consensus) about the past emerges. Remember, however, that this is an academic environment. A whole spectrum of opinions exists on any given subject and it is vital to respect the opinions of others even if you are convinced that their view is totally, completely, and unconditionally wrong. Personal attacks or criticisms based on gender, ethnicity, political or religious beliefs, etc. will not be tolerated.
**LATE PENALTIES:** Failure to submit any of the writing assignments on time will result in a grade penalty. Each 24-hour period after the stated due date will incur a penalty of two letter grades (e.g. B to D), **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Excuses such as getting engaged, broken-hearted roommates, computer catastrophes, “my plane/bus/train was late,” and the timeless “my dog ate my homework” will not cut it. Curiously, tragic tales of death, woe, and misery occur with unbelievable, X-Filian regularity around due dates. Plan ahead to ensure that these cosmic misfortunes won’t affect you. This is, after all, college and you are an adult; you are responsible for your own success or failure.

**GRADE APPEALS PROCEDURE:** If you have a question about a grade you received, you must wait 24 hours after receiving the paper or exam back before making an appeal. Further, I will not discuss a grade with you until you have submitted a **detailed written appeal** discussing your specific concerns. I reserve the right to raise **OR** lower the grade upon further review. There is an iron-clad, **one-week time limit** on any discussion of a grade.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** As a student at Brigham Young University, you have agreed to abide by the University’s honor code ([www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor_code.htm](http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor_code.htm)). In this course, the most relevant aspects of that commitment relate to academic honesty: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and so forth. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) borrowing a friend’s paper, lifting text from digital sources (including “open access” material and the internet), using “paper mills,” and reproducing the ideas and phrases of other authors without credit. The short version is that all work for this course must be your own. A comprehensive definition from the American Historical Association is available at [www.historians.org/governance/pd/curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm](http://www.historians.org/governance/pd/curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm). In addition, you cannot “self-plagiarize;” that is, you cannot use a paper from another course (past, present, or future) for this course, and vice versa. **All course work must be created exclusively and originally for this course.** I take these issues very seriously and will prosecute **ALL** violations vigorously.

**LEGAL INFORMATION:** If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, contact the University Accessibility Center (1520 WSC), which can evaluate your disability, assist in arranging for reasonable accommodations, and provide me with the appropriate documentation. Sexual discrimination or harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by law and by Brigham Young University policy. If you believe you are being subjected to such behavior, please bring your concerns to me as soon as possible. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint with either the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB) or the Honor Code Office (4440 WSC).

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The learning objectives for this course include:

- Students will be able to explain and analyze the major themes and problems in the making, implementation, and evolution of U.S. foreign relations from 1776 to the present.

- Students will be able to analyze, interpret, and debate the meanings and historical significance of primary source documents.

- Students will be able to produce an original, analytical, and primary source based historical essay examining a key issue, theme, or individual from the history of U.S. foreign relations.
ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

You will receive a grade for your efforts in this course based on your performance in the following four areas:

1. **DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION (20%)**: During the semester, we will take time to discuss the readings and course themes, as well as relevant current events. Participation in class (asking and answering questions, contributing to discussions, group projects, etc.) and quizzes or unannounced in-class writing assignments on the course material will factor into this portion of your grade.

2. **MIDTERM EXAM (20%)**: The midterm will cover the first half of the course. You will be able to take it at the Testing Center (HGB) any time between **Monday, October 22 and Friday, October 26**; be sure to consult the Testing Center’s schedule for its operating hours on those days and leave yourself sufficient time (approximately two to three hours) to complete the exam. **NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY REASON**; if you miss the midterm for any reason—including, but not limited to, illness, lack of preparation, travel, or faulty memory—your final will be worth 50% of your overall course grade.

3. **RESEARCH PAPER (30%)**: You will receive a separate handout with more details on this assignment, which will require primary source research in the *Foreign Relations of the United States* volumes, familiarity with the relevant secondary literature, and adherence to the style guide (also forthcoming). The paper is due **BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF LECTURE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**. Absolutely **no** papers will be accepted after 8:00am on Thursday, November 29. You must submit and pass the essay in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

4. **FINAL EXAM (30%)**: The final exam will be comprehensive but weighted significantly toward the second half of the course. As per the University schedule, the exam will be given on **Friday, December 14 from 2:30pm-5:30pm**. Absolutely **no** early or late exams will be given to accommodate travel schedules.
REQUIRED READINGS FOR HISTORY 393

Richard Immerman, *John Foster Dulles: Piety, Pragmatism, and Power in U.S. Foreign Policy*
Thomas Leonard, *James K. Polk: A Clear and Unquestionable Destiny*
James Lewis, Jr., *John Quincy Adams: Policymaker for the Union*
David Schmitz, *Brent Scowcroft: Internationalism and Post-Vietnam American Foreign Policy*

**N.B. I:** There is no official “textbook” for this course. If you find that you would like to consult a general overview of the history of U.S. foreign relations, the following non-comprehensive list of titles is recommended:

- George Herring, *From Colony to Superpower*
- Walter LaFeber, *The American Age*

**N.B. II:** The required books will be available at the BYU Bookstore. To subvert the monopoly system (and potentially save yourself some money) you might consider buying books from an alternate source such as bookfinder.com, abebooks.com, or amazon.com. If you choose to do so, you will need to make sure that you acquire the 7th edition of the Merrill & Paterson, eds., volumes; the content of each edition changes significantly.

**N.B. III:** History courses require a great deal of reading. Many students who enroll in this course come from other academic programs (e.g. Political Science, American Studies) and thus may not be accustomed to the reading workload. Please be aware of this aspect of the course and do your best to keep up with the assigned readings each week.

**N.B. IV:** Occasionally throughout the semester, we will devote class time to a discussion of current events (e.g. how foreign policy influences the 2012 presidential campaign; the Obama administration’s foreign policy initiatives; and the domestic and international reaction to U.S. policies) and how they relate to the course. To participate in and understand these discussions, you will need to get into the habit of reading a newspaper regularly—a good habit to acquire in any event. Fortunately, you can pick up a free copy of the *New York Times* at the Kennedy Center each weekday, and most major national newspapers (including the *NYT*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Washington Post*) have free on-line editions that you can take advantage of. *The Daily Universe* is **NOT** considered to be major, or national, or (frequently) a newspaper...broaden your horizons.

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**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING ON THIS SYLLABUS AND ALL OTHER HANDOUTS I DISTRIBUTE, AS WELL AS ALL E-MAIL COMMUNICATION THAT OCCURS DURING THE SEMESTER. IN THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF BRAD HAMILTON, “LEARN IT, KNOW IT, LIVE IT.” IGNORANCE IS NOT A VALID DEFENSE.**
EXTREMELY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

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WEEK #1:  AMERICA AND THE WORLD

August 28  Introduction to the course & liturgical reading of the syllabus
August 30  Interpretations and themes in the history of U.S. foreign relations

Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. I, ch. 1
          Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 1

WEEK #2:  ORIGINS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY

September 4  The Diplomacy of the Revolution
September 6  The “Great Debate” of the 1790s

Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. I, ch. 2-3

WEEK #3:  “EMPIRE OF LIBERTY”

September 11  Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase
September 13  Fighting for Independence...again: The War of 1812
PAPER TOPIC E-MAIL DUE BY 12:00PM

Reading:  Lewis, all
          Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. I, ch. 4-5

WEEK #4:  BUILDING A CONTINENTAL EMPIRE

September 18  John Quincy Adams & the Monroe Doctrine
September 20  Manifest Destiny

Reading:  Leonard, all
          Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. I, ch. 6-7

WEEK #5:  BECOMING A WORLD POWER

September 25  The Mexican-American War & Civil War Diplomacy
September 27  Evolution of U.S. Imperialism

Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. I, ch. 8-13
**WEEK #6: PROJECTING AMERICAN POWER & IDEAS**

October 2  Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy  
October 4  Making the World Safe for Democracy  
Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. I, ch. 14-15  

**WEEK #7: INTER-WAR FOREIGN RELATIONS**

October 9  Isolationism in the 1920s Reconsidered  
October 11  The Illusion of Neutrality  
Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 3-4  

**WEEK #8: WORLD WAR II**

October 16  The World at War  
October 18  Wartime Diplomacy  
Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 5  

**WEEK #9: MIDTERM**

October 23  MIDTERM EXAM  
October 25  NO CLASS: DR. JOHNS OUT-OF-TOWN  
Reading:  Review for midterm exam/catch up on reading  

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**WEEK #10: SOVIET-AMERICAN CONFRONTATION**

October 30  Origins of the Cold War  
November 1  NSC-68 & Total Cold War  
Reading:  Immerman, all  
Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 6-8  

**WEEK #11: THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE COLD WAR**

November 6  Decolonization and the Third World  
**ELECTION DAY...BE SURE TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE**  
November 8  “Pay Any Price, Bear Any Burden...”  
Reading:  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 9-10
**WEEK #12:**  **VIETNAM AND THE LIMITS OF AMERICAN POWER**

- November 13  America’s Longest War
- November 15  Détente and Confrontation

**Reading:** Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 11-12

**WEEK #13:**  **THANKSGIVING**

- November 20  **NO CLASS: MISLABELED AS FRIDAY BY THE UNIVERSITY**
- November 22  **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Reading:** Catch up with readings

**WEEK #14:**  **FROM THE COLD WAR TO A NEW WORLD ORDER**

- November 27  Morality, Reason, and Power
  - **RESEARCH PAPERS DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF LECTURE**
- November 29  Reagan, Bush, and the End of the Cold War

**Reading:** Schmitz, all
  Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 13

**WEEK #15:**  **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

- December 4  The Lone Superpower from Clinton to Afghanistan
- December 6  The Future of American Diplomacy

**Reading:** Merrill & Paterson, eds., vol. II, ch. 14

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**FINAL EXAM:**  **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2:30-5:30PM, B150 JFSB**

*(SORRY ABOUT THE TIME...IT’S THE UNIVERSITY’S EXAM SCHEDULE)*