

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Department of History

History 25.3

The United States and the World, 1945 - Present

Professors Jennifer M. Miller and Edward Miller
Spring 2017

Class Time: MWF 11:30 – 12:35, X hour Tuesday, 12:15 – 1:05

Class Location: Carson 60

Office Hours:

Jennifer Miller: 410 Carson Hall, Fridays, 1:30 – 4:30 and by appointment

Edward Miller: 204 Carson Hall, Wednesdays, 1:15 – 3:15, and by appointment

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Course Overview:

This course examines the United States' interactions with the world from 1945 to the present. How has the United States tried to shape the world since 1945? What were the goals and strategies of leading policymakers? What underlying ideas, assumptions, and beliefs framed their actions? How has U.S. foreign policy been challenged abroad and reformed at home? How has life in the United States, in turn, been shaped by encounters with the rest of the world?

In this course, we will explore themes such as occupations, nation-building, and development; the global economy; transnational movements such as human rights and environmentalism; genocide and humanitarian intervention; overt and covert military action; the rise and fall of the Cold War; and the War on Terror. Throughout the course, we will develop three specific lines of inquiry. First, we will emphasize placing events in their broader international context. The actions of the United States have done much to shape the world over the past half century, yet they are also deeply dependent on the decisions and behavior of other states and peoples. Second, we will examine the consequences—both intended and unintended—of American policy, both at home and overseas. Finally, we will consider how the United States' international interactions have been shaped by specific ideas, ideologies, and cultural values. Lectures, readings, and discussions will explore how Americans have imagined and pursued their relationships with other nations and peoples.

Course Requirements and Grades:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following requirements:

1. **Attendance and on time arrival (10%):** Attendance at all class sessions (both lectures and discussions) is required. You may miss one class session without penalty; after that, each unexcused absence will result in a 20% reduction of your overall attendance score.

Each unexcused late arrival will result in a 10% reduction of your overall attendance score. The maximum score you can earn for your attendance grade is 95% (9.5 out of ten points).

2. **Participation (10%):** One day of class per week will be devoted to discussion. These discussions will include large group discussions and small group activities. You are expected to participate in all discussions.

This course averages 100 – 130 pages of reading per week. All students are expected to complete all the readings for each unit before this meeting and to actively participate in all discussions. To help prepare for discussion, we will pre-circulate a set of questions to guide your reading. Any absence from discussion will result in a reduction of your overall participation grade.

3. **Reading Quizzes (10%):** Throughout the term, there will be unannounced reading quizzes. These quizzes are designed to assess your comprehension of the reading.
4. **Analytical Essay (20%):** An 1800 word essay (approximately 6 pages) written in response to a question handed out in class. **Due Date: Thursday, April 20th, 7PM** via Canvas.
5. **Midterm (20%):** A 65-minute in-class midterm exam will be administered on **Monday, May 8th**. This exam will consist of short-answer questions and will be based on both lectures and course readings.
6. **Final exam (30%):** This exam consists of two parts:
 - a. A 90-minute in-class exam on **Friday, June 2nd at 8AM**. This is worth 15% of your final grade.
 - b. A take-home essay of up to 1500 words, **due Sunday, June 4th by 12 PM via Canvas**. This is worth 15% of your final grade.

Readings:

All readings on the syllabus are **required**. You must complete the readings for each unit before our weekly discussions.

The following books are available for purchase at Wheelock Books:

Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War* (Hill and Wang, 1994)

Eugene Burdick and William Lederer, *The Ugly American* (W.W. Norton, 1999)

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse* (Oxford, 2008)

Ernest R. May, *The 9/11 Commission Report with Related Documents* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2007)

In addition to the books listed above, the reading assignments for each unit also include articles, book excerpts, and primary source documents. These shorter texts will be available for viewing and download via Canvas. All books assigned in this course, regardless of whether we are reading the full book or an excerpt, are also available on library reserve.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend all classes, and to arrive to class on time. Any late arrivals or unexcused absences will be penalized as indicated above under “Course Requirements and Grades.” Note that **if there is a reading quiz on the day you miss class, you will receive a score of zero for that quiz.** If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get the missed material from a classmate.

Technology Policy:

Laptop computers are not allowed in this course. Additionally, all cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stowed in your bag for the duration of class.

Recording Policy:

You may not record course lectures without the consent of the lecturer. If you need to record lectures from accommodation purposes, you must receive permission from the lecturer and provide the proper documentation.

Honor principle:

All students should read, understand, and uphold the Dartmouth Academic Honor Principle, which can be found here: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor/>

As per the Honor Principle, all work submitted for this course must be your own independent work, work that you have completed solely for this course. You may not collaborate or work together on papers or during course exams. You may not pass other peoples’ work or ideas as your own – that is, you may not submit papers that are cut and pasted, copied, or paraphrased from an outside source, whether that source is another student, an internet source, or another text. You may not submit work that you have completed for another course.

When completing writing assignments, you must properly document each and every outside source from which you have obtained information or ideas (there is a handout about proper citation format posted on Canvas). This includes direct quotations, statistics, maps and images, and other author’s ideas rewritten in your own words (paraphrasing). For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult: <http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/learning/materials/sources-and-citations-dartmouth>

If you are confused about how to properly cite sources or about what constitutes plagiarism, consult with the professors **BEFORE** submitting your assignment. It is **YOUR** responsibility to understand and uphold the honor code.

Accommodations:

Any students who may need academic adjustments or accommodations during the term are strongly encouraged to convey those needs to the instructors as soon as possible. Early communication is especially important in cases in which students will miss class due to athletic events or religious holidays; it is also important in cases involving disabilities, which may require in-class or other accommodations. All communications will remain confidential, although it may be necessary to consult with the Student Disabilities Coordinator in some cases involving documented disabilities

Schedule of Course Meetings and Assignments

[CV] means the reading is available on Canvas. All books are also available on library reserve.

Unit 1: The United States and Europe: Postwar to Cold War

March 27 (M) Course Introduction

March 29 (W) Citizenship, the State, and the International Community in the Cold War
World [JM]

March 31 (F) The Occupation of Germany and the Cold War in Europe [JM]

April 3 (M) Discussion

Primary Sources:

Harry Truman, The Truman Doctrine (March 12, 1947) [CV]

George Kennan, The Long Telegram (Excerpts) (February 1946) [CV]

United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) [CV]

Readings:

Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917 – 1953* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1994), preface, 1 – 96.

Unit 2: The United States and Asia: Postwar to Cold War

April 5 (W) The Cold War in Asia, Part I: War, Empire & Revolution [EM]

April 7 (F) The Cold War in Asia, Part II: The Korean War [EM]

April 10 (M) Discussion

Primary Sources:

Excerpt from NSC-68 (1950) [CV]

State Department Document on Indochina (December 1946) [CV]

Excerpts from National Security Council Report on China (February 28, 1949) [CV]

Senator Joseph McCarthy, “Speech at Wheeling, West Virginia” (February 9, 1950) [CV]

Readings:

Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917 – 1951* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1994), 96 – end.

Naoko Shibusawa, *America's Geisha Ally: Reimagining the Japanese Enemy* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006), 1 – 12, 54 – 95. [CV]

NOTE: You may wish to start reading Burdick and Lederer's novel *The Ugly American* in preparation for the lectures and discussion in the next unit.

Unit 3: Development, Decolonization, and the “Third World”

April 12 (W) Covert Action during the Cold War [JM]

April 14 (F) Development and Modernization as Foreign Policy [EM]

April 17 (M) **Guest Lecture by Prof. Daniel Immerwahr, Northwestern University**

Primary Sources:

Walt Rostow, “Some Lessons of History for Africa,” in *Pan-Africanism Reconsidered* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962), 155 – 168. [CV]

Readings:

Eugene Burdick and William J. Lederer, *The Ugly American* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1999) [Originally published 1958].

*******Analytical Essay Due by 7 PM Thursday, April 20th via Canvas*******

Unit 4: Cold War Confrontation

April 19 (W) The Arms Race and Cold War Confrontation [JM]

April 21 (F) Kennedy and Johnson: Development Goes to War [EM]

April 24 (M) Discussion

Primary Sources:

Kennedy-Khrushchev Correspondence, October 1962 [CV]

Tapes of Ex-Comm Discussions, October 1962 [CV]

Kennedy Addresses Nation on Missiles in Cuba, October 22, 1962 [CV]

Castro-Khrushchev Correspondence, October 26-October 31, 1962 [CV]

Reading:

Odd Arne Westad, “The Cuban and Vietnamese Challenges” in *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Time* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 158 – 206. [CV]

Unit 5: The Vietnam War

April 26 (W) Why Vietnam? [EM]

April 28 (F) Vietnam: Why did “We” Lose? [Guest lecturer: Dr. Sean Fear]

May 1 (M) Discussion

Primary Sources:

Selections from *Foreign Relations of the United States: Vietnam* (1965) [CV]

Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace Without Conquest” (April 7, 1965) [CV]

Interrogation of a Captured NLF Fighter (1967) [CV]

Excerpts from Nguyễn Duy Hinh, and TranDinh Tho, *The South Vietnamese Society* (Washington DC: U.S. Army Center for Military History, 1980), excerpts. [CV]

Readings:

Edward Miller, “The Vietnam War” in Edward J. Blum et al., eds. *American in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History* (New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 2016), 1051-1056. [CV]

Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, “The Vietnam Decade: The Global Shock of the War,” in *The Shock of the Global: The 1970s in Perspective* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010), 159 – 172. [CV]

Unit 6: The Crises of American Power

May 2 (Tu) [xhour] 1968: Revolution and Détente [JM]

May 3 (W) Globalization and the United States [JM]

May 5 (F) The “Crises” of the 1970s [EM]

May 8 (M)

Midterm Exam

Primary Sources:

United Nations General Assembly, “Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order” (May 1, 1974) [CV]

Memorandum of Conversation, The White House (May 26, 1975) [CV]

Reading:

Daniel Sargent, “The United States and Globalization in the 1970s,” in *The Shock of the Global: The 1970s in Perspective* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010), 49 – 64. [CV]

Thomas Borstelmann, “The Retreat of Empires and the Global Advance of the Market,” in *The 1970s: A New Global History from Civil Rights to Economic Inequality* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012), 175 – 226. [CV]

Unit 7: The 1980s and the End of the Cold War

May 10 (W) Waging the Cold War in the 1980s [JM]

May 12 (F) The End of the Cold War: A New World Order? [EM]

May 15 (M) Discussion

Primary Sources:

Mikhail Gorbachev, *Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World* (New York: Harper & Row, 1987), excerpt. [CV]

Ronald Reagan, *An American Life: the Autobiography* (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1990), prologue. [CV]

Declaration of Hunger Strikers Group, Beijing University, May 13, 1989 [CV]

Readings:

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970 – 2000* Updated Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 1 – 112.

Chen Jian, “Tiananmen and the Fall of the Berlin Wall: China’s Path toward 1989 and Beyond” in *The Fall of the Berlin Wall: the Revolutionary Legacy of 1989*, ed. Jeffrey A. Engel (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 96 – 131. [CV]

Video:

“The Man Who Opened the Gate” (*New York Times*, 2009) [CV]

Unit 8: Unipolarity and the Search for Purpose in the 1990s

- May 17 (W) Globalization as Ideology [JM]
May 19 (F) The 1990s: “Rogue States” and “Failed States” [EM]
May 22 (M) Discussion

Primary Sources:

- Michael O’Hanlon, “How to Stop Genocide: Saving Lives with Force,” in *New Republic*, July 12, 1999. [CV]
Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* (New York: Basic Books, 2003) conclusion. [CV]

Readings:

- Stephen Wertheim, “A Solution from Hell: The United States and the Rise of Humanitarian Intervention” in *Journal of Genocide Research* (2010), 12 (3 – 4): 149 – 172. [CV]
Exchange between Stephen Wertheim and Linda Melvern, *Journal of Genocide Research* (2011), 13 (1 – 2): 153 – 163. [CV]
Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, 112 – 220.

Unit 9: The War on Terror

- May 23 (Tu) **XHOUR**: 9/11 and its consequences [JM]
May 24 (W) Bush’s Wars: Iraq and Afghanistan [EM]
May 26 (F) Discussion and Conclusions
May 29 (M) **NO CLASS – MEMORIAL DAY**

Primary Sources:

- George W. Bush, National Security Strategy (2002) [CV]

Readings:

- Ernest R. May, *The 9/11 Commission Report with Related Documents* (New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2007).

Final Exam: In-class exam on Friday, June 2nd at 8AM, Location TBA
Take-home essay due Sunday, June 4th by 12PM via Canvas