

I have designed this course to accomplish two purposes: to convey a body of information about the history of U.S. diplomacy, and to acquaint you with the techniques of argument and interpretation that diplomatic historians use.

To further these two purposes there will be three writing assignments.

1. An in-class exam on WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH requires you to read "Air War and Literature" by W.G. Sebald in his *Natural History of Destruction*, pp. 1-104. Sebald's essay consists of two lectures he delivered, plus a third essay that he wrote when people responded to his lectures. They were all first published in the *New Yorker* in English, and started a fierce debate on the character of the air war on Germany in World War Two. Sebald discusses German writings about civilian life during the conflict, and makes some suggestions about how we should understand the troubles of ordinary Germans at that time.

You should prepare to write an essay on the essay and the work of the first part of the course. You will have a choice among questions that should make you reflect as an intelligent and knowledgeable reader on the connection of historical knowledge and issues of the present.

2. A research paper is due WEDNESDAY APRIL 1ST. NONE WILL BE ACCEPTED LATER. It should critically examine any problem in American diplomatic history in the period we are studying that strikes your fancy. The textbook listed below by Robert Schulzinger will provide bibliographical information as well as a general survey of the problems that have interested historians. You should use that book as a guide in selecting a topic, and after you have chosen a topic, you should NARROW it and have your teaching assistant or me approve it. Your paper MUST also make use of the relevant parts of the document collection, *Foreign Relations of the United States* as well as memoirs or any other document collections easily available. The FRUS volumes now go up to the middle 1970s, so that you must write about a topic prior to that time. The purpose of getting you to use primary sources is to confront you with the stuff of which the writing of diplomatic history is made, but we understand the limitations that a paper of 2500-3500 words places on undergraduates. You must submit with the paper a packet consisting of your research notes and drafts. The *Foreign Relations* volumes are located in Van Pelt at JX/233/A3. We suggest that before you devise a paper topic, you also look at this collection of sources. The State Department has a web site from which you can access some of the volumes: http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/history/index.html; also <http://www.library.upenn.edu/vanpelt/guides/usforrel.html>

3. A take-home final will be due during exam period, the beginning of May, and will examine you on the reading and lectures; it will test if I've successfully conveyed to you what a critical examination of a problem in diplomatic history is.

Familiarize yourself with the academic code of integrity at Penn. Students who cheat will

be suspended. This will be very unpleasant for you.

You MUST attend section meetings regularly if you wish to pass the course.

All the books required for the course are on sale at the Pennsylvania Book Center, on 34th St., above Walnut. Everything is also on reserve at Rosengarten Library.

Reading Assignments

WEEK 1. (Wednesday, January 14)

INTRODUCTION: Themes and Periods of Concentration

Reading: Robert Schulzinger, *American Diplomacy Since 1900*, Chap 1-3.

WEEK 2. (Week of Wednesday, January 21)

The New Empire, 1865-1912; Woodrow Wilson

Reading: Arthur Link, *Woodrow Wilson: Revolution, War, and Peace*; Schulzinger, Chap 4

WEEK 3. (Week of Monday, January 26)

Wilson: Mexico; European Origins of WWI

Reading: Alexander and Juliette George, *Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House*, Preface, Introduction, pp. 1-33, 75-91, 195-315; Schulzinger, Chap 5

WEEK 4. (Week of Monday, February 2)

Wilson: Neutrality, 1914-17; war and peace, 1917-19

Reading: Gordon Levin, *Woodrow Wilson and World Politics*, introduction, chapters I, II, III, and Epilogue; Schulzinger, Chap 6

WEEK 5. (Week of Monday, February 9)

From Wilson to Roosevelt

Reading: William Shirer, *Berlin Diary*, Forward, 3-25, 48-59, 82-87, 95-111, 124-148, 181-193, 330-369, 379-381, 403-405, 414-425, 490-495, 576-595. Schulzinger, Chap 7-8

WEEK 6. (Week of Monday, February 16)

Roosevelt: Diplomacy

Reading: Patrick Hearden, *Roosevelt Confronts Hitler*, ix-x, 3-21, 155-245; Schulzinger,

Chap 9

WEEK 7. (Week of Monday, February 23)

Roosevelt: War

Reading: Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions*, pp. 1-20, 39-86, 104-71, 188-208, 213-219, 245-354, 389-436, 443-488, 527-559, 588-662

WEEK 8. (Week of Monday, March 2)

Roosevelt and Truman: Making the Peace

Reading (for in-class exam on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH): "Air War and Literature" by W.G. Sebald in his *Natural History of Destruction*, pp. 1-104

WEEK 9. (Week of Monday, March 16)

Truman: The Cold War Begins

Reading: George Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, pp. 3-154; Schulzinger, Chap 10

WEEK 10. (Week of Monday, March 23)

Truman: The Cold War in Asia, 1945-1949

Reading: Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism*

WEEK 11. (Week of Monday, March 26)

Truman: Korean War

Reading: Ronald Smelser and Edward Davies, *The Myth of the Eastern Front*, pp 1-89, 127-156, 247-259

RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

WEEK 12. (Week of Monday, April 2)

Eisenhower and Kennedy: Vietnam

Reading: Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*; Schulzinger, Chap 11

WEEK 13. (Week of Monday, April 13)

Johnson: Vietnam

Reading: Robert McNamara, *In Retrospect*, pp. 3-21, 196-206, 233-336, 353-356 (and whatever else you want in the response section); Schulzinger, Chap 12

WEEK 14. (Week of Monday, April 20)

Nixon: Vietnam, Cambodia, Watergate

Reading: Olson and Roberts, eds. *My Lai*, pp. 1-33, 75-122, 146-173; Schulzinger, Chap 13

Monday, April 27, Take Home Final Distributed.