History 451

The United States and the World Since 1898

This class examines the emergence of the U.S. as a world power since 1898, and considers both the international and domestic consequences of U.S. foreign relations. In one respect, the twentieth century was a strange time to become a global empire: it was the period when colonial systems centered in Europe, Russia, Japan, and Turkey collapsed, and new nations emerged throughout Africa and Asia. This class explores the changing strategies of military, economic, and political intervention that the US pursued as colonization lost legitimacy. Within that framework, the class invites students to think about four questions: How did the idea and practice of empire change over the twentieth century? How did the United States relate to new visions of independence emerging in Africa, Asia, and Latin America? How did global interactions both inform and reflect racial ideology in the United States? Finally, how did anti-imperialist arguments and movements change over the twentieth century?

We will read roughly 100 pages per week. There are no prerequisites, but background in twentieth-century history is helpful.

Required Readings: All readings on the syllabus are required. The following books are on reserve in Van Pelt Library (Rosengarten Reserve) and available for purchase at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th St. All other readings are on Canvas or, where noted in the syllabus, available as ebooks in the Penn library system. To find an ebook, search in Franklin, Penn’s library catalog.

Emily Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream* (1982)

All readings for each week must be completed before class on Tuesday.

Required Work

1. Weekly Canvas posts and informed, responsive class participation. (15%) Each student must post a one-page response to the week’s readings by Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Posts are not graded, but are required to pass the class. Each
week, I’ll post a few questions, and you’ll choose one to answer. At the end of your post, indicate one question that the reading raised for you.

Discussing the material in class is essential to your learning. Everyone must complete the entire week’s readings before class on Tuesday and participate in discussion throughout the semester in an informed, responsive way. By “informed,” I mean informed by a close reading of our texts, and by “responsive,” I mean responsive to each other, listening and responding to each others’ observations, analyses, and questions. If speaking in class makes you nervous, consider the Canvas post an opportunity to prepare an idea that you can share with the group.

2. A three-page primary source analysis due on February 10. (15%)

3. An in-class midterm. (20%)

4. An eight-page synthetic paper due on April 7. (25%)

5. A final exam, tentatively scheduled for May 4, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (25%)

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is required, and students must complete the week’s assigned reading before Tuesday’s lecture. We will discuss the readings in class, so please bring the texts.

Required Film Screening: We will schedule time outside class to watch and discuss Joshua Oppenheimer’s film *The Act of Killing* (2012). Attendance is required.

Communication: The great pleasure of teaching is getting to know students. Come by my office hours or make an appointment to discuss any of the course material. For brief, procedural questions about the class, email is fine.

Disability policy: If you have a disability that requires special test-taking arrangements, please have SDS let me know at the beginning of the semester.

Academic integrity: Plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty can result in suspension and expulsion from Penn. Please review the university’s guide on academic integrity (www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity), and do not hesitate to talk with me if you have any questions about the definition of plagiarism and academic honesty.

Class Schedule

Jan 14  Introduction

Jan 19  Territorial Expansion and the Empire of Liberty
        *Major Problems in AFR* vol. 1, 176-178, 180-182
Jan 21  Looking Overseas in the 1890s  
   *Major Problems in AFR* vol. 1, 305-306

Jan 26  Experiments in Colonization: The Philippine War  
   *Major Problems in AFR* vol. 1, pp. 373-374  
   Schulzinger, chapter 2

Jan 28  Experiments in Colonization: Governing Puerto Ricans and Indians  
   *Major Problems in AFR* vol. 1, pp. 375-376

Feb 2  Making Sense of Economic Relations: Dollar Diplomacy  
   Schulzinger, chapter 3  
   Rosenberg, chapters 1-3  
   Catherine LeGrand, “Living in Macondo,” in Gilbert Joseph et al., *Close Encounters of Empire*

Feb 4  Making Sense of Economic Relations: Foreign Direct Investment

Feb 9  World War I and the Crisis of Imperial Legitimacy  
   **First paper due in hard copy at the beginning of class**  
   Woodrow Wilson, Fourteen Points  
   Ho Chi Minh, “First Appeal to the United States,” “The Path Which Led Me to Leninism”

Feb 11  Anti-Imperialism in the Early Twentieth Century  
   Schulzinger, chapter 4  

Feb 16  Migration and the Boundaries of the Nation

Feb 18  New Visions of Race and Empire in World War II  
   Schulzinger, chapters 6-7  
   Dower, pp. 3-117

Feb 23  Japanese Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism  
   Dower, pp. 203-292

Feb 25  **Midterm**

Mar 1  The Cold War as a Way of Seeing  
   *Major Problems in AFR* vol. 2, 157-160  
   NSC-68  
   Schulzinger, chapters 8-9

Mar 3  Strategies of Containment, 1948-1960

   **Spring Break**
Mar 15  Decolonization and the Making of the Third World
    Primary sources by Sukarno and Nkrumah
    Schulzinger, chapter 10

Mar 17  Visions of Development
    Simpson, Introduction and chapters 1, 3-5
    Primary sources by Millikan and Rostow

Mar 22  Development and Counterinsurgency in the 1960s
    Simpson, chapters 6-8

Mar 24  The Vietnam War


Mar 29  Poverty in Two Worlds

Mar 31  The Third World At Home?
    Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, Black Power, preface,
    chapters 1, 2, 4, 6-8, and “Afterword: TCB”

Apr 5   Détente Seen from the Southern Cone

Apr 7   The Rise of Human Rights
    Schulzinger, chapters 11-12
    Primary sources from Argentina: “The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo,” “Never Again”
    Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Apr 12  Central America and the End of Revolution?
    Danner, The Massacre at El Mozote
    Schulzinger, chapter 13

Apr 14  The End of the Cold War and the End of History?

Apr 19  The Iraq Crisis in Historical Perspective

Apr 21  Looking Back: A Century of Guantánamo
    Alfred W. McCoy, Torture and Impunity, chapters 3, 6-7
    Schulzinger, Chapter 15

Apr 26  Conclusion