

**History 434**  
**America and the World since 1902**  
 (4 credits for all students)

Professor Jeremi Suri  
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 (608) 263-1852  
 Office hours:  
 Mondays 10:AM – Noon  
 or by appointment

Spring 2005  
 Lectures: MWF 8:50-9:40 AM  
 3650 Humanities  
 Teaching Assistants:  
 Jennifer Holland  
 Brittany McCormick  
 Vanessa Walker  
 Michelle Wing  
  
 Web Assistant:  
 Shawn Peters

**Course Aims**

This is a history course designed to enrich our understanding of America's place in the world since the beginning of the twentieth century. The class follows upon History 433 – American Foreign Relations before the Twentieth Century. Lectures, discussions, and readings will start with the aftermath of the war of 1898 and close with the war against terrorism at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

We will define “foreign relations” broadly to explore the ways in which interactions with peoples and places identified as “foreign” transformed the nature of American society. The course will touch on issues of national power, territorial acquisition, market penetration, warfare, racial subjugation, class conflict, and gender subordination. We will study how America's foreign relations helped determine what it means to be “American.” Situating the history of the United States in an international context we will learn how American debates about identity and power reflected and influenced events in distant venues.

This course will also highlight how contemporary assumptions about American society and foreign policy build, for better and for worse, on the past. The history of American foreign relations matters because we live with its consequences every day – at home and abroad. Lectures, readings, and discussions this semester will highlight important historical “legacies.”

**Lecture Attendance**

The course will meet three times per week for lectures by the professor. These lectures will complement the readings, but they will also present empirical material and interpretive perspectives not available elsewhere. **Students are required to attend all lectures.** The professor will monitor each student's attendance. Unexcused absence from lecture will adversely affect the student's grade.

### Weekly Discussion Sections

All students are required to attend weekly discussion sections. Students must complete the assigned readings through the meeting date, **before discussion begins**. The teaching assistants will lead the discussions, with the exception of the honors section (Discussion 301) that the professor will lead. The professor will also participate in other sections on occasion. We expect all students to attend the weekly sections prepared for a serious and wide-ranging conversation about the issues raised in the assigned readings and the class lectures. Students are encouraged to think creatively and voice individual opinions. We will not look for “right” answers, as much as thoughtful comments. Informed and active participation in discussions should allow each student to receive full credit for this 20% of the course grade.

### Book Review Assignment

All students will write a 5 to 6 page book review of H.W. Brands’ text: *Woodrow Wilson*. **A printed copy of each student book review is due at the start of lecture (8:50am) on Monday, February 20.** The book review will constitute 20% of the student grade.

Book reviews should follow this form:

Page 1: Begin your book review with a thesis paragraph that outlines your critique of the book and your assessment of Woodrow Wilson;

Pages 1-2: summarize Brands’ main arguments about Woodrow Wilson’s understanding of politics and foreign policy – how did Wilson’s views and actions change over time?;

Pages 2-3: assess the importance of ideas in the making of foreign policy during the period covered by Brands’ book – which ideas mattered? How did they matter?;

Pages 3-4: critique the strengths and weaknesses of Brands’ book – which parts of the book do you find most and least persuasive? How good is Brands’ evidence? Which issues does he neglect?;

Pages 4-6: offer your own judgment on Woodrow Wilson – were his foreign policies a success or a failure? What is his legacy? Why do we continue to invoke his name and his rhetoric in our contemporary debates?

We expect these papers to reflect polished writing. You should proofread them before submission! Make sure that each paragraph contains a topic sentence and offers evidence to support your point. Make sure that each sentence is clear and facilitates the purpose of the paragraph where it is situated. Avoid passive constructions, clichés, and sloppy sentences. Choose your words carefully. Check your grammar.

### **Mid-term Examination**

**On Wednesday, March 22** the professor will distribute two mid-term essay questions in class. Students should write a 1000 word answer to each of the two questions. The essays should make use of material from assigned readings, class lectures, and weekly discussions. Students may consult books and discuss their answers with one another. Each essay, however, should reflect **the original writing of each student**. Students should proofread their essays for clarity, substance, and style (grammatical mistakes, passive voice, and sloppy writing will incur grade deductions.) **The mid-term essays are due at the start of lecture (8:50am) on Friday, March 24. Students should print their essays and bring them to class. We will not accept late submissions.** The mid-term essays will account for 25% of the student grade.

### **Final Examination**

The course will conclude with a take-home final examination. It will cover material from the entire semester. The professor will distribute the final examination questions at the end of class on May 5. **Students must print and submit their final examination answers by Noon on May 10 in 5119 Humanities Building.** We will not accept late submissions. The final examination will account for 35% of each student's grade.

### **Grades**

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Book Review:                         | 20% |
| Mid-term Examination:                | 25% |
| Final Examination:                   | 35% |
| Participation in Weekly Discussions: | 20% |

### Assigned Books

Available in new and used editions at the Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative  
426 West Gilman Street  
Tel. (608) 257-6050

- Bacevich, Andrew J. *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2002). Paperback.
- Brands, H. W. *Woodrow Wilson* (New York: Times Books, 2003).
- Gaddis, John Lewis. *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War, Revised and Expanded Edition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005). Paperback.
- Rosenberg, Emily S. *Spreading the American Dream* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1982). Paperback.
- Suri, Jeremi. *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003). Paperback.
- Weigley, Russell F. *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1977, originally published by Macmillan in 1973). Paperback.
- Williams, William Appleman. *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1972, originally published in 1959). Paperback.

Week 1:

1/18 Introduction

1/20 America's Emergence as a Global Military Power

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, xvii-xxiii, 167-91.

Week 2:

1/23 The Open Door and American Imperialism

Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 18-57.

1/25 The Limits of American Imperialism at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century

Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 3-37.

1/27 The Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt

Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 38-62.

Week 3:

1/30 Ideals, Interests, and Culture

Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 58-89.

2/1 America and the World at a Crossroad

Reading: Brands, *Woodrow Wilson*, 1-40.

2/3 President Wilson Before World War I

Reading: Brands, *Woodrow Wilson*, 41-72.

Week 4:

2/6 The Origins of World War I

Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 63-107.

2/8 America's Entry into World War I

Reading: Brands, *Woodrow Wilson*, 73-98.

2/10 Fighting World War I

Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 192-222.

Week 5:

2/13 Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles

Reading: Brands, *Woodrow Wilson*, 99-140.

2/15 Wilson versus Lenin

Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 90-161.

2/17 The Myth of American Isolation in the 1920s

Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 108-60.

Week 6:

- 2/20 The American Military Between the Wars  
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 223-65.  
**Book reviews due at 8:50am in lecture**
- 2/22 The Great Depression and the Great Powers  
Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 162-201;  
Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 161-201.
- 2/24 The United States and the Coming of World War II  
Reading: Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream*, 202-34.

Week 7:

- 2/27 Fighting World War II  
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 269-359.
- 3/1 Great Power Diplomacy during World War II and the Origins of the Cold War  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 3-23.
- 3/3 The Atomic Revolution and the Origins of the Cold War  
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 363-81.

Week 8:

- 3/6 American Omnipotence and the Origins of the Cold War  
Reading: Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 202-75.
- 3/8 The International System and the Origins of the Cold War
- 3/10 George F. Kennan and the American Doctrine of Containment  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 24-86.

Week 9:

- 3/13 Spring Break
- 3/15 Spring Break
- 3/17 Spring Break

Week 10:

- 3/20 The American Occupation of Japan
- 3/22 Review for mid-term examination  
**Take-home mid-term examination questions distributed at the end of lecture**
- 3/24 The Division of the Two Germanys  
**Mid-term examination essays due at 8:50am in lecture**

Week 11:

- 3/27 The Chinese Communist Revolution and the Korean War  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 87-124.
- 3/29 Eisenhower and the “New Look”  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 125-96.
- 3/31 Kennedy and “Flexible Response”  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 197-271.

Week 12:

- 4/3 Kennedy and the “New Frontier”  
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 7-43.
- 4/5 Decolonization, Nationalism, and Cold War Dissent  
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 44-130.
- 4/7 America and the Vietnam Wars  
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 131-63.

Week 13:

- 4/10 The American Failure in Vietnam  
Reading: Weigley, *The American Way of War*, 441-77;  
Williams, *The Tragedy of American Empire*, 306-12.
- 4/12 The Global Disruption of 1968 and the Revolt against Cold War Politics  
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 164-212.
- 4/14 Nixon, Kissinger, and Détente  
Reading: Suri, *Power and Protest*, 213-59.

Week 14:

- 4/17 The Limits of Détente: Human Rights  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 272-306.
- 4/19 The Limits of Détente: The Iranian Revolution and the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 307-41.
- 4/21 Ronald Reagan and the “New Cold War”  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 342-79.

Week 15:

- 4/24 Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of Communism  
Reading: Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, 380-91.
- 4/26 Globalization and the Post-Cold War Landscape  
Reading: Bacevich, *American Empire*, 1-78;  
Suri, *Power and Protest*, 260-65.
- 4/28 Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and “the Coming Anarchy”  
Reading: Bacevich, *American Empire*, 79-197.

Week 16:

- 5/1 The Rise of Global Terrorism  
Reading: Bacevich, *American Empire*, 198-244.
- 5/3 The United States, the “War on Terrorism,” and Future Prospects
- 5/5 Review for final examination  
**Take-home final examination questions distributed at the end of lecture**

**Take-home final examinations are due by Noon on Wednesday, May 10.  
Submit them in Professor Suri’s Office – 5119 Humanities.  
We will not accept late exams, no exceptions!**