

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Department of History

Semester II Year 1980

| <u>COURSE NO.</u> | <u>COURSE TITLE</u> | <u>INSTRUCTOR</u> |
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| 571 | Readings in American imperialism: theory & practice | McCormick |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A chronological but eclectic series of case studies from 1900 to the present dealing with theoretical models of imperialism; the economic-social structural changes in the preconditions for American expansionism; the origins of modern American imperialism at the turn of the century, the increasing role of the "monopolistic" sector in that expansionism; competitive rivalry with other industrial, capitalist states (some leading to World Wars, as with Germany & Japan; some leading simply to ambivalent tension, as with Great Britain); the obstacles of Third World revolution and nationalism (e.g., Mexico, Cuba, China, Chile); the competitive alternative of socialism (USSR?); the origins of the Cold War; and the emergence of corporate syndicalism in foreign policy (labor and capital cooperation); and the new age of multinationals.

This is a seminar so the name of the game is collective discussion. Said discussion will be based upon common, core reading, primarily of short articles from a series of anthologies and a few xeroxed pieces. Articles will be selected to cluster around a common problem or theme. Average reading will be about 100 pages a week or so.

LECTURES

none: just 2 hr. seminar each week. (I may give a few mini-lectures, around 20 minutes, at the beginning of some sessions.)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Open to class discussion and decision: probably an option of 304 short papers, or 1 long, in-depth research paper.

GRADING SYSTEM

Based primarily on written work with class participation determining marginal grades.

REQUIRED READINGS

Wm. A. Williams, ed., Shaping of Amer. Diplomacy, vol. 2
K.T. Fann and Donald Hodges, eds. Readings in Amer. Imperialism
Richard Miller, ed., Amer. imperialism in 1898
David Horowitz, ed., Corporations and the Cold War
Harrison Wright, ed., The New Imperialism