

History 600: Race and Gender in U.S. Foreign Affairs
Professor Plummer

COVERAGE: The narrative content begins in 1898 with the Spanish-American War and ends with the evacuation of Saigon in 1975. We will study the emergence in the early twentieth century of powerful counter-discourses to the state system and how they helped shape the role that the United States played in world affairs. The twentieth century also marks efforts by women to penetrate the international system, and we will examine the ways in which that was accomplished.

We will explore the political and cultural dimensions of struggles against racism and anticolonial movements as they developed in the 1920s and 1930s. The two world wars call for comparison as they reflect respective resurgences of the global state system and challenges mounted by those seeking national liberation and human rights for minority subjects. The Cold War, the restructuring of gender and race relations, and the multilateralism that accompanied the demise of empires, will be studied.

ORGANIZATION: As the course is a seminar, the primary activities in class meetings will be discussion of readings and the research projects that students will do. A student is responsible each session for initiating and sustaining discussion. Students will write a seminar research paper and share the results of their work with other students in class meetings.

EVALUATION:. Grades will be based on the following:

A seminar paper written in two drafts, the first due midterm.

A seminar paper written in two drafts, the final draft near the end of the semester.

A twenty minute, in-class oral report on student research at midterm.

A twenty minute, in-class oral report on student research near the end of the semester.

Evidence of class participation.