

HIS 187: History of US Foreign Relations in the 20th Century

Fall 2024

MWF 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in Chem 179

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Course summary

Rise of the US to superpower standing during the 20th century, from colonialism to the war on terror, including political, diplomatic, cultural, and economic activities of both US government and private American agencies beyond U.S. borders. This comprehensive description notwithstanding, this course spans only ten weeks and US foreign policy is a complicated topic. Inevitably, some events, viewpoints, and other aspects of US foreign policy will get brief or no mention.

Because this course covers a century of foreign relations beginning with colonialism, ending in the war on terror, and including two world wars as well as a number of other military conflicts, it necessarily involves description and discussion of violence on an individual and social scale. It will also include discussion of various forms of racism and other kinds of oppression we would today regard as, at a minimum, unacceptable. It is impossible to give a responsible account of this subject in this period without discussing such matters. Readings and other primary source material will also reflect the period in which they were written and the views of people who wrote them, often using language or concepts many people today would find offensive.

This course fulfills a Peace and Security requirement for the International Relations major, a US History subject matter requirement for the History major, and a General Education requirement in Social Sciences.

How to take this course

You must attend sessions of the class as scheduled in the calendar below. You must also be prepared to use the computer you own that meets [UC Davis minimum requirements](#).

You must also download the [iClicker app for students](#) (you will not need to pay for it; UC Davis has a site license) and should do so before attending class for the first time.

You will need to turn in your final paper in .docx format—that is, the native format of Microsoft Word. You may use whatever writing program you wish, as long as you can save your document in .docx format. If you wish to use Word itself you may download it and use it free of further charge; UC Davis has a site license for it.

Nearly every class will involve a lecture. You must take notes on the lecture. Note-taking is not the same as transcription—that is, you should not try to record, word-for-word, what the speaker is saying. Rather, you should discern and write down the major points the lecturer is making and the evidence used to support these points. You should write down questions you have about the material as they occur to you. You should revisit your notes after you take them, probably the evening of the same day you took them. You should take notes when reading as well.

Please watch [this video](#) demonstrating how to take notes. Please note especially that reviewing notes is as important as taking them. Learning from note-taking is an activity with at least these two steps.

The calendar in this syllabus provides you with a schedule of lectures, assignments, and required reading. You must complete the reading before the date it is listed in the calendar. All the reading is provided to you at no extra cost by Shields Library through the “Reading List” menu item on Canvas.

Unannounced quizzes or other graded assignments may occur in class.

There are no make-ups for quizzes. We will drop the lowest of your quiz grades: that is the only remedy for a missed quiz.

If you miss an in-class exam (i.e., *not* a quiz) or cannot turn in a paper on time, you must immediately after your recovery provide a note from a qualified physician explaining that a medical emergency prevented you from doing the in-class exam or turning in the paper on time. This note must not refer to your specific condition. It must attest only to your inability to attend class to complete the assignment. On receiving such a note we will arrange a make-up if possible or assign an incomplete if not.

If you require an accommodation please consult the [Student Disability Center](#) and have them tell the instructors at the start of the quarter. Only SDC can authorize accommodations.

You must abide by the [Student Academic Code of Conduct](#). To sum up the essential portion: Do not claim as yours the work of another person or any computer program, be it Grammarly or ChatGPT or any other entity, natural or artificial, that offers to do your work for you, or any website or service that does so. Do your own work yourself.

If a personal, medical, mental health, or other matter is preventing you from doing the work in this class on a chronic basis, please consult [Student Health and Counseling Services](#). If you find for any reason that you are unable to do so, an instructor will refer you to an appropriate counselor.

If you have questions

Professor Rauchway’s email address is earauchway@ucdavis.edu, his office telephone is 530 754 1646, and his office is Social Sciences and Humanities Building room 3202. This quarter he will hold open consultation hours on Wednesdays, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Office hours are first-come, first-served.

You may also come speak to an instructor at the podium either just before class begins or just after it ends. If you have a question during lecture, please feel free to raise your hand; you may find you have to wave it a bit to get the lecturer’s attention.

Generally speaking, you should ask questions about lecture during lecture, when the topic you’re curious about is under discussion. If you have a question about the structure or requirements of the course please ask at the beginning of lecture, before the substantive material begins. Email really works only for very simple questions; if you have anything of any complexity to discuss please call on the telephone or come in person to office hours or to the podium just before or after class.

If you have questions about the course policies and resources, please first consult this syllabus and documents linked within it.

If you wish to request that an instructor re-grade an exam or a paper, you may make such a request no sooner than 24 hours after receiving the grade and no later than 72 hours after receiving the grade. Assignments merit re-grading only if you identify a substantive error—that is, you were marked down for something that was, in fact, correct. Any re-grade will entail a reassessment of the entire assignment and the new grade may end up lower than the original.

Reading

David Silbey, *The Boxer Rebellion and the Great Game in China* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2012).

Greg Grandin, *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2009).

Stephen Kinzer, *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror* (Hoboken: J Wiley & Sons, 2003).

Beth A. Fischer, *The Reagan Reversal: Foreign Policy and the End of the Cold War* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1997).

Calendar

Lecture topics are subject to change.

Date	Topic	Assignment
Sep 25	Introduction	Read this syllabus; set up iClicker
Sep 27	Monroe Doctrine	
Sep 30	Japan, 1900–1910	
Oct 2	Philippines, 1900–1910	Silbey through ch. 4
Oct 4	Great War, 1914–1918	
Oct 7	Punitive, 1916	Silbey, finish
Oct 9	Reluctant hegemon	
Oct 11	First preliminary exam	
Oct 14	US–Russia/USSR, 1917–1927	
Oct 16	Internationalism, 1920s	Grandin through part II
Oct 18	Nationalism, 1920s	
Oct 21	Internationalist turn, 1933	Grandin, finish
Oct 23	World of dictatorships	
Oct 25	War-related diplomacy	
Oct 28	Wartime diplomacy	

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Date	Topic	Assignment
Oct 30	Second preliminary exam	
Nov 1	Aquarela do Brasil	Kinzer through ch. 8
Nov 4	Decolonization	
Nov 6	Cold War in Europe	
Nov 8	Cold War in Europe and Asia	Kinzer, finish
Nov 11	<i>Veterans Day</i>	<i>class does not meet</i>
Nov 13	Cold War in Asia and oil country	
Nov 15	From oil country to “banana land”	Fischer through ch. 4
Nov 18	Congo	
Nov 20	Cuba	
Nov 22	Policy and politics	Fischer, finish
Nov 25	Third preliminary exam	
Nov 27	<i>Reading day</i>	<i>class does not meet</i>
Nov 29	<i>Thanksgiving travel</i>	<i>class does not meet</i>
Dec 2	Regarding Henry	
Dec 4	Reaganism	
Dec 6	New World Order	Final paper due
Dec 12	Final exam	10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Grades and weights

If you want to know how you are doing in the course, you may calculate your final grade by allocating twenty percent to each of the first two preliminary exams, twenty percent to the final, twenty percent to all in-class quizzes taken together, and twenty percent to the combined grade you will receive for the third preliminary exam and the final paper. Please do not expect Canvas to calculate this grade for you because it will not be able to do it correctly; please do the calculation using this formula.

Please note, per policy of grade disputes above, that you may request a change of grade only for substantive reasons.

Percentage range	Letter grade
93–100	A
90–92	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
67–69	D+
63–66	D
60–62	D-
0–59	F

If you are taking the course P/NP, you will still be assigned a letter grade for the course and the conversion to P/NP will be done by the registrar, in keeping with university procedure. All matters concerning grades are governed by [Davis Division of the Academic Senate Regulations](#).

A caveat

Because six years have passed since we had a single academic year at UC Davis without some extraordinary, campus-wide disruption of classes, it seems wise to concede it has become normal for abnormal things to occur. If such a disruption should happen again, the instructors will make it a priority to let you know whether and how the syllabus will change. To make sure you have the latest information, please go to the course Canvas site to download the most recent version of this syllabus.

Supplementary handouts & announcements

Closer to the due dates for exams or papers we will provide you with prompts and other information to help you prepare. Two things you might want to know now:

Your study guide for the exams will be your notes, both on lecture and books. For the last preliminary exam, you may bring your notes on the books to the exam. Please take good notes.

For the final paper, you will need to provide footnote citations in the format prescribed by the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). To access that link, you will need to be logged in to the [library VPN](#).