

GLOBAL AMERICA

History 369W/469
Spring 2017
MW 10.25-11.40
Rush Rhees 456



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This course is a study of the rise of the United States to international hegemony in the century and a half after the Civil War. It explores the impact of American power and ideology beyond its shores and the manner in which domestic politics and culture have, in turn, been shaped by the interdependent world that its imperial project has done so much to foster.

BOOKS

The following books have been ordered at the UR Bookstore. They are also on 2-hour reserve in Rush Rhees Library. Many are available in used copies at a substantial discount online.

Perry Anderson, [American Foreign Policy and Its Thinkers](#)
Andrew Bacevich, [America's War for the Greater Middle East](#)
Stephen Burman, [The State of the American Empire](#)
Kornel Chang, [Pacific Connections](#)
Michael Connelly, [Fatal Misconception](#)
Sam Ginden and Leo Panitch, [The Making of Global Capitalism](#)
Julian Go, [Patterns of Empire: British and American Empires 1688 to the Present](#)
Mae Ngai, [Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America](#)
Andrew Preston, [Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy](#)
Mary Renda, [Taking Haiti](#)
Daniel Rodgers, [Atlantic Crossings](#)
Jeremy Suri, [Power and Protest](#)
John Thompson, [A Sense of Power](#)
Penny Von Eschen, [Satchmo Blows Up the World](#)

Odd Arne Westad, Global Cold War

Additional shorter readings are on electronic reserve (ER).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Summary/Discussion Questions

Each week, each student will prepare a very brief (one-two paragraph) summary of the argument of the reading for each class, and pose a significant question that it raises for discussion. These responses will be sent to all members of the class via email by 10 pm on the Sunday and Tuesday evening before class. Preparation of these questions will be an important part of participation in the class.

Papers

Each student will submit two short (2000 word) papers and a longer (3000-4000 word) research exercise. The first of these will be a critical essay on one of the assigned books.

The New York Times

This essay is due by the class in which we discuss the book, and must be completed in any case by 1 March. The second short paper will be an op-ed for the New York Times, offering a view of a current issue in the relationship of the United States to the rest of the world that draws on the reading in the course to inform it. This paper must be completed by 7 April.

Undergraduate Research Exercise: Each undergraduate will write a substantial introduction to an important document in the history of America's relationship to the wider world, describing the document, putting it in its historical context, and assessing its impact. This paper is due 8 May.

Graduate Research Exercise: Each graduate student will prepare a syllabus for an advanced undergraduate lecture course on the War in Vietnam (1941-1975). In addition, each will submit the lecture (20 double-spaced pages or so) that he or she might deliver late in such a course on the historiography on the war published since 1975. This paper is due 8 May.

More detail on each of these assignments will be forthcoming.

GRADING

Grading in the course will be weighted as follows: short papers (20% each); research exercise (40%); class participation (20%).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

18 JANUARY INTRODUCTION

Essays by Charles Bright and Michael Geyer, and Marilyn Young in Bender, ed., Rethinking American History in a Global Age (ER)



1 FEBRUARY

Preston, Sword of the Spirit, 411-613.

INTERVENTION

6 FEBRUARY

John Thompson, A Sense of Power, introduction, chs. 1-3.

IDEOLOGY

23 JANUARY

Perry Anderson, American Foreign Policy and Its Thinkers
Michael Hunt, "Ideology" (ER)

25 JANUARY

Anderson, American Foreign Policy,

30 JANUARY

Andrew Preston, Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy,
Introduction, 155-409.



8 FEBRUARY

Thompson, Sense of Power, chs. 3-6, conclusion.

13 FEBRUARY

Odd Arne Westad, Global Cold War, introduction, chs. 1-5.

15 FEBRUARY

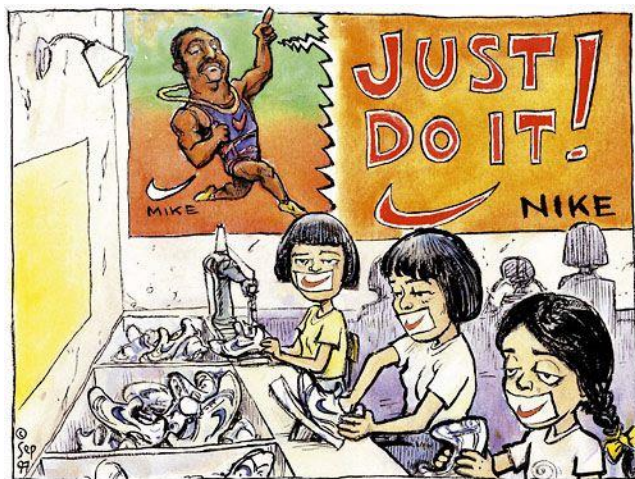
Westad, Global Cold War, chs. 6-10, conclusion.

20 FEBRUARY

Jeremy Suri, Power and Protest, Introduction, chs. 1-3.

22 FEBRUARY

Suri, Power and Protest, chs. 4-6, Conclusion.



MARKETS

27 FEBRUARY

Sam Ginden and Leo Panitch, The Making of Global Capitalism, 1-159.

1 MARCH

Ginden and Panitch, Making of Global Capitalism, 163-340.

BORDERS

6 MARCH

Kornel Chang, Pacific Connections, chs. 1-3.

8 MARCH

Chang, Pacific Connections, chs. 4-5, Epilogue and Conclusion.



20 MARCH

Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America, Introduction, Parts I and II.

22 MARCH

Ngai, Impossible Subjects, Parts III and IV, Epilogue.

RACE

27 MARCH

Mary Renda, Taking Haiti, Prologue, Part I.

29 MARCH

Renda, Taking Haiti, Part II, Epilogue.

3 APRIL

Penny Von Eschen, Satchmo Blows Up the World, chs. 1-5.

5 APRIL

Von Eschen, Satchmo Blows Up the World, chs. 6-9.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE

10 APRIL

Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings, Prologue, chs. 1-6.

12 APRIL

Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings, chs. 7-11.

17 APRIL

Michael Connelly, Fatal Misconception, introduction, chs. 1-5.

19 APRIL

Connelly, Fatal Misconception, chs. 6-9, conclusion.

HEGEMONY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

24 APRIL

Julian Go, Patterns of Empire: British and American Empires 1688 to the Present, Introduction, chs. 1-3.

Stephen Burman, The State of the American Empire

Paul Edwards, "Power and Connection: Imperial Histories of the United States in the World" (ER)

26 APRIL

Go, Patterns of Empire, chs. 4-6, Conclusion.

1 MAY

Andrew Bacevich, America's War for the Greater Middle East, prologue, chs. 1-11.

3 MAY

Bacevich, America's War for the Greater Middle East, chs. 12-18.

