

History 158: The New Empire: The Rise of Global America  
Professor Ruben Flores  
ruben.flores@rochester.edu, (510) 205-6505  
T and Th 9:40-10:55  
Meliora Hall

## SYLLABUS, SPRING 2021

How did a nation surrounded by the French and British Empires at the end of the nineteenth century become the preeminent global superpower by the end of World War II in 1945? We will study the political and economic decisions after the U.S Civil War that culminated in the Spanish-American War of 1898, including America's global invasion of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Samoa, and the Philippines. We will seek to understand the role of trade and consumer culture in the making of the Panama Canal and the American petroleum industry. And we will place the growth of the Soviet Union and the Marxist world in the context of America's rise to global power and the Cold War that followed. Throughout, we will seek to understand how America's military and economic strength has been understood internationally, beginning with the nations of Latin America and culminating with the 21<sup>st</sup>-century rise of China.

# THE NEW EMPIRE: THE RISE OF GLOBAL AMERICA

## INTRODUCTION

February 2, 4

**First day of class.**

Syllabus, themes, and outcomes.

Discuss Albert Beveridge, "For the Greater Republic, Not Imperialism," 1899.

## THE CULTURE OF GROWTH

February 9, 11

Walter LeFeber **The New Empire**

The Cultural Arbiters of Expansion: Josiah Strong, Albert Mahan, Brooks Adams

## EXPANSION AS UTILITY

February 16, 18

**Asia and the Philippines**

Paul Kramer, **The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States and the Philippines**

Stuart Miller, **Benevolent Assimilation: The American Conquest of the Philippines, 1899-1903**

February 23, 25

**Central America and the Panama Canal**

Chiquita Banana, "Journey to Bananaland"

Greg Grandin **Fordlandia**

March 2, 4                    **The Vitalism of Immigrant Growth**

**Paper 1: Due March 5**

March 9, 11                **Imperialism and Exclusion**  
Mae Ngai                Impossible Subjects                Intro and Chapters 1, 2, and 4

<b>THE TOTALITARIAN ALTERNATIVE</b>
-------------------------------------

March 16, 18                **The Communist Manifesto and the Capitalist Threat**

The Universal Challenge: Soviet Expansion Across the Cosmos

March 23, 25                Soviet Influence in the World  
Reading: to be determined. **Radio Free Dixie.**

March 30                    **Study Break Day – No class**

April 1                      Bretton Woods and the Pax Americana

April 6                      Watch **Coup 53**  
State Violence and Genocide in Latin America: The Cold War Years

<b>THE FALL OF AMERICA</b>
----------------------------

April 8                      Neil Sheehan, **A Bright, Shining Lie**  
Extracts from the Pentagon Papers

**Paper 1: April 10**

April 13, 15                **The Backlash Against the State**  
  
Watch The Deerhunter  
Kathleen Belew, **Bring the War Home**

<b>THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS: DIASPORA, RACE, NATION?</b>
--

April 20, 22	Read Kristin Ghodsee <b>Red Hangover</b>
<b>April 27, 29</b>	David A. Hollinger <b>Protestants Abroad</b>
May 4	<b>The Social Cost of Growth</b>  “The Secret History of Tiger Woods,” ESPN, 2016 Watch ESPN The Undefeated on Tiger Woods
May 6	<b>Last comments and considerations</b>

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
-------------------

May 7	<b>Last day of classes</b> Last day of instruction
-------	---

May 9	<b>READING PERIOD</b>
-------	-----------------------

**Paper 3: Due May 14**

May 10-15	<b>FINAL EXAMS</b>
-----------	--------------------