HST 520
THE LITERATURE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS
IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Fall 2015
Morton Hall, Room 212
Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

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Office Hours:
Tues. & Thurs., 9:30-11:00
and by appointment

Course Description
This graduate reading colloquium provides an intensive introduction to the most
important literature concerning the history of American foreign relations between the
Progressive Era (beginning roughly in the 1890s) and the end of the Cold War. It is
designed to acquaint students with the ways that historians of the past sixty-five years
have understood and debated the roots of American political, economic, and cultural
intercourse with the wider world between the time the United States began to look
beyond its borders in the late 19th century and the final years of the twentieth. As it
examines the most important scholarly arguments surrounding that history, it will require
students to grapple with the differences (which are much more than semantic) between
U.S. diplomatic history, the history of American foreign relations, and the history of
“America in the world.”

Required Readings
You will be required to read the following texts, all of which are available at the UNCW
Bookstore:

Hogan, Michael J. & Paterson, Thomas G., Explaining the History of American Foreign

Williams, William Appleman, The Tragedy of American Diplomacy, 50th Anniversary


**NOTE:** Additional articles will be assigned. All are available through Randall Library’s online databases or, where noted in the syllabus, will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements**

A graduate colloquium should be a forum for spirited and well-informed discussion between scholars. Lively (and civil) debate is the key to making it work. **Therefore, a premium will be placed on your active participation in our weekly discussions.**
These classes will be as good as you make them, so leave your inhibitions at the door! I am as eager to learn from you as you are to learn from the class.

Final grades will be based on the following:

--Active and thoughtful participation in discussions will be worth 55 percent of your grade.

--You will write three critical essays (4-6 pages each) based on weekly readings. Each of these essays will be worth 15 percent of your grade

--The first of these essays must be submitted on or before September 22

--The second essay must be submitted on or before October 20

--and the third essay must be submitted no later than November 24

Questions for Class Discussion

Each student in the class must submit to me three thoughtful, provocative questions based on that week’s reading which could serve as the basis for class discussion. These questions are to be submitted via e-mail no later than 12:00 a.m. (midnight) on the Monday evening before our colloquium. (NOTE: Please send them as Microsoft Word attachments)

Each of your three questions should be in the form of a short paragraph. Collectively, they should dazzle me and your classmates with the subtlety of their insights and the depth of knowledge they display! In other words, I do not expect to see short, fact-based questions. You should dig deep and get at the essence of the books or articles in question, probing their strengths and weaknesses. You should try to formulate questions, also, that ask us to bring together the readings for that week. In short, impress me!

NOTE: I will factor the quality of your questions into your participation grade.

A Note on Preparation for Discussions

Perhaps the most important skill you will learn in graduate school is how to read and digest a large volume of material quickly and then to discuss it knowledgeably. Everyone develops his or her own system for doing this well. Suffice it to say that you cannot read every sentence or page of every book you will be assigned. My suggestion is to read introductions and conclusions to books first in order to identify quickly the author’s thesis and most important arguments. You can then read the rest of the text with this in mind.

I would also suggest that you consult Randall Library’s online databases for the most important scholarly reviews of the book you are reading. This is in no way cheating! Indeed, it is a very useful way to see how other scholars are dissecting the same book you are and to see what they identify as its most important strengths and weaknesses.
Attendance:
Because we meet so few times during the semester, your unfailing attendance is critical to both the success of the colloquium and to your final grade. I will take roll each time we meet. You are allowed no more than **ONE** absence for any reason this term. Please plan your schedules accordingly.

Readings and Discussions
Tuesday, August 25:
  Introduction to the Course: Its Aims and Requirements
  Readings:
  --None

Tuesday, September 1:
  The Study of American Foreign Relations; American Foreign Relations in the Progressive Era; The “Open Door”
  Readings:

Tuesday, September 8:
  The Spanish-American War
  Readings:
  --Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*
Tuesday, September 15:

Woodrow Wilson and Wilsonianism
Readings:
--Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, pp. 59-78

Tuesday, September 22:

Internationalism, Isolationism, and Neutrality, 1919-1941
Readings:
--Blower, *Becoming Americans in Paris*
--Williams, *Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, pp. 108-161

Tuesday, September 29:

Franklin Roosevelt: From World War to Cold War
Readings:
--Costigliola, *Roosevelt’s Lost Alliances*
--Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, pp. 79-96
--Williams, *Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, pp. 162-201

Tuesday, October 6:

The Cold War from Yalta to Korea
Readings:
--Stueck, *Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History*
--Kathryn Weathersby, “New Findings on the Korean War,” Cold War International History Project, Virtual Archive (may also be found at <cwhip.si.edu> under “Featured Collections – The Korean War”)
Tuesday, October 13:
Fall Break

---CLASS DOES NOT MEET---

Tuesday, October 20:
The Cold War as a Spiritual Conflict
Readings:
--Inboden, Religion and American Foreign Policy, 1945-1960: The Soul of Containment

Tuesday, October 27:
Eisenhower, The Middle East, and the Third World: Decolonization, Culture, and Politics
Readings:
--Jacobs, Imagining the Middle East
--Mary Ann Heiss, “Real Men Don’t Wear Pajamas: Anglo-American Cultural Perceptions of Mohammed Mossadeg and the Iranian Oil Nationalization Dispute,” in Peter Hahn and Mary Ann Heiss, eds., Empire and Revolution: The United States and the Third World Since 1945, pp. 178-194 [Blackboard]

Tuesday, November 3:
Culture, Race, and the Cold War
Readings:
--Plummer, In Search of Power


Tuesday, November 10:

Social Science, Food, and American Foreign Relations

Reading:

--Cullather, *The Hungry World: America’s Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia*


Tuesday, November 17:

Human Rights and American Diplomacy

Reading:

--Keys, *Reclaiming American Virtue*


Tuesday, November 24:

Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, and the End of the Cold War

Reading:

--Wilson, *The Triumph of Improvisation*


Tuesday, December 1:
“America and the World” and Inter/Transnational History: Problems and Prognosis:
Readings:
--Hogan and Paterson, remaining chapters