



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 Relations, 2nd Edition* (Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Williams, William Appleman, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy, 50th Anniversary Edition*. (W.W. Norton, 2009)

Kennan, George F., *American Diplomacy, Sixtieth Anniversary Expanded Edition*, (University of Chicago Press, 2012)

Hoganson, Kristin, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars* (Yale University Press, 2000)

Manela, Erez, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anti-Colonial Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Blower, Brooke L., *Becoming Americans in Paris: Transatlantic Politics and Culture between the Wars* (Oxford University Press, 2013)

Costigliola, Frank, *Roosevelt's Lost Alliances: How Personal Politics Helped Start the Cold War* (Princeton University Press, 2013)

Steuck, William, *Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History* (Princeton University Press, 2004)

Inboden, William, *Religion and American Foreign Policy, 1945-1960: The Soul of Containment* (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

Plummer, Brenda Gayle, *In Search of Power: African-Americans in the Era of Decolonization, 1956-1974* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Jacobs, Matthew F., *Imagining the Middle East: The Building of an American Foreign Policy, 1918-1967* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011)

Cullather, Nick, *The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle against Poverty in Asia* (Harvard University Press, 2010)

Keys, Barbara J., *Reclaiming American Virtue: The Human Rights Revolution of the 1970s* (Harvard University Press, 2014)

Wilson, James Graham, *The Triumph of Improvisation: Gorbachev's Adaptability, Reagan's Engagement, and the End of the Cold War* (Cornell University Press, 2015)

****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:

- Hogan and Paterson, *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 1-50.
- Thomas W. Zeiler, "The Diplomatic History Bandwagon: A State of the Field," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 95, No. 4 (March 2009), pp. 1053-1073.
- Emily S. Rosenberg, "America and the World: From National to Global," in James M. Banner, ed., *A Century of American Historiography* (New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2010), pp. 30-38 **[Blackboard]**.
- Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, pp. vii-57.
- Williams, *Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, pp. 1-57.

Tuesday, September 8:

The Spanish-American War

Readings:

- Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*
- Hoganson, "What's Gender Got to Do with It?: Gender History as Foreign Relations History," in Hogan and Paterson, *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 304-322
- Hoganson, "Cosmopolitan Domesticity: Importing the American Dream, 1865-1920," *American Historical Review*, 107 (February 2002), pp. 55-83
- Andrew J. Rotter, "Empires of the Senses: How Seeing, Hearing, Smelling, Tasting, and Touching Shaped Imperial Encounters," *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (January 2011), pp. 3-19

Tuesday, September 15:

Woodrow Wilson and Wilsonianism

Readings:

- Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*
- Lloyd E. Ambrosius, "Democracy, Peace, and World Order," in John Milton Cooper, ed., *Reconsidering Woodrow Wilson: Progressivism, Internationalism, War, and Peace* (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2008), pp. 225-249 [**Blackboard**]
- Emily S. Rosenberg, "World War I, Wilsonianism, and Challenges to U.S. Empire," *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (2014), pp. 852-863.
- Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, pp. 59-78
- Williams, *Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, pp. 58-107.

Tuesday, September 22:

Internationalism, Isolationism, and Neutrality, 1919-1941

Readings:

- Blower, *Becoming Americans in Paris*
- Melvyn P. Leffler, "The Origins of Republican War Debt Policy: A Case Study in the Applicability of the Open Door Interpretation," *The Journal of American History*, December 1972, pp. 585-601
- Brooke L. Blower, "From Isolation to Neutrality: A New Framework for Understanding American Political Culture, 1919-1941," *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (2014), pp. 345-376.
- 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*
- Frank Costigliola, "Unceasing Pressure for Penetration: Gender, Pathology, and Emotion in George Kennan's Formation of the Cold War," *The Journal of American History*, March 1997, pp. 1309-1339
- 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 <cwihp.si.edu> under "Featured Collections – The Korean War")
- Melvyn P. Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power*, Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 1-24; 495-518 [**Blackboard**]

- Leffler, "National Security," in Hogan and Paterson, *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 123-136
- Williams, *Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, pp. 202-275
- John Lewis Gaddis, "Dividing the World," in *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History* (1997), pp. 1-26 **[Blackboard]**

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*
- Andrew Preston, "Bridging the Gap Between the Sacred and the Secular in the History of American Foreign Relations." *Diplomatic History* Vol. 30, No. 5 (2006), pp. 783-812.
- Andrew J. Rotter, "Christians, Muslims, and Hindus: Religion and U.S.-South Asian Relations, 1947-1954." *Diplomatic History* Vol. 24, No. 4 (2000), pp. 593-613.

Tuesday, October 27:

Eisenhower, The Middle East, and the Third World: Decolonization, Culture, and Politics

Readings:

- Jacobs, *Imagining the Middle East*
- Robert J. McMahon, "Eisenhower and Third World Nationalism: A Critique of the Revisionists," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 101, No. 3 (1986), pp. 453-473
- "The Breakup of the Colonial Empires and Its Implications for U.S. Security," CIA Report ORE-25-48, 3 September 1949 **[Blackboard]**
- Mary Ann Heiss, "Real Men Don't Wear Pajamas: Anglo-American Cultural Perceptions of Mohammed Mossadeq 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]**
- Thomas J. McCormick, "World Systems," and Frank Costigliola, "Reading for Meaning: Theory, Language, and Metaphor," in Hogan and Paterson, *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 149-161; 279-303

Tuesday, November 3:

Culture, Race, and the Cold War

Readings:

- Plummer, *In Search of Power*

- Mary L. Dudziak, Josephine Baker, Racial Protest, and the Cold War, *Journal of American History*, 81 (September 1994), pp. 543-570.
- Akira Irye, "Culture and International History," Jessica Gienow-Hecht, "Cultural Transfer," and Gerald Horne, "Race to Insight," in Hogan and Paterson, *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 241-278; 323-335.

Tuesday, November 10:

Social Science, Food, and American Foreign Relations

Reading:

- Cullather, *The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia*
- Louis A. Perez, "Dependency," and Nick Cullather, "Modernization," in Hogan and Paterson, *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 162-175; 212-220
- Michael E. Latham, "Setting the Foundations: Imperial Ideals, Global War, and Decolonization," and "Take-Off: Modernization and Cold War America," Chs. 1&2 in *The Right Kind of Revolution: Modernization, Development, and U.S. Foreign Policy from the Cold War to the Present* (Cornell University Press, 2011), pp. 11- 64 **[Blackboard]**

Tuesday, November 17:

Human Rights and American Diplomacy

Reading:

- Keys, *Reclaiming American Virtue*
- Kenneth Cmiel, "the Recent History of Human Rights," Chapter 1 in Akira Iriye, Petra Goedde, and William Hitchcock (eds.) *The Human Rights Revolution: An International History* (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 27-52 **[Blackboard]**
- Mark Philip Bradley, "American Vernaculars: The United States and the Global Human Rights Imagination," *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (2014), pp. 1-21.

Tuesday, November 24:

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

Reading:

- Wilson, *The Triumph of Improvisation*
- Jeremi Suri, "Explaining the End of the Cold War: A New Historical Consensus?" *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Fall 2002), pp. 60-92
- John Lewis Gaddis, "Reagan, Gorbachev, and the Completion of Containment," Ch. 11 of *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War*, Revised and Expanded Edition (Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 342-379 **[Blackboard]**

Tuesday, December 1:

“America and the World” and Inter/ Transnational History: Problems and Prognosis:

Readings:

- Marc Trachtenberg, “The State of International History,” *E-International Relations*, March 9, 2013 [**Blackboard**]
- William R. Keylor, “The Problems and Prospects of Diplomatic/International History,” H-Diplo Essay, No. 126, An H-Diplo State of the Field Essay, April 10, 2015 [**Blackboard**]
- Hogan and Paterson, remaining chapters