

U.S. as a World Power

HIST363

Online – asynchronous (no scheduled class meetings)

Instructor: Dr. Morrison-Santana

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Office Hours: Virtual appointments available upon request

Course Overview:

The role of the United States has changed from its inception to the present. It's transitioned from a colony to an expanding power, from isolation to a global superpower. Historical events, domestic factors, and international influences have all played a part in today's America. This course on America and the World will examine that history, the various viewpoints and influences on its foreign policy, current and past threats, and where it stands right now with the current administration. Looking at historical documents, speeches, government documents, prominent scholars, etc., this course will explain how America has grown into what it is today – a world power. Additionally, it will explore factors that have shaped its foreign policy and relationship with the world, ways in which America has influenced the world- culturally, socially, economically and how different world events, rise of identity politics, globalization, transnational networks, and international organizations have in turn shaped its policies and perception of the world. The course is divided into three parts:

Part I: History and Structure of American Foreign Policy

Part II: American Strategy – The Cold War to 9/11

Part III: America in the 21st Century

Readings: *** All available on Canvas ***

Please make sure you have access to the course on Canvas as soon as possible so that you are able to get the materials needed to successfully complete the course.

Weekly Expectations:

The way I design this course is to make it as use friendly as possible. The course is broken down into 15 modules (for the 15 weeks of class that we have). When you click on our class in Canvas, click on Home on the left side, and you will see all of these modules, which include our readings, videos, discussions, and any assignments for that week. I labeled all of the modules by the dates. I also begin each module with a Pages link, where I outline the week's topics and give some general information about the week's materials. **YOU SHOULD READ THIS FIRST EVERY WEEK.**

If you have been simply clicking on Assignments or Discussions to see what is due, you are not seeing everything needed for the course or the week. Please make things easier for yourself and look at the weekly modules, which include all of the necessary work each week.

- Each week, the week's content will appear at 12:00am on Monday mornings (late Sunday nights) so that you can begin that week's assignments. To avoid confusion in course discussions and quizzes, I prefer not to make the entire course's contents available at once to avoid confusion.
 - Example: Week 1 – Monday 12:00am – Sunday 11:59pm

*****ALL PAPERS, DISCUSSION CONTRIBUTIONS, AND TESTS FOR EACH WEEK ARE DUE BY SUNDAY AT 11:59pm AT THE END OF THAT WEEK on CANVAS*****

***** LATE POLICY -- Any late assignments will only be worth half of their original points (and only for the week after the assignment is due. After that, it is not possible to get any points for an assignment.) PLEASE DON'T APPROACH ME AT THE END OF THE SESSION ASKING TO DO ALL OF THE**

15 WEEKS' WORTH OF WORK THE LAST WEEK. This class is designed to be done over the course of 15 weeks, and it is not possible to do everything in a day or two. Having something come up on the weekend and not being able to submit your work on time is not a valid excuse, as you've had all week to do the assignments. I will only allow late work with a valid excuse (i.e. a medical emergency) with proper documentation. **DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS TO ME*****

Assignments: * SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENTS ON CANVAS *****
(I will not accept them any other way)

Discussion Thread Contributions

Each week, I will post discussion questions that you are expected to respond to that are based on the lectures, readings, links, and topics of the week. Many of the discussion posts are asking YOUR opinion about the topic, so do not just give a summary or overview of the topic – I'm expecting you to have gone through the course material and responding with your now-educated view. Answer the questions asked. Your contributions must be more than just agreeing with someone else or simple reactions to what others say ("Wow," "I didn't know this," etc.). I purposefully make other students' discussion posts hidden until you make your own post so that you create original work. There also should be no direct quotes from any other source in your discussion posts. In addition to your own response to the original post, you must respond to at least one other student's posts each week for full credit. You cannot make up discussion posts (or responses) late.

News Threads:

Politics doesn't live in a bubble. There are many events that occur that can be compared to current events. Each week, you must find a relevant news story **FROM THE WEEK THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE** and relate it to the course material **FROM THE SAME WEEK** in your post. Do not just give a summary of the news event that you found. Your post should be at least 200 words in length. Don't just google the topic and find some article written that week and use it. It should be something that specifically happens during the week it's due. **Do not use any blogs, opinion pieces, or any 24-hour news channel sources – i.e. no CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC, etc.).** Please include the link of your news article. **NO DIRECT QUOTES.** You must also respond to another student's news thread for full credit. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you have worked through the week's material and can apply it to current issues in the news.

- example -- if we're covering the American Revolution one week, find something that happened in the news that week (the week the assignment is due) and explain how the recent event relates to what we covered that week. You should not just google the week's topic and find something going on in the news that is reminds you of our course material (in the above example - do not find a news article from the week of the assignment about the American Revolution – That is not the assignment. Instead, is there a revolution going on elsewhere in the world right now? How is it similar/different?)

The purpose of these assignment is twofold: One, it's to get you to think about what we covered and how other things going on in the world can be similar to history; and two, it's to get you to start readings the news more regularly and being aware of the world in which you live.

Again, please use credible news sources (no blogs, opinion pieces, or 24-hour news networks -- i.e. no CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC, etc.). If you are unsure of your source, please email me

Grading:

Discussion Posts – 10 points each - 200
 News Threads – 25 points each/300 points total
 Country Paper – 150 points
 Final Essay – 100 points

 750 points total

COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an “F” for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code. Please see NJIT Academic Integrity Policy. All students are required to sign the **NJIT Honor Code Pledge**. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment”... Additionally, you cannot hand in any assignments that you have completed for a different course. Using AI to complete your work is a form of plagiarism.
2. **No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). These devices are distracting not only to you, but to the rest of the class as well. If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies may result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day. If you are caught using any personal technology during an exam, you will receive a zero for the exam, and the matter will be handed over to the Dean of Students.
3. Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
4. **Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Additionally, it is inappropriate for any parents to contact any professor about your grade, and there are laws that prohibit such communication.
5. **Your grade** is your responsibility and is non-negotiable. If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester asking/begging for a better grade.
6. **DO NOT HAND IN WORK YOU’VE SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER CLASS.** Even if you wrote it, it would still be considered plagiarism because you didn’t write it specifically for this class.
7. Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be warned one time. Any subsequent disrespect will be reported to the university.

Country Paper

(must be submitted on Canvas – do not email it to me)

*** I do not accept late work, and failure to hand in the paper by the due date/time will result in an F... No exceptions! ***

Things you should cover:

- Historical relations with the United States up through 2024 (end of the Biden administration)
 - This should include origins, changes over time, and conflicts (if applicable)
- Relations with the U.S. under the current administration (Biden), including any changes or shifts in policy from the previous administration
- Where YOU think U.S. policy with your country is heading (your educated opinion based on your research).
- Your essay should also have an introduction and conclusion. Please note that there are three major sections that need to be covered, and they should have near-equal attention paid to each.

Guidelines:

- Use credible sources – avoid 24-hour news channels (Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.) as well as opinion essays... If you are unsure of your sources, please email me.
- Be specific. Explain what the United States has done in these countries and how it's changed over time (if applicable). You are to be the expert about your country and US relations
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS. Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, MAXIMUM.
- **IF YOU DO NOT CITE, EVEN WHEN YOU PARAPHRASE, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.**
- PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY. I don't need what class this is for, my name, the date, your favorite color, and your dog's name.
- 1-inch margins all around
- Double-spaced (except footnotes)
- Page numbers required
- Times New Roman, 12-point font required.
- The paper is to be at least 6-8 pages long, not less (No cover page required).
- Use footnotes, single-spaced, and put full bibliographic information in them (in MLA or APA formats – consistently). All statistics, direct quotes, and non-general knowledge information should be cited, and they should be single-spaced.¹ We will go over how to do them in class.
- Bibliography (Works Cited page) required – not included in the 6-8 pages. Your sources should be in alphabetical order.

¹ This is a footnote. It goes on the bottom of the page where you are citing. To insert a footnote, you click References and Insert Footnote. It will put a little number by what you're citing and a corresponding number at the bottom of the page. These should include full bibliographic information – including URLs if necessary. For repeating citations, after the first one, you can just use the first few words of the bibliographic information. These should be in 10-point Times New Roman font and single-spaced.