

U.S. as a World Power

HIST363

Thursdays from 6:00-8:50pm

CKB 314

Instructor: Dr. Morrison-Santana

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Office Hours: Thursdays 5:20-6:00pm in Cullimore 321 (or available virtually by appointment)

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 super power. 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 Looking at historical documents, speeches, government documents, prominent scholars, etc., this course will explain how America has grown into what it is today – a world power.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: American in the 21st Century

Assignments:

- **Participation** – you are expected to attend every class, pay attention, and actively participate in the course discussions – this means being present, not talking, not being on any device during class.
- **Country Policy Paper** – you will write a paper (6-8 pages) on the current U.S. foreign policy of a specific country with full citations. A rubric for this is on page 4 of this syllabus. Countries will be chosen the in the beginning of the semester.
- **Tests** - There are two tests during the semester. These will be made up short answer essay questions.
- **Final Essay** – the rubric for this essay will be given out the last week of class.

***** LATE POLICY:** Any late assignments will only be worth half of their original points after the due date (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 COURSE'S 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***

Grading:

Participation – 150 points total

Newspaper Article Essay – 100 points

Midterm Exam – 150 points

Country Paper – 150 points

Final Reflection – 100 points

650 points total

COURSE POLICIES:

1. You are required to come to class. Routinely missing class and/or showing up late will negatively affect your participation grade. 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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. 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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. 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.
9. I cannot predict the future, and as we all know from these past few years, things can change overnight – this includes modality of courses taught, requirements for in person classes, etc. I will do my best to be as honest and upfront with you about what I know and to help ease whatever transitions we may need to make throughout the semester. We should all be prepared for everything.

Newspaper Article Essay:

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to political issues and historical events we discuss in this class. For these essays, you must find a recent news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) about a current event (from 2023/2024) that is UNRELATED to our course material and write a paper about how the article relates to the topics discussed each week. These are not informative papers, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event you choose is related to the topics we've discussed that week and how it differs using course readings and lectures to supplement your paper. This is also not meant for you to find a 2023/2024 article about our topic. Again, your news event should be UNRELATED to our course material in any way, and YOU make the connection. **You must use course material in your paper (and cite it) - including lectures, readings, links, etc.**

- 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 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?)

Cite everything with **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them).

*** Your answer must be at least 5 full pages long (no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, these essays make up a large portion of your grade, so it is important that you do them; failure to do so may result in failing the course. They should be well thought-out responses with a beginning, middle, and end.

***** SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON CANVAS *****
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason. No exceptions.

Guidelines:

- Find an article from a credible source – avoid 24-hour news channels (NO Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.) If you are unsure of your source, please email me. Also, do not use op-eds (opinion pieces) or blogs, as they are not investigative journalism.
- Be specific. I want you to really think about your articles and your responses to them and how they fit into our course.
- 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... Read through it out loud before turning it in, which can help highlight errors.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY – no title, date, course name, etc.
- 1-inch margins all around
- SINGLE SPACE FOOTNOTES
- The paper is to be 5 full pages long. Not less... (No cover page).
- Do not use Grammarly to edit your paper or any other AI technology. This is considered plagiarism.
- **CITE EVERYTHING**

GRADING RUBRIC FOR THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT:

Essay Criteria (70 points total):

- ☐ - Credible article chosen (____/10 points)
- ☐ - Article comparison to course material (____/20 points)
- ☐ - Critical Analysis/Original thought (____/20 points)
- ☐ - Well-organized essay – beginning/middle/end – (____/20 points)

Paper Guidelines – following directions (30 points total):

- ☐ – Handed in on time (freebie) – 2 points
- ☐ – Brief name (no more than one line) – 4 points
- ☐ – Required length (5 full pages) – 4 points
- ☐ – Required font (Times New Roman 12-point) – 4 points
- ☐ – Proofread – 4 points
- ☐ – Double Spaced (no extra spaces between paragraphs) – 4 points
- ☐ – Proper Margins (1-inch) – 4 points
- ☐ – Footnotes (4 points total)
 - * Full Bibliographic info in footnote (including URL)
 - * Single-spaced

GRADE (out of 100 points) _____

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.