

**SYLLABUS**  
**U.S. Diplomatic History 1945-Present**  
**HISTORY 4773**  
**Location: Kimpel 203**  
**Class mtgs. TR 3:30 - 4:50**

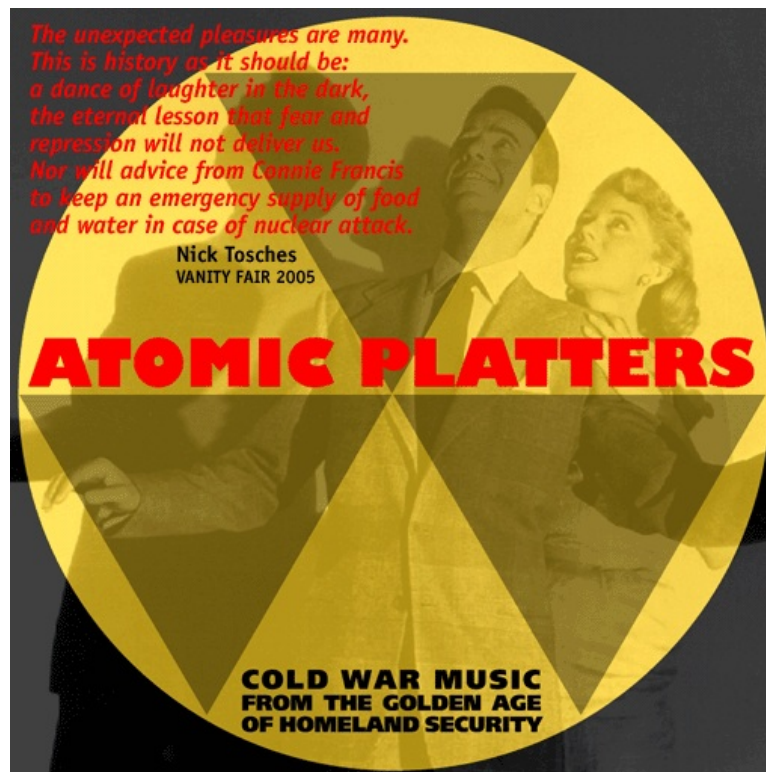
**Instructor: Prof. Alessandro Brogi**

Office: 403 Old Main,

Phone: 575 5888

Office Hours: T. 9:00-10:30 a.m., Th. 2:15 to 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays also by appointment

e-mail: [abrogi@uark.edu](mailto:abrogi@uark.edu)



**Course Description:**

A recent account on America's war on terrorism praised the Bush administration for "putting the linkage between idealism and security on steroids." America's foreign policy has since the end of World War II attempted to combine idealism (or ideology) and straightforward national interest based on realist calculations of power. For the most part, this has been a success story. But contradictions have abounded, and the US experienced failures (the Vietnam war was the most abysmal one - other less known failures had even greater global consequences). Whether the current tendency to conflate idealism - or, more broadly defined, "soft power" - and hard power (military, economic) will lead to success, failure, or somewhere in between remains to be seen.

This course provides a synthesis of U.S. involvement in world affairs, examining the origins, development, ramifications, and end of the Cold War. Specific themes include strategies of containment, nuclear deterrence, the international economy, agreements and disagreements among Western allies, and America's efforts to deal with the developing world. We will also examine the four major wars of this half-century (Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Gulf War II) as well as America's involvement in other minor conflicts. Some attention will be devoted to foreign perceptions of the United States, and particularly to various reactions to America's cultural expansion. The last four meetings will be devoted to an analysis of the post-Cold War world.

The course will have a lecture format (with short video clips), occasionally (every other week on average) followed by a brief discussion session.

### **Course Requirements:**

- 1). One Mid-Term exam
- 2). One book review choosing from one of the books marked below as “Book Review Option”(length of this review: 4 to 5 double-spaced pages)
- 3). One Final exam
- 4). A research paper (of approximately 10-12 double-spaced pages) based on at least 10-12 documents drawn from primary sources, and at least two secondary sources as references

**OR** (alternatively to the research paper):

One comparative book review of three books one of which will be from the core list (but NOT the one you chose to review as single book review) and two more books will be chosen from a bibliographical list which will be provided separately (length of this review: 8-9 pages double-spaced).

(Nota Bene (or NB: in Latin/Italian it means “watch out”): undergraduates should seriously consider doing the research paper, if this may help them fulfill a senior paper or a honors paper requirement.)

**For graduate students only:** if you choose the book review option for the final assignment, it will have to be a composite review of FOUR books (length ca. 12 double-spaced pages), within a clear historiographical framework. Your paper, besides summarizing and analyzing the books, will be expected to address the main arguments of the school or trend of thought (for example four books representing the Revisionist school in Cold War History) or the specific debate around a particular issue (for example four books specifically addressing the topic of Cultural Imperialism). For that purpose it will be helpful to complement your book selection with one or two journal articles examining the historiographical debates.

- 5) Participation, with class attendance, questions, and discussion participation when required.

**Guidelines on how to write a research paper (and a book review), and clear directions on the distinction between primary and secondary sources will be provided separately. Students should discuss their topic of research with me at least 4 weeks before the paper is due.**

Exams for graduate students will be slightly more complex than those for undergraduates. The format of the exams will be a combination of Identification Questions (IDs) and one short essay

question for undergraduates, and two short essay questions for graduate students. The final, for both undergraduate and graduate students, will include one comparative/comprehensive essay question (a little longer than the question for the mid-term).

**NB:** In both exams you will have a choice of IDs (e.g. four to be picked from a list of 10) and essay questions (choosing ONE of two)

**NB2:** two weeks before the final I will email a list of approximately 7-8 questions among which I will draw the two essay questions for the exam; this will allow students to better focus their preparation for the final.

### **GRADING:**

Mid-term: 15-20% of the course grade

First Book review: 15-20%

Second Book review: 20-25 %

(or Research Paper): 25-30%

Final exam: 30-40%

Discussion participation: ca. 10-15%

**NB:** the above percentages are a RANGE, which means that they will be adjusted especially if you demonstrate consistent improvement through the semester. In that case, I will increase the grade ratio of the research paper or the final exam. In any case, students will always have the most favorable percentage ratio: so if you perform better on the paper assignments than on exams, you will receive a ratio of 20 and 30% for the papers and 15 and 30% for the exams (percentages can be further adjusted with the participation grade).

### **MAKE-UPS**

Students who have to miss an exam should notify me in advance, providing a satisfactory excuse; make-ups will be scheduled at the instructor's convenience. In exceptional cases, the student may notify me of the need to reschedule after he/she missed the exam, but this notification should be received via e-mail or in person no later than three days after the missed exam. Failure to do so will result in failing grade for the exam. Make-up exams offer less choice of questions than regular exams.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

University rules require me to inform you that academic misconduct, which includes cheating on exams and plagiarism (from *both* the internet and printed sources) can result in an 'F' grade in the course and, in the worst cases, in dismissal from the University. See the Catalog of Studies for further information.



**Required Readings:**

1) Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War* (2007) ISBN: 9780809097173 **Book review option**

2) Jeremi Suri, *Henry Kissinger and the American Century* (Harvard U. Press, 2007) ISBN: 9780674025790. **Book review option**

3) Geir Lundestad, *The United States and Western Europe since 1945: From Empire by Invitation to Transatlantic Drift* (Oxford U. Press, Paperback ed., 2005). **Book review option**

4) Peter Hahn and Mary Ann Heiss, *Empire and Revolution: The United States and the Third World* (OSU, 2001 - Available online at Ohio State University Press). **Book review option**

5) Fareed Zakaria, *The Post American World* (Norton, 2008) **(review option)**

Some xeroxed copies (total of ca. 150 pages of material) available through the library's EBSCO connection or the Library's INFOLINK web connection: a password will be soon provided for students to get online access to these readings. See separate guidelines by email.

**Class Schedule (Please pay attention in class and on email for possible changes in schedule and assigned readings):**

**WEEK 1 - August 25-27**

**Topics:** a) U.S. Foreign Relations in the American Century: Concepts  
b) Example or Crusader? The Record from 1900 to 1945

**Reading assignment:**

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 3-9

Suri, *Kissinger and the American Century*, 1-108

**WEEK 2 - September 1-3**

**Topics:**

a) Origins of the Cold War

b) Containment in Europe part I

c) Origins of the Cold War in Europe part II

**Reading assignment:**

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 11-83

Lundestad, *The U.S. and Western Europe since 1945*, pp. 1-59

**WEEK 3 - September 8-10**

**Topics:**

a) Containment in Asia

(Brief Q&A session based on readings of weeks 2 and 3)

b) Korean War

**Reading Assignment:**

**Infolink:** LaFeber Walter, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, 91-129

**WEEK 4 - September 15-17**

**Topics:**

- a) **The Meanings of the Second Red Scare**
- b) **Eisenhower's New Look - The Emergence of the Third World**

**Reading Assignment:**

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 84-150

Suri, *Kissinger and the American Century*, 109-167

Hahn and Heiss, *Empire and Revolution*, 17-70 and 123-153

**WEEK 5 - September 22-24**

**Topics:**

- a) **Assessing Eisenhower**
- b) **JFK and the Flexible Response**
- c) **Cuban Crisis**

**Reading Assignment:**

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 151-192

Suri, *Kissinger and the American Century*, 167-187

**WEEK 6 - September 29 - October 1**

**Topics:**

- a) **Vietnam: Background**
- b) **Vietnam: Johnson's War**
- c) **Brief Discussion based on Leffler's Chapter and Logevall's Chapter**

**Reading Assignment:**

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 192-233

Hahn and Heiss, *Empire and Revolution*, 94-120

**Infolink:** Fredrik Logevall, *Choosing War*, Conclusions, pp. 375-413

**WEEK 7 - October 6-8**

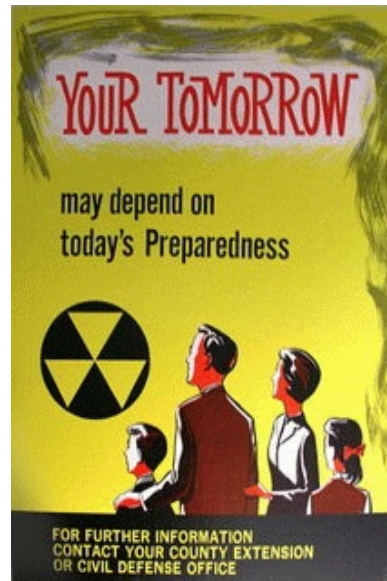
**Topics:**

- a) **Vietnam: Nixon's War**
- b) **The Institutional Framework of US Foreign Policy (1918-1975): The "Imperial Presidency" and The War Powers Debate**

**Reading Assignment:**

**BOOK REVIEW of Suri's *Kissinger and the American Century* due on Thursday, October 8**

Suri, *Kissinger and the American Century*, 167-248

**WEEK 8 - October 13-15****TUESDAY, October 13, MID-TERM : from 1945 to 1975 (End of the Vietnam War)**

**Topic for Thursday, October  
Détente (1969-1975)  
American Century")**

**Reading Assignment:**

Suri, *Kissinger and the American Century*, review 167-248 and read 248-274

**15:**  
(some Q& A on “Kissinger and the

**WEEK 9 - October 20-22**

**Topics:**

- a) **The Demise of Détente (1975-1980)**
- b) **The U.S. of Europe: The U.S. and the Integration of Europe (1945-1980)**
- c) **Brief discussion based on Lundestad’s Book**

**Reading assignment:**

**BOOK REVIEW OF Lundestad, *The United States and Western Europe* due on Thurs. October 22  
(reviewers of this book will have to finish the book this week)**

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 234-337

Lundestad, , *The United States and Western Europe Since 1945*, pp. 63-197

**WEEK 10 - October 27-29**

**Topics:**

- a) **Foreign Perceptions of the United States: Europe**
- b) **The Meanings of Globalization (US foreign economic policy, 1945-1980)**
- c) **The Second Cold War: Reagan and the “Evil Empire”**

**Reading Assignment:**

Hahn and Heiss, *Empire and Revolution*, 242-268

Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind*, 338-467

**Suggested (on topic of foreign perceptions):**

(Available through EBSCO): Jessica Gienow-Hecht, "Shame on US?," *Diplomatic History* Summer 2000, pp. 465-494

**Week 11 - November 3-5****Topics**

- a) **The End of the Cold War - Brief discussion session on Leffler's Book**
- b) **The U.S. Role in the Middle East, part 1 (1948-1975)**

**Reading Assignment:**

Hahn and Heiss, *Empire and Revolution*, 154-213

Review pp. from Leffler on End of Cold War

**BOOK REVIEW of Leffler's *For the Soul of Mankind* due in class on Tuesday, November 3**

**WEEK 12 - November 10-12****Topics:**

- a) **The U.S. Role in the Middle East part 2 (1975-2001)**
- b) **Bush I, the "New World Order," and the First Gulf War**

**Reading Assignment:**

**BOOK REVIEW of Hahn and Heiss, *Empire and Revolution*, due on Tuesday November 10 in class**

**Infolink:** LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, parts on Bush I.

**WEEK 13 - November 17-19****Topics**

- a) **How Others See Us: the United States through Foreign Eyes (Developing World and Middle East)(brief discussion based on Hahn and Heiss' Book)**
- b) **Clinton and the Search for a Grand Strategy: It's the Economy Stupid? (Globalization, 1980s to the present)**

**Reading Assignments:**

**Infolink:** LaFeber Walter, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, parts on Clinton

**Infolink:** Sayyid Qutb, "Fundamentalism"

**WEEK 14 - November 24 - Thanksgiving Break only on November 26****Topics:**

- a) **The Search for a Grand Strategy: Humanitarian Interventions and NATO Expansion**
- b) **U.S. And Europe: Drifting Since 1980?**
- c) **Brief Discussion based on Lundestad's Book**

**Reading Assignment:**

Lundestad, *The United States and Western Europe*, finish the book

**Infolink:** LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, review parts on Clinton

**WEEK 15 - December 1-3****Topics:**

- a) **Bush II, and the Revolution in US Foreign Policy - the War on Terrorism**
- b) **Bound to Lead? The Future of US Foreign Policy**
- c) **Brief Discussion on Zakaria's Book**

**Reading Assignment:**

**BOOK REVIEW of Zakaria, *The Post-American World* due in class on Tuesday)**

Zakaria, read the whole book + emailed copy of one article on the Bush Doctrine (by John L. Gaddis)

Based on how much we manage to cover in the 15 weeks, we may or may not have our last class on December 8, following the official calendar

**FINAL EXAM: Check Schedule on ISIS**

Exam Includes Everything from 1975 to the Present, including special topics (Middle East, European Integration, etc.)

FINAL PAPERS DUE on December 8, by 4pm in my office



**Supplementary reading**

these books are for reference  
your research assignment. Knowledge of this material is NOT expected for the mid-term and final exam.

(available on reserve):

only. They may be helpful for

Also, **A SEPARATE BOOK LIST WILL BE PROVIDED** - with selections by topic and geographic areas. The books from that list will be available at the Library but not on reserve.

Tucker, Robert W. and David C. Hendrickson, *Empire of Liberty: The Statecraft of Thomas Jefferson* (1990)

Ninkovich, Frank, *The Wilsonian Century: U.S. Foreign Policy Since 1900* (1999)

Gaddis, John L., *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History* (1997)

McMahon, Robert J., and Thomas G. Paterson (eds.), *The Origins of the Cold War* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., 1999)

Nye, Joseph, *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics* (2005)

Wagnleitner Reinhold and Elaine Tyler May, *Here, There and Everywhere: The Foreign Politics of American Popular Culture* (2000)

Zubok, Vladislav, *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union and the Cold War, from Stalin to Gorbachev* (2007)