

HIST 5000

The United States and Empire in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Spring 2018

Prof. Amanda Nagel

Thursday 4:00-6:30PM, TH 121

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Office Hours: MW 1:00pm-2:30pm and by appointment

Course Description: In the United States, we tend to think of empire and empire building as events and topics more closely associated with other countries and their history. “Empire” has been a dirty word in United States politics for more than two centuries. After the American Revolution, many citizens and politicians sought to separate the United States’ legacy from that of Great Britain, particularly when it came to the subject of empire. That desire of separation from association with empire has continued into the present. What if that separation was only in the minds of citizens and politicians, but not in their actions? How, then, do we reconcile those actions with the narrative of United States history and historiography? This course seeks to explore these questions through the historiography of United States empire.

Required Readings:

Jon Kukla, *A Wilderness so Immense: The Louisiana Purchase and the Destiny of America* (New York: Random House Publishing, 2003).

James Cusick, *The Other War of 1812: The Patriot War and the American Invasion of Spanish East Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003).

Thomas R. Hietala, *Manifest Design: American Exceptionalism & Empire* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1985).

Timothy J. Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and its War with the United States* (Hill and Wang, 2007).

Paul Foos, *A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair: Soldiers and Social Conflict During the Mexican-American War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002).

Paul Andrew Hutton, *The Apache Wars: The Hunt for Geronimo, the Apache Kid, and the Captive Boy Who Started the Longest War in American History* (New York: Crown Publishing, 2016).

Evan Thomas, *The War Lovers: Roosevelt, Lodge, Hearst, and the Rush to Empire, 1898* (New York: Back Bay Books, 2010).

David J. Silbey, *A War of Frontier and Empire: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902* (Hill and Wang, 2007).

Mary A. Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation & the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001).

Penny M. Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957* (Cornell University Press, 1997).

Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007).

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* (Holt Paperbacks, 2006).

Charles S. Maier, *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and Its Predecessors* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006).

Andrew J. Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities & Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002).

*additional suggested readings available on request – email me if you are interested in the list

Each student is required to complete all weekly readings before each class meeting. Please talk to me if you wish to discuss reading strategies.

Assignments:

Discussion and participation: 30%

 Discussion leader: 10%

 Weekly participation and discussion: 20%

Two book reviews: 20%

18-20 page historiography paper: 50%

 Abstract: 10%

 Annotated Bibliography: 10%

 Historiography Paper: 30%

Participation: Participation will be evaluated weekly. All students should make an effort to participate in the discussion in a meaningful and respectful way. Be aware that I may call on those who do not. Each student will lead discussion once during the semester, providing a handout with a summary of the book's argument and questions for discussion.

Book Reviews: You will complete two book reviews of your choosing from the required texts for the course. Each book review is worth 10% of your final grade. The book reviews will be due on the date that the book must be read by as listed on the syllabus. Each book review will include a proper heading, a full citation as the title (including page numbers, index, bibliography/notes, etc.), and multiple sections. Those sections are: Author's Purpose, Chronological and Topical Scope, Sources, Author's Thesis and Main Points, Critique, and Reviews (at least two reviews that appeared in a peer-reviewed journal). The book reviews should be two pages single-spaced, no more, no less, with standard 1 inch margins. One book review will be due by Week 8, with the other due by Week 15.

Historiography Paper: Each student will choose a topic within the scope of the course for the final 18-20 page historiography paper. You will have two interim assignments associated with this paper, an abstract and annotated bibliography. The abstract will be due Week 3. The annotated bibliography will be due Week 7, with the final paper due during finals week.

Attendance: Attendance is required. In case of an absence, please provide me with documentation and arrange a meeting to discuss the readings you missed. Failure to do so will be reflected in your participation and discussion grade.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: There will be zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. This includes cheating on exams and plagiarism. Any assignment found to contain plagiarism or cheating in any form will receive a grade of 0% and may lead to further disciplinary actions. For more information regarding the policies on plagiarism, consult the Student Conduct Code.

As you can see, I have little to no tolerance for cheating or plagiarism. You can save yourself and your academic standing by simply not cheating. Please note that cheating is against school policy and is unethical. Plagiarism, however, is against the law. If you have any questions on what might or might not be plagiarism or cheating, please do not hesitate to ask.

Class Etiquette: Silence (do not set to vibrate, but silence) all cellular devices and electronic equipment you may be carrying with you before class begins. Headphones must be taken off and put away before class begins. The noises from these devices are disruptive to the classroom setting. If you answer the phone, use an electronic device, or listen to some form of electronic device during class, this will be a breach of class etiquette. Students should be on time for class. Tardiness is disruptive and distracting to all in the classroom. Please be on time and ready for class to begin by 4:00 PM. During class, I expect all students to foster a space that is conducive to historical debate and learning at all times. Common sense dictates how you should act in such a situation. If you have any questions, please bring them to me as soon as possible.

Student Development: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Accommodation will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

Class Schedule

Week 1: Empire of Liberty?

Reading: Jon Kukla, *A Wilderness so Immense: The Louisiana Purchase and the Destiny of America*

Week 2: Expansion and the War of 1812

Reading: James Cusick, *The Other War of 1812: The Patriot War and the American Invasion of Spanish East Florida*

Week 3: Manifest Destiny

Reading: Thomas R. Hietala, *Manifest Design: American Exceptionalism & Empire*

Abstract Due

Week 4: The War with Mexico

Reading: Timothy J. Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and its War with the United States*

Week 5: The War with Mexico Revisited

Reading: Paul Foss, *A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair: Soldiers and Social Conflict During the*

Mexican-American War

Week 6: Warfare in the West

Reading: Paul Andrew Hutton, *The Apache Wars: The Hunt for Geronimo, the Apache Kid, and the Captive Boy Who Started the Longest War in American History*

Week 7: Cuba, the United States, and Empire

Reading: Evan Thomas, *The War Lovers: Roosevelt, Lodge, Hearst, and the Rust to Empire, 1898*

Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 8: Spreading to the Philippines

Reading: David J. Silbey, *A War of Frontier and Empire: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902*

First Book Review Due by Today

Week 9: The Caribbean and United States Expansion

Reading: Mary A. Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation & the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940*

Week 10: World War II and the Beginning of the Cold War

Reading: Penny M. Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957*

Week 11: The Cold War and the United States

Reading: Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War*

Week 12: Continued Quest for Empire?

Reading: Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*

Week 13: The United States in Latin America

Reading: Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*

Week 14: Comparing the United States to Historic Empires

Reading: Charles S. Maier, *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and Its Predecessors*

Week 15: Modern Empire

Reading: Andrew J. Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities & Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy*

Second Book Review Due by Today

Final Paper due Thursday of finals week by 5:00 PM