

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences – Department of History**  
**History 181-02: Advanced Topics in American History: U.S. Foreign Relations**  
**Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Prof. Alberto García

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**Office Hours:** F, 10:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment

**Class Days/Time:** TR, 12:00-1:15pm

**Classroom:** DMH 163

**Prerequisites:** Upper-division standing or instructor's consent

**Units:** 4

### **Canvas and MySJSU**

This syllabus, writing assignment prompts, and additional readings will be available for download as PDF files on the course's Canvas page. I will use Canvas to send class-wide announcements and messages as necessary. To ensure that you receive all message and announcement notifications, please link your MySJSU account to an e-mail address that you regularly use. Please contact me if you have problems accessing the course Canvas page.

### **Course Description**

From the SJSU Catalog: An investigation in depth of selected periods or topics in American history.

This course will examine American foreign relations and policy from the colonial period through the present. Lectures and readings will touch upon the imperial contexts of colonization, relations with Native American peoples, shifts between isolationism and interventionism, the development of American imperialism in Latin America and Asia, the anti-communist Cold War, the War on Terror, how foreign policy affected immigration policy, and the connections between foreign and domestic policies.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze the geopolitical contexts that influenced American foreign policy decisions.
2. Describe and analyze the economic factors that influenced American foreign policy decisions.
3. Describe and analyze the ideological factors that influenced American foreign policy decisions.
4. Describe and analyze the global impact of American foreign policy decisions.

- Describe and analyze the effects American foreign policy decisions have had on “subaltern” groups, such as racial/ethnic minorities, religious minorities, immigrants, and women.

### **Required Texts/Reading**

- Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Volume I: To 1920*, Seventh Edition (Boston, Mass.: Cengage Learning, 2009). (ISBN: 9780547218243)
- Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Volume II: Since 1914*, Seventh Edition (Boston, Mass.: Cengage Learning, 2009). (ISBN: 9780547218236)

The required texts listed above are available for purchase at the Spartan Bookstore. When necessary, additional readings will be available for download as PDF files on Canvas.

### **Library Liaison**

The History Department’s library liaison is Nyle Monday. You may contact him for help on research and writing assignments in all History courses. He may be reached at Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu and at (408) 808-2041. You may also consult the History Library Guide at <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/history>.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

In addition to regular attendance and participation in discussion, all students are required to complete the following assignments:

#### Writing Assignments

You will turn in one multi-page writing assignment at the end of the semester. In it, you will either analyze a group of related primary sources or review a group of related secondary sources. A more detailed prompt will be handed out separately.

**The writing assignment is due in class on Thursday, May 9.**

#### Midterm and Final Examinations

There will be two midterm examinations and one final examination. Both midterm examinations will consist of short answer questions where you analyze key terms from lectures and reading assignment excerpts. The final examination will consist of short answer questions and one “synthetic” essay question that will ask you to consider themes from the entire course.

**The first midterm examination will be held in class on Thursday, February 28.**

**The second midterm examination will be held in class on Tuesday, April 9.**

**The final examination will be held on Monday, May 20 from 9:45am to 12:00pm.**

### Extensions, Make-Up Examinations, and Late Assignments

Due date extensions for writing assignments and make-up examinations will only be arranged in instances of documented medical and personal emergencies (e.g., hospitalization, doctor-mandated home/bed rest, funeral attendance), religious holidays, or outside obligations (e.g., membership of an SJSU intercollegiate athletic team). **Please note that University Policy S14-7 requires at least three days advance notice in writing for accommodation of religious holidays.**

Unexcused late writing assignments will be penalized 10% for every day they are late. For example, a 95% assignment will receive 85% if it is turned in one day late, 75% if it is turned in two days late, 65% if it is turned in three days late, etc.

**LATE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5:00PM ON THURSDAY, MAY 16. YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL EXAMINATIONS OR ARRANGE MAKE-UP PLANS BY 5:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 22.**

### University Credit Hour Assignment

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Grading Information**

Your overall course grade will be determined by adding up the points you received on your writing assignment and examinations, then dividing that number by the total number of points available. Individual assignments will be worth the following number of points:

- Midterm examinations: 50 points each, 100 total points
- Final examination: 100 points
- Writing assignment: 100 points
  - **TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE FOR THE COURSE: 300**

Overall letter grades will correspond to the point ranges listed below. A cumulative score of fewer than 179 points will result in an F.

A+: 290-300	A: 278-289	A-: 269-277
B+: 260-268	B: 248-259	B-: 239-247
C+: 230-238	C: 218-229	C-: 209-217
D+: 200-208	D: 188-199	D-: 179-187

## **Classroom Protocol**

Class meetings will consist of lecture and discussion. Class meetings will begin promptly at the hour indicated in the course schedule. Please be in your seats by then and try to minimize disruptions once lecture begins.

### Electronic Devices

#### **THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES DURING CLASS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

Please turn off your phones and/or set them to silent mode during each class meeting. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**You may use a laptop or tablet to take notes. However, I strongly encourage you to take handwritten notes.** Recent research indicates that taking handwritten notes improves retention and comprehension of information. For these studies, please see <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>.

If you use a laptop or tablet, please only use it for taking notes. That is, do not use your device to check e-mail, iMessage, social media, the latest viral cat video, or the score of the Giants game.

#### **IF I FIND THAT YOU ARE USING YOUR LAPTOP OR TABLET INAPPROPRIATELY DURING CLASS, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR USE PRIVILEGES.**

### Respect

I expect all of you to treat each other and myself with respect. There may very well be disagreements among us regarding the interpretation of sources or particular arguments. But these disagreements do not in any way justify or excuse ad hominem attacks or abusive language based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, disability, or age. Any attacks or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Please also note that discussion of reading assignments is not a competition. I am not determining “winning” interpretations or arguments, so please do not behave as if you need to one-up each other.

### **Office Hours and Contact Via E-mail**

I strongly encourage all of you to attend my office hours. They provide an opportunity to ask for feedback and guidance on writing assignments and further discuss lecture material and reading assignments. If you cannot attend my regularly-scheduled office hours but are interested in meeting, please contact me to arrange an appointment.

I am readily available to answer questions via e-mail and will do my best to respond to messages within 24 hours. Please note that it may take longer for me to respond to e-mails sent between 5pm on Fridays and 8am on Mondays.

## **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc., will be available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

The Academic Integrity and Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act policies are reprinted here for reference.

### Academic Integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7, which is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf/>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the Student Conduct and Ethical Development website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studenconduct/> for more information.

**San José State University defines cheating as the act of obtaining credit, attempting to obtain credit, or assisting others to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.** Cheating includes: copying, in part or in whole, from another's test; submitting work previously graded in another course without prior approval by the course instructor; submitting work simultaneously presented in two or more courses without prior approval of all course instructors; using or consulting sources, tools, or materials prohibited by the instructor prior to or during an examination; altering or interfering with the grading process; sitting for an examination by a surrogate or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work that defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding others in any of the actions defined above.

**San José State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements.** Plagiarism includes: knowingly or unknowingly incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, parts of sentences or paragraphs, or the specific substance of another's work without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work.

**Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a grade of F for this course and possible sanctions by the University, as authorized by Sec. 3.1.6 of University Policy F15-7.**

### Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

The AEC is located in ADM 110. You may contact them via phone at (408) 924-6000, or visit their website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>.

### History 181-02, Spring 2019, Course Schedule

Reading assignments for the week are listed under the lecture topics. Unless otherwise noted, all reading assignments may be found in *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations*.

**Note:** The reading and lecture schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. You will be informed of changes via in-class announcements or Canvas.

Week	Dates	Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments
1	Jan. 24	<b>R:</b> Introductory Lecture
2	Jan. 29 Jan. 31	<b>T:</b> Britain, France, and Spain Arrive in North America <b>R:</b> British-American Politics and Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, Chapter 1</li> <li>• Winthrop Envisions a City Upon a Hill</li> </ul>
3	Feb. 5 Feb. 7	<b>T:</b> Native American Politics and the Seven Years' War <b>R:</b> The American Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, remaining documents and essays in Chapter 2</li> </ul>
4	Feb. 12 Feb. 14	<b>T:</b> Independent America Enters the World Stage <b>R:</b> From the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, Chapters 3-5</li> </ul>
5	Feb. 19 Feb. 21	<b>T:</b> Monroe's Doctrine and Indian Removal <b>R:</b> Manifest Destiny, the War with Mexico, and the Filibusters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, Chapters 6-8</li> </ul>
6	Feb. 26 Feb. 28	<b>T:</b> Foreign Relations During the Civil War and Reconstruction <b>R: FIRST MIDTERM EXAM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, Chapter 10 (documents only)</li> </ul>
7	Mar. 5 Mar. 7	<b>T:</b> The Gilded Age and the Seeds of American Imperialism <b>R:</b> The Spanish War and the Birth of America's Empire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, Chapters 11-12</li> </ul>
8	Mar. 12 Mar. 14	<b>T:</b> American Imperialism in Action <b>R:</b> World War I and Wilson's New World Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 1</i>, Chapters 13-15</li> </ul>
9	Mar. 19 Mar. 21	<b>T:</b> Red Scares and the Isolationist Interlude <b>R:</b> The Great Depression and the Good Neighbor Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2</i>, Chapter 3</li> </ul>

<b>10</b>	<b>Mar. 26</b> <b>Mar. 28</b>	<b>T:</b> World War II and the Consolidation of a Global Power <b>R:</b> World War II and the Bracero Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2, Chapters 4 and 5</i></li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>Apr. 1-5</b>	<b>NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Apr. 9</b> <b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>T: SECOND MIDTERM EXAM</b> <b>R:</b> The Cold War Begins: From Berlin to Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2, Chapters 6 and 7</i></li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b> <b>Apr. 18</b>	<b>T:</b> The Cold War Deepens: The Arms Race and the Cuban Crisis <b>R:</b> The Cold War and the “Second” Vietnam War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2, Chapters 8, 10-11</i></li> </ul>
<b>14</b>	<b>Apr. 23</b> <b>Apr. 25</b>	<b>T:</b> The Cold War and the South American Dictatorships <b>R:</b> The Cold War and Initial Entanglements in the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2, Chapter 12</i></li> </ul>
<b>15</b>	<b>Apr. 30</b> <b>May 2</b>	<b>T:</b> The Cold War and the Central American Civil Wars <b>R:</b> The End of the Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2, Chapter 13</i></li> </ul>
<b>16</b>	<b>May 7</b> <b>May 9</b>	<b>T:</b> The Post-Cold War World: From the Gulf War to 9/11 <b>R:</b> The War on Terror <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Major Problems, Vol. 2, Chapter 14</i></li> </ul>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Mon., May 20</b>	<b>9:45am-12:00pm</b>