

History 245:

The United States in World Affairs:

Winter 2007

(5 credits)

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Welcome--

History 245 surveys this nation's foreign policy from its emergence as a world power in the 1890s up to recent times. While evaluating U. S. foreign policies of the past century, we will also interpret the post-Cold War revolution in international politics in light of history, and project what U. S. policy should and will be. In other words, **History 245** will stress major themes and interpretations in history. Why did the United States push forward as a great power in the 1890s? Was intervention in World War I a necessary step or the product of Wilson's peculiar vision of the world? What did the growing war clouds of the 1930s mean for U. S. security? Who or what produced the Cold War? How did the Vietnam war affect U. S. relations with other parts of the world? You will be encouraged to place facts in meaningful frames of reference and then assess them.

Just as with a classroom class, this online course is taught through lectures, class discussion, and varied readings. It February be "virtual," printed words on a screen, but we will combine reading and lecturing with discussion. Superior grades will go to students who show a broad, accurate grasp of the facts and an ability to organize material, who participate in class and whose writing makes relevant arguments, backing them with good material.

History is absolutely do-able if you think strategically. Think about overall trends. File facts away according to what they mean for major trends. The specific details absorbed in the course material will mean little unless you can do that. The specific details absorbed in the course material will mean little unless you do that. Also, try to put together your own logical interpretations of facts and themes. That way, you really get a handle on the topic.

Books--

- Thomas G. Paterson *et al*, [American Foreign Relations](#), Vol. 2 (Houghton-Mifflin, 2005, ISBN: 0-618-37073-0).
- Gary Donaldson, [American Foreign Policy: the Twentieth Century in Documents](#) (Longman, 2003, ISBN: 0-321-10506-0)
- Online readings, available through VISTA in "Lectures and Discussion."

Outcomes--

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Explain the significance of key people, facts, and events of the period under study, and develop standards to judge them from a historical-cultural perspective
2. Demonstrate the importance of traditions of thought and ethical values in the process of historical change
3. Expand their vocabulary
4. Evaluate historical arguments, judging the appropriateness of both logic and content
5. Adapt scholarly processes of analysis, interpretation, and synthesis to articulate their own points of view, demonstrating a command of relevant facts and a framework of logical deduction,
- Drawing inferences from data

• Differentiating between facts, value judgments, and generalizations

• Differentiating between description and explanation

• Recognizing the role of cause and effect in historical analysis

Coursework and Assessment--

Be sure to look at the "**Reading Schedule**," located on the "**Assignments**" page (accessible from the Home Page). This will guide your reading through the term for lectures and textbook readings. Note that the weekly calendar runs Tuesday to Monday.

Be sure to find the "**Lectures & Discussions**" link on the Home Page. That takes you to the page with the lecture and reading and discussion assignments for each week.

During the term you will post brief essay answers to **four** Discussion assignments by the given deadline for each. Note: you must do two of #1-5 and two of the rest by the assigned date for each one you choose. The deadlines for these fall on Mondays (except on holidays). After reading the discussion assignment and questions in "**Discussions**," post your essay with the appropriate "Posts" icon. Each bulletin essay should be 250-400 words.

On most occasions when you don't post an essay, you will do the week's reading anyway and post a response to the essay of another student, up to a total of two responses in Weeks #1-#5 and two in Weeks #6-#10 (none for #11). Each response should be at least 75 words long and should express agreement or disagreement, and reasons for your view.

This means that during the term you must post four bulletin essays of your own and four responses to others' essays. Essays are graded on a 25-point scale; responses on a 5-point scale. If you post extra essays, you will get the highest grades; in other words, a higher grade will be substituted for a lower. Note: there is no credit for posting a response on a discussion for which you have already submitted an essay.

The following is this term's schedule of essays and responses for each week's discussion:

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
<i>Essay Discussion #1</i>	<i>Monday January 8</i>	<i>Essay Discussion #6</i>	<i>Monday February 12</i>
<i>Response Discussion #1</i>	<i>Thursday January 11</i>	<i>Response Discussion #6</i>	<i>Thursday February 15</i>
<i>Essay Discussion #2</i>	<i>Tuesday January 16 *</i>	<i>Essay Discussion #7</i>	<i>Tuesday February 20*</i>
<i>Response Discussion #2</i>	<i>Thursday January 18</i>	<i>Response Discussion #7</i>	<i>Thursday February 22</i>
<i>Essay Discussion #3</i>	<i>Monday January 22</i>	<i>Essay Discussion #8</i>	<i>Monday February 26</i>
<i>Response Discussion #3</i>	<i>Thursday January 25</i>	<i>Response Discussion #8</i>	<i>Thursday March 1</i>
<i>Essay Discussion #4</i>	<i>Monday January 29</i>	<i>Essay Discussion #9</i>	<i>Monday March 5</i>
<i>Response Discussion #4</i>	<i>Thursday February 1</i>	<i>Response Discussion #9</i>	<i>Thursday March 8</i>
<i>Essay Discussion #5</i>	<i>Monday February 5</i>	<i>Essay Discussion #10</i>	<i>Monday March 12</i>

<i>Response Discussion #5</i>	<i>Thursday February 8</i>	<i>Response Discussion #10</i>	<i>Thursday March 15</i>
		<i>Essay Discussion #11**</i>	<i>Monday March 19</i>

*** date adjusted due to holidays ** There will be no response for Week #11. Please plan accordingly.**

You will compose an eight-page research paper (due **March 14**) on a foreign policy topic covered in the course, following a sheet provided under "**Assignments.**"

There will be a midterm exam (available **February 12-13**) and a final exam (**March 19-20**), which will include essay and factual questions. Each will last two hours. You will take these online at any time during availability. A preparation sheet will be posted for each with the possible questions.

A note on late work--

Normally, late discussion essays are accepted but with a penalty of **.5/25** per day (up to a total of 3.5/25). If they are more than three days late, they must be sent to me by Vista email. Late essay responses are not accepted.

Late research papers are assessed 2.5% per day (up to a total of 10%). This can be avoided if you obtain permission for an extension in advance of the due date.

If you miss the midterm or final exam without an extension or darned good excuse, all is not lost. However, if you don't contact me and take the test, you will lose 10% right away and another 10% after a week

Grading--

Here is how things are weighted:

<i>Discussions</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Midterm exam</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Research paper</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Final exam</i>	<i>25%</i>

All items will be assigned percentage grades, whose average will be translated into a letter grade according to the following:

<i>95-100%</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>76-79%</i>	<i>C+</i>
<i>90-94%</i>	<i>A-</i>	<i>73-75%</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>86-89%</i>	<i>B+</i>	<i>70-72%</i>	<i>C-</i>
<i>83-85%</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>65-69%</i>	<i>D+</i>
<i>80-82%</i>	<i>B-</i>	<i>60-64%</i>	<i>D</i>

I trust that History 245 will help you develop background both in current events and for further study of U. S. foreign policy. Let me know if you have any questions.