

Course Syllabus: History 4302

“America and the World: 1776 to the Present”

Spring 2025: Sul Ross State University-RGC

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Office Hours: by arrangement

Required Texts:

George C. Herring, From Colony to Superpower: U.S Foreign Relations Since 1776, Oxford University Press, 2008, ISBN #978-0-19-976553-9

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to examine the history of American foreign policy and foreign relations with the world from the beginning of the Republic in 1776 to the present. In addition to the American role in world affairs, we will also examine the impact of the American Empire on the domestic American society, political partisanship, economy, and culture.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- **The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.**
- **The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.**
- **The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.**

Marketable Skills of a History Major

- **Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.**
- **Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.**
- **Students can make written presentations to various audiences.**
- **Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.**
- **Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.**
- **Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.**
- **Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.**

Course Policies:

Contacting the Instructor: The instructor's email is the preferred method of contact.

Msaka@sulross.edu. Please contact me only through the Sul-Ross email as I do not respond to private email such as yahoo, gmail, Hotmail, etc. This is for yours and my security.

I do, however, have a backup email, mark.saka1@yahoo.com. This is a backup in the event of a malware attack or if for some other reason the system goes down. I rarely check it as I want you to only use my yahoo account for emergencies. I check my Sul Ross email regularly. Please stay in contact if you are ill or cannot make class for a legitimate reason.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or for another course and/or professor.
- Turning in another person's work as one's own.
- Copying from professional works or internet sites without citations.
- Collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect:

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing sensitive political issues.

ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services, SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans Disability Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick at (830) 279—3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde Texas 78801. Kbiddick@sulross.edu

Library Information: The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through the SWTJC website. <https://library,swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document delivery from the Alpine campus.

SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the

SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based or distance education courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complain are located in the student handbook.

Course Requirement and Grading:

The course requirements are as follows:

- **Attend class.** These lectures will be recorded on Blackboard Collaborate so if you do happen to miss a class, you can watch the recordings and get the information presented as well as staying informed of changes that may arise during the semester.
- **You will write Nine essay exams and the dates will be announced in class.** Basically, at the end of each of the Nine sections presented below, you will be given one week to write your essay exams that will cover the textbook readings as well as the material presented in the lectures. At the end of the week, you will submit your essay-exams through Blackboard.
- **Each of the Nine exams will be worth 100 points and at the end of the semester I will add up the Nine exams and divide them by Eight; 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F**
- **Smile, if you take this course with the attitude of who cares about foreign policy? Then you will not enjoy the course or learn the material as well. American foreign policy and the role of the United States in the world is instructive and essential to understanding domestic America, our economy, our society, as well as the role of America in shaping the modern world. Its actually an exciting topic. Approach it as such and it will be a fun and informative learning experience.**

Section One: Independence and the New Republic 1776-1815; Chapters1, 2,3 in Textbook

- **What role did foreign policy and diplomatic alliances play in the shaping of the American Revolution 1776-1783? Who were the key figures in shaping this diplomacy and how did their successes and failures shape the outcome of the Revolution?**
- **How did diplomacy unfold in the United States during the 1790s. Who were the chief diplomats? How did the French Revolution and the subsequent European Wars shape domestic American political partisanship between the Federalist and the Democratic-Republicans? How did Franco-American relations deteriorate during the administration of John Adams and how did it impact the Alien and Sedition Acts?**
- **Who were the “Barbary Pirates” What was the response by the United States in America’s first overseas military confrontation “to the shores of Tripoli?”**

- What were the origins of the War of 1812? How did Madison's diplomacy unfold that brought the United States and Great Britain into armed conflict and what some called the "Second War of Independence?" Basically, did diplomacy fail?

Section Two: Expansion, War, and Civil War 1815-1877; Chapters 4, 5, 6 in Textbook

- How did the United States deal with the Latin American Wars for Independence and what were the ideological and political rationale for the Monroe Doctrine of 1823?
- What role did the expansion of Southern slavery have in the American invasion and eventual annexation of Texas; 1821-1848? How did slavery and Southern expansionist interests play a role in the American invasion and occupation of northern Mexico in the U.S. Mexican War 1846-1848? What role did slavery and Southern interests play in American Filibustering attempts to incorporate Latin American countries into the America-Southern-Slave orbit?
- What role did foreign policy play in the American Civil War, 1861-1865? How did the Confederacy attempt to forge foreign alliances? How did the Union attempt to forge foreign alliances? Did successful foreign diplomacy help in the Union War's effort? Did unsuccessful foreign diplomacy doom the Confederacy? What role did the French Intervention in Mexico have during the American Civil War and how did the United States shape the outcome of the failed French Intervention and subsequent military victory of Benito Juarez?

Section Three: Expansion, War, and the Conquest of the Americas, 1877-1913; Chapters 7, 8, 9 in Textbook

- We will then examine the post Civil War/Reconstruction era and the origins of the Spanish-American War of 1865-1898. This war represents a turning point in American history as the United States emerged on the world scene and for many observers the beginning of the "American Century."
- We will then examine the role of the United States in shaping the Republic of Mexico 1876-1938 as the United States economically colonized Mexico, 1876-1910, and then met the challenges of revolutionary nationalism in the guise of the Mexican Revolution 1910-1938.
- The American expansion into the Circum-Caribbean 1898-1914 will be the topic of our third section as we cover the history of the United States relations with the nations of Central America and the Caribbean and culminating in the Panama Canal and shaping the outcome of the Mexican Revolution.

Section Four: World War, a New Order, and Isolationism, 1913-1941; Chapters 10, 11, 12 in Textbook

- The next section will examine the American War in Europe as the United States entered the “Great War” (World War One) and the shaped the post-war world in Europe (the Fourteen Points, the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, etc.), as well as its confrontation with revolutionary Bolshevism in the Soviet Union. How did the United States and the new Soviet Union offer differing alternatives to the world order in the 1917-1941 period?
- We will then examine the interwar years 1919-1941 (the 1920s and years of the Great Depression) and the Isolationism as well as the relationship between the United States and Latin America under the guise of the Good Neighbor Policy of 1934.

Section Five: World War and the Triumph of the American Century; Chapters 13 in Textbook

- How did the United States become embroiled in the Second World War? How did the Roosevelt administration assist the British war efforts and eventually the Soviet war efforts during the 1939-1941 era? How did the deteriorating relationship between the United States and Imperial Japan lead to the clash of two empires? Once the war began, how did diplomacy and alliances shape the course of the war and its outcome with the military defeat of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan? How did the Second World War basically implement the beginning of the end of the British, French, and Dutch world colonial empires? How di Bretton Woods and the United States represent a turning point in the history of the 20th century?

Section Six: The Cold War and America’s Role in a Rapidly Decolonizing World; 1945-1962; chapters 14 and 15 in Textbook

1. This section covers the post-World War Two era and the confrontation with the Soviet Union in the opening decades of the Cold War, 1946-1960.
2. We will also examine America’s confrontation with a rapidly decolonizing world and revolutionary nationalism spanning Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.
3. The growth of the military industrial complex and the national security state will also be covered as major themes within this section

Section Seven: The Limits of Power and the end of the Postwar Era; 1961-1974; Chapters 16, 17 in Textbook

- The American war in Vietnam 1945-1973 will be covered in this section as well as the American role in confronting the Cuban Revolution 1960-1975; the transformed Middle East 1967-1973, and the continuation of the Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union.

- The era in American foreign relations history following the debacle of Vietnam 1975-1991, the dramatic reshaping of global geo-political relations with the opening up of relations between China and the United States

Section Eight: The End of the Cold War, the Rise of Political Islam, and the Second Conquest of Latin America; 1964-1991; Chapters 18, 19 in Textbook

- The confrontation between the United States and revolutionary-political Islam (the Iranian Revolution), as well as the expanded presence of the United States in the Middle East will constitute a major portion of this section.
- The 1980s and the Reagan years as the beginning of the end of the Cold War 1980-1992 will also address such critical questions as “why”? What economic, political, ideological, and technological forces brought about an end to the Cold War?

Section Nine: The Post-Cold-War World, War and Terror, and the rise of Asia; The Eclipse of the American Empire/Century? 1991-2023; Chapter 20 in Textbook

- The post-Cold War era 1991-2001 and the emergence of the United States as the world’s “Hyper-Power” as the United States under the guise of neo-liberalism confronted a rapidly changing world and for a short window, the American domination of the world’s geo-political transformation.
- The changing role of the United States in the Middle East with the First Gulf War (1991-1992) and the origins of the 9-11 attacks as well as the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terror will cover the next area of current American history.
- The rise of China from an impoverished nation in 1978 to its position as a global superpower by the second decade of the 21st century has challenged the U.S. unipolar order as the United States faces a rapidly changing world will conclude this section.