

## International History and Politics

Academic year 2021-2022

### Global Visions and Parochial Politics: United States and the World since 1945

#### HI089 - Printemps - 6 ECTS

Wednesday 14h15 - 16h00

#### Course Description

This course examines the role of the United States in world affairs from World War II to the present. It provides a survey of the key events in America's relations with the rest of the world, with specific attention on the interplay between domestic politics and foreign policy. Among the questions discussed will be: what have been and are the limits of American power? What can we make of the repeated projections of America's decline? Are multilateralism/unilateralism 'party-specific'? Change and continuity in American foreign policy from the Cold War to the 21st century. The course will also address such issues as American primacy and the (continuous) relative decline of US power and influence. Students will be expected to produce several pieces of written work, give a number of oral presentations, and participate actively in discussion.

#### > PROFESSOR

[Jussi Hanhimäki](#)

[Office hours](#)

Tuesdays 14.30-16.00  
(or by appointment)  
P2-543

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#### > ASSISTANT

Sara Shadab Arab

[Office hours](#)

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## Syllabus (Subject to change)

### REQUIREMENTS

The seminar will be designed around weekly readings (articles, chapters of monographs, and documents) on specific themes (indicated below). The reading list will be available on the course moodle page before the start of term.

Active participation in class discussions and presentations are indispensable for students attending this seminar.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

- A **research paper** on a specific theme that explores the interconnected nature between American foreign and domestic politics; 5,000 words (footnotes included). **50% of the final grade.**
- **Group exercise/presentation** on presidential elections and foreign policy. **25 % of the final grade. Details to be discussed and schedule arranged during the first week(s) of class**
- **Active class participation** will constitute **25% of the final grade.**

## DEADLINES:

A summary/abstract of the final paper, indicating key research questions and list of sources must be submitted by March 30, 2022 (23.59.59).

Final papers must be submitted by June 1, 2022 (23.59.59)

## OUTLINE OF TOPICS

### February 23: Introduction

How does the specific nature of a country's (the United States) political system (the American brand of democracy) impact upon its interactions with the rest of the world?

### March 2: Wilson's Ghost

The impact and legacy of Woodrow Wilson's call to make the world safe for democracy.

### March 9: Marshall Plan and NATO

Why, how and with what consequences did the US break away from its tradition of isolationism in the aftermath of World War II?

#### **Group presentation 1: 1948 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

### March 16: The 'Loss of China', the Korean War and McCarthyism

What explains the virulent American anti-communism of the early Cold War? How did it impact upon foreign policy (and particularly on Sino-American relations)?

#### **Group Presentation 2: 1952 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

### March 23: Race and US Foreign Policy

What were the interactions between decolonization and the US Civil Rights movement? How did these connections impact upon US foreign policy?

#### **Group Presentation 3: 1960 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**\*March 30: no class**

**\*\*Research paper topics and outline due at 23.59.59\*\***

**April 6: Vietnam vs. Great Society**

How did the Vietnam experience shape US domestic politics? What impact did the anti-war movement have on American foreign policy?

**Group Presentation 4: 1968 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**April 13: Discussion of Paper Topics**

**\*\*\*EASTER BREAK\*\*\***

**April 27: Détente, Human Rights and Foreign Policy**

Why did human rights emerge as a key theme in US foreign policy during the second half of the 1970s? What was it a reaction to?

**Group Presentation 5: 1976 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**May 4: Victory? End of the Cold War**

Did the 1980s represent a new era for US domestic and foreign policy? Was the dissolution of the Soviet Union a victory for American democracy?

**Group Presentation 6: 1992 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**May 11: Unipolarity and Enlargement**

Did the Clinton administration practice a consistent foreign policy, aimed at promoting 'American values'?

**Group Presentation 7: 2000 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**May 18: Unilateralism and Decline**

Was the aggressive unilateralism of the Bush administration, particularly in the aftermath of 9-11, an aberration?

**Group Presentation 8: 2008 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**May 25: Nationalists and Globalists**

What explains the apparent popularity of Donald Trump's use of slogans like 'America First' and his attacks on long-standing alliances (like NATO) and multilateralism?

**Group Presentation 9/10: 2016/2020 US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy**

**June 1: Conclusions (**\*\* Research Papers due at 23.59.59**)**

**GENERAL TEXTS (USEFUL FOR MOST TOPICS and FOR BACKGROUND):**

- Helen Milner and Dustin Tingley, *Sailling the Water's Edge: the Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy* (Princeton, 2016)
- James McCormick, ed., *The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (2017)
- George C. Herring, *The American Century and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2008).
- John Ikenberry, *A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crises of Global Order* (Yale University Press, 2020)
- Stephen E. Ambrose and Douglas G. Brinkley, *Rise to Globalism. American Foreign Policy since 1938* (Penguin, Ninth edition, 2012).
- Thomas G. Paterson, J. Garry Clifford, Robert Brigham, Michael Donoghue, Kenneth J. Hagan, Deborah Kisatsky, Shane J. Maddock, *American Foreign Relations. A History. Volume 2: since 1895* (Cengage Learning, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, 2015).
- Engel, Lawrence, Preston (eds), *America in the World. A History in Documents from the War with Spain to the War on Terror* (Princeton University Press, 2014).
- Hal Brands, *Making the Unipolar Moment. U.S. Foreign Policy and the Rise of the Post-Cold War Order* (Cornell University Press, 2016).
- Richard S. Conley (ed.), *Presidential Leadership and National Security: The Obama Legacy and Trump Trajectory* (Routledge, 2017).
- Simon Reid-Henry, *Empire of Democracy: the Remaking of the West Since the End of the Cold War, 1971-2017* (London: John Murray, 2017)
- Peter Gries, *The Politics of American Foreign Policy: How Ideology Divides Liberals and Conservatives over Foreign Affairs* (Stanford, 2014)
- Jervis, Gavin, Rovner, Labrosse (eds), *Chaos in the Liberal Order. The Trump Presidency and International Politics in the Twenty-First Century* (Columbia University Press, 2018).
- Ian Tyrrell, *Empire's Twin: Anti-Imperialism from the Founding Era to the Age of Terrorism* (Princeton University Press, 2015)