HIST 4390.002 Topics in History: American Foreign Relations since 1895  
Spring 2012  
TR 2:00-3:15  
Bay Hall 126

Instructor | Dr. Min Song  
---|---  
Office | FC 255  
Phone: | 825-3352  
Email | min.song@tamucc.edu  
Office Hours: | TR 3:30-4:45, W 2:30-5:00, and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course examines American foreign relations primarily in the twentieth century. In just seventeen weeks we cannot hope to cover everything of importance. Instead we will focus on major themes, important concepts, and analytical skills. The central theme of this course is the rise of the United States to the world’s predominant power. We will explore American impulses to shape the world in its image, examine the formation and development of major U.S. foreign policy, and analyze the role of U.S. foreign policy in the making of the world we now know.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** 1) Students will demonstrate an understanding of major developments in American foreign relations since 1895; 2) Students will assess the validity of historical interpretations; 3) Students will organize substantive class discussions on primary sources; 4) Students will synthesize their knowledge and apply their analytical skills to write a research paper.

**Required Readings:**


**Graded Activity:** Please mark your calendar and manage your time responsibly—Tardiness will not be tolerated!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Graded Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Essay Exam practice</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Essay Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Research Paper Prospectus</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Essay Exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Student conferences on progress in research paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8 by 5pm</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59
Two take-home essay exams will be given through this course. Typically, they will consist of primary source analysis essay questions. Detailed instructions will be provided separately. No Make-Up Exams will be provided!

Student Conferences: In April, you are required to meet with your instructor at least twice to discuss your progress in your research paper.

The Research Paper should be 10 to 12 pages long and based on primary as well as secondary research. No late paper will be accepted-period! Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

Quizzes are based on assigned course readings. NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WILL BE ALLOWED!

History Area Style Guide: Please follow the style guide for all your essay assignments. See: http://cla.tamucc.edu/history/History_Area_Guide_Fall2009.pdf

Attendance: You are required to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. Any absences for reasons of sports participation should be brought to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of semester, and these students should inform the instructor of any further excusable absences as soon as the student is aware of them. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you’ve missed and come to the next class prepared.

Academic Dishonesty: The penalty for academic dishonesty is clearly specified in the current Undergraduate Bulletin. I will follow these guidelines. In addition, students will be awarded zero points for any assignment in which cheating is detected. Plagiarism is considered by me and the University to be cheating. This is your first and only warning not to cheat in this class.

Classroom Decorum: Follow basic University policies as outlined in your Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Disruptive behaviors will have a negative impact on your participation grade and may result in disciplinary action. The environment of the classroom demands that we conduct ourselves like adults and with respect for each other. Please always conduct yourself with respect and civility toward others. I will hold you responsible should your behavior negatively affect others in class. If this happens repeatedly, you will be removed from the class (even if it is the last week of the term).

Punctuality: Arriving late and leaving early are distracting. Please make every attempt to come to all the class sessions, to come to class on time, and to stay until the end of the meeting. If you are unavoidably late for class, please come into the room quietly and choose a seat closest to the entrance.

Electronic Devices: Class time should be used to engage with the material that is being presented and discussed. Please turn off all cell phones/pagers prior to class. Please do not bring ipods to class. Please disable the wireless connection if you use a laptop to take notes. You may be asked to leave the classroom for looking at my space/facebook, texting, etc.

Civility: You may be asked to leave the classroom for talking during the lecture, abusive language, and other disruptive behaviors.
Hurricane policy:
In the event of a hurricane, I follow the published policies of TAMU-CC. If the campus remains officially open during the time that our class normally meets then class will proceed as scheduled (including all graded events). If the university closes campus then, of course, we push to the next class period. If an exam date is cancelled, the exam is held at the next class meeting.

Academic Advising
Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. In our college the undergraduate advisor is Linda Miller (825-3466, Linda.miller@tamucc.edu). The graduate advisor is Rachelle Stanley (825-3466, Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu). Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

Americans with Disabilities Act
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit their office in Driftwood 101.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.
1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.
For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Course Schedule**

**NOTE:** The course syllabus is a general plan for the course: deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**Week One:** 01/12 Course Introduction

**Part One: Becoming a World Power**

**Week Two:** 1/17 and 1/19: 1898: The Imperial Moment
- Paul A. Kramer, “Race-Making and Colonial Violence in the U.S. Empire: The Philippine-American War as Race War”
- *American Foreign Relations*: Ch. 1, 2

**Week Three:** 1/24 and 1/26: WWI and WWII
- *Major Problems*, Ch. 2, Ch. 4
- *American Foreign Relations*: Ch. 3, 4

**Week Four:** 1/31 and 2/2 WWII continued and The Origins of the Cold War
- *Major Problems*, Ch. 5, 6
- *American Foreign Relations*: Ch. 6, 7

**Part Two: The American Century**

**Week Five:** 2/7 and 2/9: The Nuclear Age
- *Major Problems*, Ch. 8 and Ch. 10
- *American Foreign Relations*: Ch. 7

**Week Six:** 2/14 and 2/16: Review and exam 1

**Week Seven:** 2/21 and 2/23: The Cultural and Economic Cold War
- *Major Problems*, Ch. 9
- *American Foreign Relations*: Ch. 8
Week Eight: 2/28 and 3/1: How to Write Research Paper
   - *Major Problems*, Ch. 1

Week Nine: 3/6 and 3/8: The Hot War in Vietnam
   - *Major Problems*, Ch.11
   - *American Foreign Relations*, Ch. 10

Week Ten: 3/13 and 3/15: Have a Wonderful Spring Break!

Week Eleven: 3/20 and 3/22: Reconfiguration of the Cold War in Asia
   - *Major Problems*, Ch. 12
   - *American Foreign Relations*, Ch. 10

Week Twelve: 3/27 and 3/29: From the Cold War to the War on Terror
   - *Major Problems*, Ch. 13, Ch.14
   - *American Foreign Relations*: Ch. 11,12

Week Thirteen: 4/3 and 4/5: Review and Exam 2

   Part Three: The Research Project

Week Fourteen: 4/10 and 4/12: Student Conference

Week Fifteen 4/17 and 4/19: Student Conference

Week Sixteen: 4/24 and 4/26: Student Conference

Week Seventeen: 5/1: Work on your paper