American Diplomatic History from 1912 to Present

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I. Required Text
   John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment.*
   Read the assigned texts and whatever handouts you receive carefully.

II. Lectures
   Students are responsible for all of the material covered in class. The lectures reflect what I consider to be important; thus the exams will draw heavily from them.

III. Examination
   There will be two exams. The first exam will count 20% of the total course grade, and the second will count 30% of the total course grade. The exams will require multiple choice, essay and identification answers. (Tips: include an introduction, body, and conclusion in your essays; also provide specific examples from the course to support your assertions; for each identification, you must write a complete answer including four elements: who/what, when, where, and significance.) Some of the multiple choice questions will come from the assigned readings. Please bring blue books to the tests.

   Grading Scale
   
   90-100   A
   80-89    B
   70-79    C
   60-69    D
   0-59     F

IV. Book Reviews
   Two reviews of books, approximately 5 pages in length will count 20% of the total course grade each. The first review will be of Gaddis’s *Strategies of Containment.* The second will be of a book that you choose. (Tips: use other reviews as sources; don’t just summarize; evaluate for writing, content, contribution, logic, argument; check your grammar.) We will discuss the books in class, so be prepared to talk about your review.

V. Participation
   During the weeks that the book reviews are due, we will discuss the books and your evaluations of them. Come to class prepared to briefly outline the main points of the book you read as well as your criticisms. Your participation in these discussions and others during the course of the semester will count 10% of the total course grade.
VI. Make-ups

Sorry, there are none unless negotiated well before the due dates (see Course Outline).

VII. Academic Dishonesty

The student handbook clearly addresses the issues of plagiarism etc. These issues are serious and will be treated seriously by the instructor.

VIII. Catalogue Description

A study of our past and present relations with other nations, with attention to changes brought about in international affairs by the evolving economic and political conditions.

IX. Supplemental Reading List:

Akira Iriye, *The Globalizing of America*.

Warren Cohen, *America in the Age of Soviet Power*.

X. Course Goals

A. Rationale

This is a course concerned with America’s diplomatic relationships with other nations and peoples. It follows the United States’ emergence as a world power through two world wars, a cold war, and a war on terrorism. No knowledge of America’s current place in the world is complete without a thorough understanding of this evolution.

B. Basic Objectives

Improving basic knowledge is the cornerstone of any history course. Students will be asked to acquire an understanding of fundamental terms, concepts, and issues. They also will be asked to apply critical thinking and analytical skills.

C. General Education Objectives

The General Education curriculum is designed to enable students to analyze problems, arrive at intelligent conclusions, and make reasoned choices. This course will meet these goals by requiring students to demonstrate advanced critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

XI. Course Outline

Week 1

8/24 Introduction/Trends in American Foreign Relations

8/26 Progressive Internationalism

Week 2

8/29 World War I

8/31 Fourteen Points

9/2 League of Nations

Week 3

9/5 No Class, Labor Day

9/7 1920s Internationalism

9/9 1920s Isolationism
Week 4
  9/12 Good Neighbor Policy
  9/14 Neutrality
  9/16 Nonbelligerency
Week 5
  9/19 World War II
  9/21 Wartime Diplomacy
  9/23 Book Review I
Week 6
  9/26 Origins of the Cold War
  9/28 Kennan
  9/30 NSC-68
Week 7
  10/3 China
  10/5 Korea
  10/7 Atomic Diplomacy
Week 8
  10/10 New Look
  10/12 CIA and Diplomacy
  10/14 Iran
Week 9
  10/17 Guatemala
  10/19 Review
  10/21 Exam I
Week 10
  10/24 Flexible Response
  10/26 Bay of Pigs
  10/28 Missile Crisis
Week 11
  10/31 Berlin
  11/2 Third World
  11/4 Vietnam
Week 12
  11/7 Triangular Diplomacy
  11/9 Detente
  11/11 Human Rights
Week 13
  11/14 Star Wars
  11/16 Iran Contra
  11/18 Book Review II Due
Week 14
  11/21 End of the Cold War
  11/23 No Class, Thanksgiving
  11/25 No Class, Thanksgiving
Week 15
11/28 Gulf War I
11/30 9/11
12/2 Iraq/Afghanistan

Week 16
12/5 Arab Spring

Final Exam (Exam II) Monday Dec. 12, 8:00 am