

IAFS 4500-004: Recent US Diplomatic History
Spring 2019, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15
UNIVERSITY CLUB 6

Professor Tom Zeiler
Office: University Club 214
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 and by appointment
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This course explores the diplomacy of the United States from American entry into World War II to the present. We will study the economic, social, intellectual, moral, technological, and political bases of U.S. foreign relations as the nation emerged as a global leader, and as it maintained that status during and after the Cold War. You will examine the history armed with professional historians' models, and will draw on both secondary and primary sources to make your arguments. The course will explore how and why decisions were made and apply this information, and the lessons of history, to contemporary affairs. We will ask questions, many of them: was there a distinctive American foreign policy? Has America been a force for good or ill in the world? Who hold the power to make decisions in foreign policy? What were the internal debates over foreign policy and how were they resolved? What was the reception abroad of U.S. ideas, policies, and power? How were the domestic and international arenas linked? And, what does it all mean for today?

Purposes:

- To explore the ways in which the relationship between the United States and the world changed over time
- To investigate several aspects of international relations, including the relationship between states/governments and non-state actors, the relationship between politics and economics, and the role that individual people – including diplomats – play in the day-to-day conduct of international affairs
- To familiarize students with the basic chronology of U.S. history, particularly in the realm of international affairs
- To think about international affairs in a way that does not place the (nation-)state at the center of the analysis
- To develop skills for understanding and analyzing primary sources
- To increase student exposure to scholarly interpretation
- To improve writing skills, particularly in formulating, organizing, and supporting an argument

CU REGULATIONS

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>
Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, I will make every accommodation – please let me know if you have an issue related to religious observances. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions

from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Plagiarism: If it is determined that you have utilized or copied material (from ANY source, including the web), you will be reported for academic dishonesty, and the sanctions can range from a failing grade to expulsion from any further University of Colorado courses. Your assignments will make it fairly difficult to plagiarize but we are experts, nonetheless, at checking for cheating. Good rule: better to do your own work no matter how boring and or average the product is than cheat with supposedly exciting, original, and A+ work. We will run papers through a plagiarism check service to ensure that everyone is doing honest labor.

Grading: NOTE: You must complete all assignments (readings, discussions, and Briefing paper), as well as take vigorous part in discussions, or you will FAIL this course. There are no late penalties; should you not appear for an exam, you will fail the course. Should you be late for a class in which a discussion is occurring, your participation grade will suffer.

Online and in-class discussions; attendance = 30 pts

Foreign Affairs essays (2) = 10 pts

Midterm exam: 15 pts

Final exam = 15 pts

Briefing paper = 30 pts

Discussions Topic: 250-500-words (1-2-pages, double-spaced – most if not all will go 2 pages) essay on the PRIMARY SOURCE(s) + Herring, due each Monday morning at 9:00 am. Get in the habit!!

The Goal: Use one of the three interpretations and support your response to answer the Discussion Topic posed on the syllabus each week. Check out the **DISCUSSION RUBRIC** document on CANVAS for information.

Is online discussion required? YES! MANDATORY – ALL of THEM! Failure to hand in 15 discussions = NO CREDIT for this category, a loss of 30% of your grade!

NOTE that the discussions are unlocked, then locked (from Tuesday to Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.). I notice when somebody participates at the last moment, just to get credit. Be smart and conscientious!!

LATE PENALTY: at 9:01 am, you lose 1 point; at 10:00 am, you lost both points.

DUE: On CANVAS, under ASSIGNMENTS and title of Primary Source.

Attendance/in-class discussions: attendance will be taken. You are allowed TWO unexcused absences, that is, you simply don't show up. A third unexcused or inexcusable absence will result in a 0 for the attendance category = a deduction of 5 pts from the 30 pts of the discussion grade. Four or more unexcused absences will result in FAILURE of the COURSE. Show up – it's also fun and instructive!

I will know everyone in this class, so I will know who is participating – in smart, meaningful ways – and who is not. Come to class prepared and you will be able to participate, even if you are shy or your neighbor seems intimidating.

Exams: Midterm and Final exams will be ONE ESSAY, based on readings, lectures, films, and discussions. I will give you the question a week before each exam is due. You will submit it on CANVAS. Each exam will be 5-8 pages.

Foreign Affairs Essays/Briefing Paper TOPICS

To access *Foreign Affairs*:

Go to: <https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/journal/foreignaffairs> then scroll down to relevant decades/years

You will write TWO 4-page (1000), double-spaced essays, each based on an article from the journal *Foreign Affairs*, on your Briefing Paper topic. Or, test out a topic by writing an essay on it. Essay 1 must be on the period BEFORE 1991, or the end of the Cold War. Essay 2 can be on any period after 1945. These must be written from the point of view of a Progressive, Nationalist, or Realist. See ***Foreign Affairs Essay instructions*** in CANVAS.

Check *Foreign Affairs* as soon as you can. The following topics – related to US in the WORLD - are candidates:

1. Dealing with autocracies (and you can pick one)
2. China: economic and/or military threat
3. Free trade and/or protectionism
4. Human rights
5. Globalization and corporate power
6. Nuclear arms
7. Law and institutions
8. Alliance politics and diplomacy
9. EU and integration/Brexit
10. Regional institutions
11. Russia and Putin
12. Environmental diplomacy
13. Latin America and democracy/development
14. Media
15. Middle East peace, stability – Iran, Iraq
16. Oil politics and economics

17. Terrorism
18. Immigration and migration
19. White nationalism and populism
20. Demographic change
21. Technology
22. Individual leader/analyst/intellectual in history

Briefing/Research paper: The paper is 15-20 pages (bibliography and footnotes/endnotes included), narrowly focused on a topic, and presented to a generic president of the United States as a persuasive policy document. You will choose a topic of interest that is a current event and trace the history and policies around that event, movement, person, etc. Argue your case as a Secretary of State to the current president. Topics must be cleared by me – they may include discussion of a crisis, broad policy goals, a look at a region or country. The paper must deal with the period within the years 1941-2019.

Note: The paper will be based on secondary sources and at least 2 primary sources (newspaper articles, documents, etc.) from the period under review, AND at least three documents from *Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)*. *FRUS* is the diplomatic record of the USA, and can be accessed online at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/about-frus> at the Office of the Historian of the US Department of State. Check out that website – it will be critical and very helpful for your Briefing Paper.

The paper will include a bibliography, and Executive Summary, and at least one image (map, photo, etc.).

See CANVAS for **BRIEFING PAPER instructions**, and check out the due dates below.

Reading

George C. Herring, *The American Century & Beyond: U.S. Foreign Relations, 1893-2014*, Oxford University Press, 2017

Primary Sources are found in CANVAS

Week 1 (Jan 14, 16) Roots: Introduction, Interpretations, World War

INTERPRETATIONS (in CANVAS): **which interpretation makes most sense to you?**
don't forget paper due in CANVAS!!

DISCUSSION TOPIC: FDR's vision was fair but a dream; Churchill and Stalin's were ruthless but realistic.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 5.

Primary Sources: *Roosevelt Postwar Vision; Churchill and Stalin Percentages*

Week 2 (Jan 21, 23) Sellout and Atoms

DISCUSSION TOPIC: America was the instigator of tensions with the Soviet Union.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 6.

Primary Sources: *Sympathetic View of the Soviet Union*;

Haskins, *Atomic Energy*, [https://www-jstor-](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20029995?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

[org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20029995?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20029995?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents);

Film: *CNN Comrades*

Week 3 (Jan 28, 30) Containment

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Containment, though immoral, was the best way to stop communist expansion.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, pp. 295-326.

Primary Sources: *A Soviet View*;

X, *The Sources of Soviet Conduct*, [https://www-jstor-](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030065?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

[org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030065?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030065?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

Film: *CNN, Marshall Plan*

Week 4 (Feb 4, 6) Militarization

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Better safe than sorry – stop the Reds or we’ll have another China loss and revolution at home.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, pp. 326-335.

Primary Sources: *American Despair Over China*;

Barnes, *The Foreign Policy of the American Communist Party*, [https://www-jstor-](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030122?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

[org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030122?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030122?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents);

Film: *CNN Reds*

Week 5 (Feb 11, 13) Red Menace

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Truman tough? No way – we should have gone to war against China.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, pp. 335-351.

Primary Sources: *Truman Responds to Fighting in Korea*;

Baldwin, *China as a Military Power*, [https://www-jstor-](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030878?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

[org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030878?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents](https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20030878?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

Film: *CNN Korea*

Week 6 (Feb 18, 20) Killing Zones

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Latin America: pure US imperialism + we're undemocratic.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 8.

Primary Sources: *Temptation of Authoritarian Regimes*;

Douglas, *The Good and the Bad in Us*, https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20031119?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Gillin/Silvert, *Ambiguities in Guatemala*, https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20031178?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Film: *CNN Backyard*

First FOREIGN POLICY ESSAY due

Week 7 (Feb 25, 27) Bearing the Burden

DISCUSSION TOPIC: The Soviets really weren't a threat because we had Elvis.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, pp. 403-420.

Primary Sources: *Sputnik*;

Berkner, *Earth Satellites and Foreign Policy*, https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20029278?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Film: *CNN Sputnik*

Week 8 (Mar 3, 5 Eyeball to Eyeball

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Success in a lottery is no excuse for lotteries: a reckless JFK was simply lucky in the Missile Crisis.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, pp. 420-430.

Primary Sources: *Khrushchev Assesses the Cuban Crisis*

Film: *CNN Cuba*

Midterm exam – submitted on CANVAS

Week 9 (Mar 10, 12) America's Second Longest War

DISCUSSION TOPIC: It's all about credibility: sure we lost in Vietnam but our noble crusade showed we would defend the Free World and democracy at all cost.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, pp. 430-460.

Primary Sources: *Why North Vietnam Fights; We Will Not Be Humiliated.*

Film: *CNN Vietnam*

Week 10 (Mar 17, 19) End of the American Century?

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Détente gave away American power and conceded our strength to the Soviets and Chinese.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 10.

Primary Sources: *Détente and Human Rights*

Cohen, *Recognizing China*, https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20037885?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Film: *CNN China or Détente*

SPRING BREAK (Mar 24-26) – NO CLASS

Week 11 (Mar 31, Apr 2) Malaise Then Morning

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Just bluster and recklessness, Ronald Reagan and his aggressive approach to the Cold War.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 11.

Primary Sources: *Reagan at Westminster*;

Hyland, *U.S.-Soviet Relations*, https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20041158?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Film: *CNN Middle East/Africa*

Second FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESSAY due

Week 12 (Apr 7, 9) Conference on World Affairs): Cold War Winner

DISCUSSION TOPIC: America, and Reagan, won the Cold War.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 12.

Primary Sources: *Gorbachev at the United Nations*; *Tiananmen Square*;

Howard, *The Springtime of Nations*, https://www-jstor-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/stable/20044285?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

No Film

****BRIEFING PAPER ONE-PARAGRAPH TOPIC DUE**

Week 13 (Apr 14, 16) Cold War to Washington Consensus

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Globalization is simply American imperialism.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 13.

Primary Sources: *No Logo*; *Indispensable Nation*

Film: *Commanding Heights: Agony of Reform/Rules of the Game*

****BRIEFING PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

Week 14 (Apr 21, 23) Terror

DISCUSSION TOPIC: The War on Terror was not only necessary but, like the Vietnam War, a noble crusade to defend the oppressed and democratize the world.

READ: Herring, *The American Century*, chp. 14.

Primary Sources: *Grand Strategy*; *We Will Not Fail*; *Democracy's Paradox*

Film: *Frontline: The Economic Meltdown*

Week 15 (April 28/Apr 30) Markets, Military, Millennials, and Meaning

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Obama retreated, Trump advanced: Trump represents the greatness and even the ideals of America.

READ: Primary Sources: *Obama Inaugural Address; Trump Inaugural Address*
Film: *Frontline: Putin's Revenge*

BRIEFING PAPER DUE: May 3, 5:00 pm

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 6, 4:30-7:00 pm