

## International History

Academic year 2019-2020

### From Truman to Trump: US Foreign Policy and International Security since World War II

#### HI121 - Spring - 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](#)

Wednesdays 11-12.30

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#### > ASSISTANT

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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). Active participation and engagement are indispensable for students attending this seminar. The main written work consists of a research paper on a specific topic to be decided in consultation with the professor/teaching assistant.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

- **An extended essay** on a specific topic on US foreign policy since 1945; 5-6,000 words (footnotes included). **40% of the final grade.** The paper can be either a research paper or take the form of an extended review of literature on a specific theme. You need to propose a topic as early as possible. A 1-2 page outline (not graded) is due on April 26. The final essays will be due on **Friday, May 29.**
- Each student will act as a **commentator of 1-2 texts** from the weekly readings. This will hold **20% of the final grade**
- **A document exercise. Due on Friday, April 3.** More information will be provided.
- **Active class participation** will constitute **20% of the final grade.**

## **OUTLINE OF TOPICS (subject to change)**

**February 19: NB. No class. The detailed weekly reading list will be available on the course moodle page. For any questions please contact the professor or teaching assistant.**

**February 26: Introduction: America's Rise to Globalism**

**March 4: Containment & the Truman Doctrine**

**March 11: The Loss of China, the Korean War and McCarthyism**

**March 18: Rollback, Massive Retaliation and the Eisenhower Doctrine**

**March 25: At the Brink: Berlin and the Cuban Missile Crisis**

**April 1: Vietnam**

**\*\*\*\* FRIDAY, APRIL 3: DOCUMENT EXERCISE DUE\*\*\*\***

**April 8: The Long 1970s: Realpolitik to Human Rights**

----- EASTER BREAK -----

**April 22: The Reagan Doctrine & the End of the Cold War**

**April 29: Discussion of Paper Topics**

**May 6: Enlargement and the Clinton Doctrine**

**May 13: The Bush Doctrine and Forever Wars**

**May 20: Obama and Trump: Decline? Renewal? Chaos?**

**May 27: Conclusions**

**\*\*\* FRIDAY, MAY 29: FINAL PAPERS DUE \*\*\***

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

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment. A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War* (Oxford University Press, Updated edition, 2005).
- Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: the United States, the Soviet Union and the Cold War* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008).
- George C. Herring, *The American Century and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2008).
- 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).
- 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).