

Prof. David B.H. Denoon

**Fall 2005
V53.0795**

Office Hours:

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MON: 1:30 - 3:00

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IR SEMINAR: AMERICAN EMPIRE?

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad survey of the of the debate about American power and influence in international affairs, and to provide sufficient background for students to do a major research paper on the topic. Some view the American role today as creating an empire, while others view U.S. influence as just a reflection of the wealth and military might that Americans command, and there are many other perspectives as well.

There is a substantial amount of reading necessary; and, since much of this is in recent articles, there is no single text for the course. The course will be taught, to the maximum extent possible, in seminar fashion, so you must do the reading **BEFORE COMING TO CLASS**.

We will be covering a broad range of controversial topics which involve a combination of factual and ideological questions. There are also obvious moral considerations in many of the topics. This course will not focus on any "agreed perspective" and the seminar is designed to encourage a lively interchange of views.

Requirements:

- A) **Reading:** Assignments are on the attached list.
- B) **Short Paper:** A five-page paper will be due October 3. This paper is to explore potential topics for the major paper.
- C) **Major Paper:** A 20-25 page paper will be due December 12.
- D) **Exam:** There will be a **Mid-Term Exam** on October 24 but no Final Exam.
- E) **Class Participation:** Each student will be expected to make presentations on assigned reading and participate fully in class discussion.
- F) **Grading:** Short paper 5%, Class discussion 20%, Mid-Term Exam 25%, Final Paper 50%

Four Opportunities for Empire:

4. 1898:
Oct. 3
- Merrill & Paterson Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Vol. 1
 Chapt. 11 "Becoming a World Power"
 Chapt. 12 "The Spanish American War"
 Chapt. 13 "The Open Door Policy to China"
5. 1919:
Oct. 10
- M. Macmillan Paris - 1919, Chapt. 1,2,4,6,30
- Merrill & Paterson Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Vol. 2
 Chapt. 2 "W. Wilson & the League of Nations"
 Chapt. 3 "The 1920s"
6. 1945:
Oct. 17
- S. Hook & J. Spanier American Foreign Policy Since World War II,
 Chapt. 2,3
7. Mid-Term Exam
Oct. 24
8. Post-1991:
Oct. 31
- S. Hook and J. Spanier American Foreign Policy Since World War II
 Chapt. 9-14
- A. Bacevich American Empire, Chapt. 5,6
- P. Zelikow "The Transformation of National Security,"
National Interest, Spring 2003, 17-28
- H. Nau "No Enemies on the Right," National Interest,
 Winter 2004/05, 19-28

American Dominance:9. Cultural:

Nov. 7

J. Nye The Paradox of American Power, Chapt. 1J. Kurth "Migration and the Dynamics of Empire," National Interest,
Spring 2003, 5-16S. Huntington "The Hispanic Challenge," Foreign Policy,
March / April 2004, 30-4510. Diplomatic:

Nov. 14

F. Zakaria The Future of Freedom, Chapt. 1,2,4B. Lewis What Went Wrong? Chapt. 1-311. Economic:

Nov. 21

P. Peterson "Riding for a Fall," Foreign Affairs, Sept./Oct. 2004, 111-125N. Ferguson &
L. Kotlikoff "Going Critical," National Interest, Fall 2003, 22-3A.T. Kearney "Measuring Globalization," Foreign Policy, March / April 2004,
52-6012. Military:

Nov. 28

B. Posen "Command of the Commons," International Security,
Summer 2003, Vol. 28, No. 1, 5-46D. Hendrickson
& R. Tucker "Revisions in Need of Revising: What Went Wrong in the
Iraq War," Survival, Summer 2005, 7-32Office of the Sec.
of Defense The Military Power of the PRC - Annual Report to Congress,
2005, 1-4513. 14. Presentation of Papers:

Dec. 5, 12