

**Prof. David B.H. Denoon**

**Fall 2006  
V53.0795**

**Office Hours:**

**Rm 742, 726 Broadway**

**MON: 1:30 - 3:00**

**WED: 4:30 - 6:00**

**PHONE: 212-998-8505**

**E-mail: David.Denoon@nyu.edu**

### **IR HONORS 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. There are many other thoughtful perspectives as well.

In this seminar, 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 one perspective and the seminar is designed to encourage a lively interchange of views.

This is an advanced, honors course designed to help students do research. In the major paper, each student will be expected to explore a theoretical issue, develop a testable hypothesis, and decide what kinds of evidence and methods to use in evaluating the proposition. For many, the course can be an early effort at preparing for the Senior Thesis. The seminar will be limited to 20 students who have a GPA of 3.65 or better.

#### **Requirements:**

- A) Reading: Assignments are on the attached list.
- B) Short Paper: A five-page paper will be due October 2. This paper is to explore potential topics for the major paper.
- C) Major Paper: A 20-25 page paper will be due December 11.
- D) Exam: There will be a Mid-Term Exam on October 23 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%

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**What is an Empire?**

1. Different Types of Empires:  
Sept. 11

- |             |                                                                                           |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| J. Fairbank | <u>The Chinese World Order</u> , 1-14                                                     |
| N. Ferguson | <u>Empire: The Rise &amp; Demise of the British World Order</u><br>Chpts. 1,6, Conclusion |
| P. Kennedy  | <u>The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers</u> , Chpts. 1,2                                 |
| H. James    | <u>The Roman Predicament</u> , 1-38                                                       |

2. U.S. Behavior as an Empire:  
Sept. 18

- |                |                                                                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C. Krauthammer | "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," <u>National Interest</u> ,<br>Winter 2002/03, 5-17   |
| J.L. Gaddis    | "Grand Strategy in the Second Term," <u>Foreign Affairs</u> ,<br>Jan./Feb. 2005, 2-15 |
| J. Snyder      | "Imperial Temptations," <u>National Interest</u> , Spring 2003, 29-40                 |
| S. Hersh       | "The Gray Zone," <u>The New Yorker</u> , May 24, 2004, 38-44                          |

3. 1790-1865: The U.S. Vulnerable to Other Empires:  
Sept. 25

- |                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D. Merrill and<br>T. Paterson<br>(6 <sup>th</sup> ed.) | <u>Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Vol. 1</u><br>Chapt. 3 "The Great Debate of the 1790s"<br>Chapt. 6 "The Monroe Doctrine"<br>Chapt. 8 "Manifest Destiny" |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Four Opportunities for Empire: What Changed After 1991?

### 4. 1898:

Oct. 2

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. 9

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. 16

S. Hook & J. Spanier

American Foreign Policy Since World War II,  
Chapt. 2,3

### 7. Mid-Term Exam

Oct. 23

### 8. Post-1991:

Oct. 30

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

M. Laird

"Iraq and Vietnam," Foreign Affairs,  
Nov./Dec. 2005, 22-43

**American Dominance:**9. Cultural:

Nov. 6

J. Nye The Paradox of American Power, Chapt. 1B. Knowlton "Global Image of US Is Worsening," New York Times, June 14, 2006, p. A-7S. Huntington "The Hispanic Challenge," Foreign Policy, March / April 2004, 30-4510. Diplomatic:

Nov. 13

S. Walt Taming American Power, 13-108B. Lewis What Went Wrong? Chapt. 1-311. Economic:

Nov. 20

P. Peterson "Riding for a Fall," Foreign Affairs, Sept./Oct. 2004, 111-125N. Ferguson & L. Kotlikoff "Going Critical," National Interest, Fall 2003, 22-3J. Stiglitz Globalization and Its Discontents, Chapt. 1,212. Military:

Nov. 27

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. 4, 11