

Understanding the US

Nom de l'enseignant / Full name of the teacher : Ghislain Potriquet

Type de cours / Course type and ECTS credits : 24 Hours 3 ECTS

Cours magistral / lecture

Langue d'enseignement /Language of instruction :

Anglais / english

Course description and objectives

This series of twelve two-hour lectures will give students a solid background in the diplomatic history of the United States. Emphasis will be put on the domestic sources of U.S. foreign policy to better acquaint students with major themes in U.S. history and government. Primary source (historical) documents will be assigned regularly and used as a basis for stimulating class discussions. The implication of past events on contemporary developments (in Ukraine, China or the Middle East, among others) will be another discussion thread for this class.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Colonial beginnings (1607-1776)
- The diplomacy of Independence (1776-1783)
- Parting ways: the Jay Treaty (1794-1795)
- The birth of the "Western Hemisphere" : the Monroe Doctrine (1823)
- Texas annexation, the Mexican-American War and the issue of slavery (1845-1848)
- The burden of empire: the Spanish-American War (1898)
- The world(view) of Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)

- How did the Cold War begin (1945-1969)?
- How did the Cold War end (1969-1989)?
- The problem with being a “hyper power” (1991-2001)
- The aftermaths of 9/11

Teacher

Ghislain Potriquet

Course outline

non / no

Modalités d'évaluation/Assessment

mi-semester: un examen écrit d'une heure, sans document autorisé, comptant pour 40% de la note finale. midterm: a one-hour closed-book written exam (40% of the final grade)

examen de fin de semester : un exposé oral de trente minutes sur un thème défini au préalable

final: a thirty-minute oral presentation prepared in advance (60% of the final grade)

Bibliographie indicative /Select bibliography

BNUS holdings

Brzezinski, Zbigniew. *Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power*. Basic Books, 2013.

Charillon, Frederic and Célia Belin. *Les États-Unis dans le monde*. CNRS éditions, 2016.

David, Charles-Philippe. *Théories de la politique étrangère américaine: auteurs, concepts et approches*. Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 2018.

---. *La politique étrangère des États-Unis: fondements, acteurs, formulation*. Les Presses de Sciences Po., 2022.

Ikenberry, John et. al. The crisis of American foreign policy: Wilsonianism in the twenty-first century. Princeton University Press, 2009.

Mélandri, Pierre and Serge Ricard (ed.). La politique extérieure des États-Unis au XXe siècle: le poids des déterminants intérieurs. L'Harmattan, 2008.

---. Les États-Unis: entre uni- et multilatéralisme de Woodrow Wilson à George W. Bush. L'Harmattan, 2008.

Perron, Régine. Histoire du multilatéralisme: l'utopie du siècle américain de 1918 à nos jours. Presses de l'Université Paris-Sorbonne, 2014.

Zakaria, Fareed. Le monde post-américain. Tempus, 2011.

Books available elsewhere (interlibrary loan service and BNF).

Ambrose, Stephen and Douglas G. Brinkley. Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938. 9th ed. London: Penguin, 2010.

Bennett, Andrew and George Shambaugh. Taking Sides: Clashing Views in American Foreign Policy. 5th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010.

Carter, Ralph G. Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade. 5th ed. Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2013.

Cobbs Hoffman, Elisabeth. American Umpire. Harvard : Harvard UP, 2013

Herring, George C. From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776. New York: Oxford UP, 2011.

Hobsbawm, Eric J. The Age of Extremes: a History of the World, 1914-1991. New York: Vintage Books, 1996.

Jentlesson, Brice W. American Foreign Policy: the Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century. 5th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2013

LaFeber, Walter. *The American Age: United States Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad, 1750 to the Present*. New York: Norton, 1994.

Lefflin, Melvyn P. *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009.

Westad, Odd Arne. *The Cold War: a World History*. New York : Basic Books, 2017.