

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Law, Business and Governance		
Course:	TODAY'S WORLD III: USA		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	6
Year:	2	Code:	7022
Teaching period:	Third semester		
Area:	Geopolitics and Today's World		
Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	150		

Teaching staff	E-mail
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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Herramientas básicas para el estudio y el conocimiento de los hechos más relevantes de la historia de EEUU y de su política exterior.

Develop the basic analytical tools for understanding the major events on the US history and their development of its

GOAL

Overall Aims of Course

This course takes a historical perspective to the development of the United States as the world's leading power. The course will cover anything from the birth of the Republic and the foundational myth that led to its early expansion to the West, to its involvement in both world wars, the Cold War, to its rise to hegemony.

The specific aims of the subject are:

Students will be acquainted with the major themes and debates that have shaped the foreign policy of the US since the birth of the republic

- Students will be capable of comprehensive analysis from a historical perspective.
- Students will demonstrate unity, support, and coherence in writing.
- Strengthen the student's ability and knowledge of the methods of scientific research.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

The course requires the basic understanding of the international economic and geopolitical architecture, and the role that the USA has played in shaping this global model.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Content of the Program

I.-Geopolitics: Understanding the USA within the world's big picture

What do we really know about the United States of America?

- 1.-The USA economic and geopolitical data (CIA profile The World Fact Book)
- 2.-USA financial, commercial, economic, military, debt, income, demographic and technological data in relation to the rest of the world.
- 3.-Dollar hegemony and the US debt
- 4.-USA values: Equity, Individuality, Freedom, Power of the citizens, Democracy, Division of Powers, the Pursuit of happiness on the Constitution, Balance of Power
- 5.- The USA in the World's Global Architecture (IMF, World Bank, UN-Security Council)
- 6.- The power and influence of USA transnational companies in the world
- 7.-Soft Power and Nye theory of countries' world influence.

II.-History of the USA

Great hallmarks in American history: How the USA has evolved to become what it is today? History. How events have shaped American Foreign Policy?

- 1.-How is Foreign Policy made in the USA (actors and decision makers)?
- 2.-From 1777 to 1898 The First Steps of the Republic and the Expansion to the West Isolation
- 3.- From 1899 to 1914: The Consolidation as a global actor
- 3.-From 1914 to 1945: From isolationism to
- 4.-1945 to 1968: From Global actor to super-power/ Interventionism/ Fighting the Expansion of Communism
- 5.-1968 to 1988: From Nixon Realpolitik to Reagan interventionism

6.-1989 to 2009: US Hegemony

7.-2009 to 2024: From Obama to Biden, the declining influence of US

III.-Great decisions and events in the USA that have shaped the world's history

Why are these events so significant to American history and why they transcended US borders?

1. The Alamo and the capture of Mexican President López de Santa Ana.
2. Alexander Von Humboldt: geographic studies of Mexico and the following gold rush
3. The Civil War and the birth of a new economic model
4. Meat Supply, cowboys and industrialization with Ford's T model.
5. Tora the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the involvement of USA in Asia.
6. Roosevelt Great Depression and the New Deal
7. An ideological divided world resulted from Truman's insecurities and manipulation
8. Bretton Woods and Economic and Financial institutions (imposition of dollar hegemony)
9. Kissinger and realpolitik's (Russia containment and China's pragmatism)
10. Nixon-dollar-gold new parity and US escalating debt.
11. The War on Terror and the disruption of technology

Practical Exercises: debate

IV.-Geopolitics: Challenges and Opportunities for the USA

Questions to reflect and analyze. Then openly debate these topics on class with the group, using arguments and comments previously researched.

1. The USA role on the expansion of the globalization model (costs and benefits)
2. What are the world challenges that affect USA leadership (Oxford/ WEF)?
3. What are the opportunities that the US model of governance and development offers?
4. What makes the USA a super power now and what will require in the future?
5. Are we still living in a world dominated by the US hegemony?
6. Is US hegemony at risk? What are the main challenges?
7. Will the USA still be the hyper power of the 21st century?
8. What is the USA economic and social development model?
9. US Challenges and World Challenges are mutually related and interconnected?
10. How the USA built its economy power, is that sustainable and replicable?
11. How did the USA expand its territory? What is the relation between the expansion rush and the fear of European imperialism?
12. How big was the challenge to the USA, with the September 11 attacks ?
13. What is the meaning of Obama arrival to the Presidency of the United States?, did it really improved American minorities civil rights?
14. How can we explain Trumps arrival to the White House and its poultry? What about Biden's profile and agenda?
15. How big of a challenge is China economic and military power to the USA?
16. How big as a threat is Russia's agenda and its global position?
17. How significant is the declining power of economic dollarization of the world, and the alternative use of euros, yuans or rubbles?
18. What are the major challenges to US Sovereignty in the XXI century?
19. Would the values and institution prevail in a multipolar world controlled by with regional leaders?
20. How is foreign policy made in the USA, values, institutional framework, historical principles or responding to interest groups, ideological agenda, current historical context, etc?

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- 1.- Learn from lecturer and other academic guests about contemporary topics in US history and influence and relevance on the world.
- 2.-Research 5 to 10 graphics that explain the US power in comparison with the rest of the world, in a specific topic select for the research (economics, trade, military, etc).
- 3.-Study the different periods in US History, and select one which, the global context and local politics, help to explain foreign policy.
- 4.-Which presidents have led their people and country throughout prosperity or hard times? Relevance of US Presidents and its impact on US political, social and economic advancement. Chose a president and present what do you consider to be his mayor legacy.
- 5.-Students must chose one of the key topics presented in the class for debate in the group

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
90 hours	60 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching classes 90h 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students activities: Reading, research, presentations 60h

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to present and discuss conflicting ideas, thereby generating meeting forums for individuals or social groups from different countries and cultures.

To develop personal leadership focussing on communication and mediation in the context of international relations.

To be able to apply group work with common objectives, fostering the analysis and pooling of various approaches.

To develop communication skills allowing for accurate written and oral expression, as well as rigorous discourse and suitable reasoning in public.

To suitably use all possible sources that make it possible to be familiar with the international reality in the historical, political, economic, legal and social spheres, in all formats, in order to organise and plan the study and analysis of the international reality.

Specific skills

To be familiar with and apply the foremost concepts and terminology used in international relations from a range of multidisciplinary approaches.

To be familiar with and interpret information on international current affairs in all media.

To be familiar with the international treaties and agreements governing the operation of the international community.

To acquire the ability to express oneself fluently and effectively in Spanish and English, to analyse and study the various processes involved in international relations.

To understand and analyse decision-making in foreign policy in the main US states.

LEARNING RESULTS

RA18-El alumno habrá adquirido el conocimiento de los concepto, términos, y eventos históricos significativos interpretados desde las diferentes teorías de las relaciones exteriores.

RA22- El alumno conocerá los principales acontecimientos políticos y económicos desde el lente del análisis crítico de la geopolítica y las relaciones internacionales.

RA29- El alumno conocerá el marco institucional y jurídico de la arquitectura internacional, incluyendo los principales tratados internacionales que le dan sustento.

RA35.-Al finalizar el curso el alumno tendrá la fluidez en inglés necesaria para describir los conceptos y articular sus ideas y argumentos en presentaciones verbales y escritas.

RA40- Al finalizar el curso el estudiante conocerá la historia, el contexto y los perfiles de los actores que han tomado las decisiones mas importantes en la historia de los Estados Unidos.

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Evaluation

Student Assessment Methods:

- Discussion and description of historical developments and its relevance to US and world history
- Oral and written reflections and research to assess understanding of the material
- Presentations of literature and research to fellow students

Ordinary call Final Exam: 50% Research paper: 30% Attendance, seminar, home work and participation: 20% Total: 100%

Extraordinary Call: Final Exam: 70% Research paper: 30%

Erasmus and authorized students: Assessments for evaluation for those with a waiver Final Exam: 70% Research paper: 30%

Research Paper: A final paper on one of topics of the program is required to pass the course. Students must recommend a topic related to the subject studied, one which bears relevance with the course content. All papers must be approved by Professor Jiménez. The research paper must include a clear summary that explains its content and the objectives of the paper. An introduction that explains its relevance to the course. The main content must be divided in chapters that explain the arguments for responding the key questions pose in the class. It must include several academic, institutional or media sources with hard data to support the hypothesis. Conclusions must show an informed opinion based on hard data and research. Do not forget to support your paper with at list 7 consulted book. The paper must bear relevance to the International Relations doctrines or the International Society. The format : Up to 25 pages including summary, introducción, content, conclusions and bibliography. Font arial 12, spaced 1.5 must be used in the paper. Images and tables must be referenced stating always the original source. Paper must follow APA principles and guidelines for citations. Plagiarism is prohibited and will be sanctioned. Paper must be presented in word and PDF. Plagiarism Any copyright infringement, or illegitimate means to pass evaluation exams will be sanctioned according to the normative upheld by the Evaluación y la Normativa de Convivencia de la Universidad.

SECOND AND SUCCESSIVE REGISTRATIONS: Students with approved academic dispensation. A student may obtain academic dispensation for reasons of work, incompatibility of timetables, illness or others that the Directorate of the Degree Programme considers appropriate, after requesting it from the Academic Coordination Office, providing the documentation required for this purpose. Once granted, both the lecturer affected and the student who has requested it will be officially notified by the Academic Coordination Office. Students in second or successive enrolments and UFV students on exchange visits. For these students, it is not necessary to request a waiver. These students may use the continuous assessment system, as long as they comply with all the requirements, including class attendance. Otherwise, they must follow the alternative evaluation system. In any case, it is the student's responsibility to follow the course, as well as the aspects that make up their assessment. Students are obliged to observe the elementary and basic rules on authenticity and originality in any training activity or assessment test. When a student uses illegitimate means in an assessment test, commits plagiarism, or improperly claims authorship of academic work required for assessment, he/she will be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the University's Assessment Regulations and Coexistence Regulations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

Jiménez San Vicente, Armando. History of the United States of America and its influence on the global international architecture UFV2023

Additional

Cox, Michael, and Doug Stokes. US Foreign Policy. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Cannon, Davit T. Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics. W W NORTON, 2022.

Hook, Steven W., and John W. Spanier. American Foreign Policy since World War II. SAG/CQ Press, 2019.

Man Charles, 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus VintageED. 2006.

Mandelbaum, Michael. Four Ages of American Foreign Policy Weak Power, Great Power, Superpower, Hyperpower, 1765-2015. OXFORD UNIV PRESS US, 2022.

McCullough, David . The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We stand For, Simon & Schuster, 2018.

McCullough, David. 1776. Deckle Edge, 2005.

McCullough, David. Truman. Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Scott, James M., and Jerel A. Rosati. The Politics of United States Foreign Policy. SAGE, CQ Press, 2021

CIA, World Fact Book, United States. USA, 2022. Disponible en <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/united-states/>

Zinn, Howard. A Peoples History of the United States. Harper Perennial, 2015