

**Preliminary Course Outline
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY – FALL 2013**

HIST*3080 – The United States in the World

Instructor: Dr. Susan Nance
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Course Format: one 2-hour lecture and one 50 min. discussion seminar / week

Course Synopsis:

History 3080 considers American history in an international context. Going beyond standard diplomatic history, we will also examine cultural, social, and business history to see how Americans have understood their place on the globe. We will scrutinize the nation from without as well to determine how foreign citizens have shaped US history, and to ask various questions, including: What sacrifices have US citizens—and which citizens?—made as their nation became the planet's only superpower? What have Americans demanded of people living outside their country in the process? Has the acquisition of unprecedented wealth and power been worth the price Americans and others have paid? And who decides?

HIST 3080 trains students in:

- broad knowledge of globalized United States history
- thematic interpretations of that history by way of the concepts concerning globalization, nationality, state power, imperialism and cultural imperialism, the “American Dream”, race and ethnicity, liberal capitalism, consumption, tourism, and more
- reading and critiquing historical primary sources, works of historical synthesis, and scholarly articles and book chapters
- conceptualizing problem-based research questions
- communicating research findings to peers, orally and in writing
- communication of detailed constructive criticism to peers, orally and in writing
- the practice of developing one's writing skills, which is a skill everyone needs, by creating short essays on relevant topics on a deadline (for a total of five opportunities over the semester)

Methods of Evaluation and Weights:

Periodic short essays with peer review (3 @ 15% each)	45%
Seminar discussion/participation	15%
Primary source research & analysis with notes, presented in seminar	15%
Final paper	25%

Texts and/or Resources Required Include:

Michael Hunt, Ideology and US Foreign Policy, 2 ed. (2009)
Carlos Bulosan, America is in the Heart: A Personal History (1946)
William J. Lederer and Eugene Burdick, The Ugly American (1958)
Nathan Hodge and Sharon Weinberger, A Nuclear Family Vacation: Travels in the World of Atomic Weaponry (2011)
+ plus 10 journal articles and various primary sources drawn from digital archives

****Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.***