

Hunter College
History 361: America and the World in the Twentieth Century
(Spring 2024)

Professor Jonathan Rosenberg
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Office Hours: TBA

This class considers the interconnections between the United States and the twentieth-century world. In examining the trajectory of America's foreign engagement during the last century, we will focus on how and why the United States and its people interacted as they did with other nations and peoples in the last century. We will also explore the ways in which developments overseas helped shape aspects of American domestic life. Our goal, in short, is to reflect on America's impact on the world and, at the same time, to ponder how the wider world influenced life in twentieth-century America.

On Tuesdays, we will meet in person from 11:30-12:45. At the Tuesday meetings, we will discuss the material that has been assigned for that week, which comprises readings of primary and secondary sources, and pre-recorded lectures. These activities should be completed prior to the Tuesday meeting, which will allow for a stimulating and enlightening discussion. **To access the pre-recorded lectures, go to: link TBA.**

In addition to completing the readings and watching the lectures, you will be required to write **two papers** based on the activities we have engaged in throughout the semester (readings, lectures, and discussions). No additional reading will be required to write the two papers; that is, all papers will draw on material you have encountered in the class. **The first paper (approx. 4-5 pages) is worth 30% of your grade; the second paper (approx. 8-9 pages) is worth 60% of your grade. Class participation will count for 10% of your grade. To pass the course, students must submit both papers. If a student does not submit the two papers, it will not be possible to pass the course. Papers submitted after the due date and time will be penalized 10 points per day or partial day that the paper is late. For the first paper, no late papers will be accepted after a date specified. For the second assignment, no late papers will be accepted. That is, all papers must be submitted by the deadline.**

Short weekly assignment: For every Tuesday meeting, I would like each student to write **one short paragraph (4-5 sentences)** on one or two things that you found to be **historically significant** in that week's reading. This is intended to help you organize your thoughts for the class discussion. This will not be handed in, but I will ask a few students to read aloud their paragraph. The aim of this short assignment is to help you reflect on what you think is historically important in the reading.

Course Learning Outcomes for this class: Students will be expected to be able to periodize the history of twentieth-century U.S. foreign relations. They will be expected to know certain key themes and concepts in that history. Students will be expected to read critically and analyze in writing the assigned texts, and to know something about the important historiographical developments in U.S. foreign relations history. Students will learn how to use the required material (readings, lectures, and content of the class discussions) to write clear, persuasive, and grammatically correct essays. In so doing, the class will focus on the keys to good academic writing: conceptualizing a thoughtful historical essay; composing a clear introduction that includes an effective thesis statement; building an effective argument in the body of the essay; and writing a convincing conclusion.

Note on the course readings: Readings are accessible electronically through the Hunter Library. The e-res link for the course is here. The password is rosenberg361 (lower case with no space):
https://libguides.library.hunter.cuny.edu/er.php?course_id=82611

History 361 (Rosenberg-2)

Class Schedule

January 30	Introduction: Course requirements, followed by discussion: Considering America and the twentieth-century world
Read for February 6	The Dawn of American Power Read: Herring, <i>From Colony to Superpower</i> , 1-10, 265-336. Primary sources: McKinley, T. Roosevelt speeches. Watch: Lecture on Spanish-American-Cuban-Filipino War
February 6	Discuss: America's emergence on the world stage
Read for February 13	The Era of the Great War Read: Herring, 378-435. Primary source: Wilson war address. Watch: Two lectures on the Wilson era: U.S. intervention, the peace settlement.
February 13	Discuss: America and the First World War
Read for February 20	The Great War at Home Read: Rosenberg, <i>Dangerous Melodies</i> , 3-85.
February 20	Discuss: World War I and American society
Read for February 27	The Interwar Years: Overseas Concerns and Domestic Implications Read: Herring, 484-537. Rosenberg, <i>How Far the Promised Land: World Affairs and the American Civil Rights Movement from the First World War to Vietnam</i> , 101-28. Primary Documents: FDR speeches.
February 27	Discuss: America between the wars
Read for March 5	World War II: The Home Front Read: David Kennedy, <i>Freedom from Fear</i> , 746-797. Robert Westbrook, "I Want a Girl, Just Like the Girl that Married Harry James": American Women and the Problem of Political Obligation." Watch: Lecture on World War II Paper # 1 questions circulated
March 5	Discuss: World War II at Home

History 361 (Rosenberg-3)

- Read for March 12 Origins of the Cold War
Read: Herring, 595-650.
Primary source: Truman speech.
Watch: Lecture on Cold War's origins
- March 12 Discuss: The Cold War – origins and early years
- Paper # 1 Due Friday, March 15 at 5:00 pm (via email)**
- Read for March 19 American Race Relations and the Cold War
Read: Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*, 3-115 (skim 47-78).
- March 19 Discuss: The Cold War and the struggle for racial justice
- Read for March 26 The Cold War at Home
Read: Laura Belmonte, *Selling the American Way: U.S. Propaganda and the Cold War*, 50-135.
Primary source: McCarthy speech
Watch: Lecture on the Second Red Scare
- March 26 Discuss: The Cold War at Home
- Read for April 2 The Cold War and the American Family
Read: Belmonte, 136-58.
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*, 92-134.
- April 2 Discuss: The Cold War and the American family
- Read for April 9 The Cold War and American Culture: Classical Music
Read: Rosenberg, *Dangerous Melodies*, 277-358.
- April 9 Discuss: Shostakovich, Copland, Bernstein and the Cold War
- Read for April 16 The Vietnam War
Read: Craig and Logevall, *America's Cold War*, 216-278.
Primary source: Eisenhower remarks (1954)
Watch lecture on the Vietnam War.
- April 16 Discuss: The Vietnam War

Paper # 2 questions circulated

History 361 (Rosenberg-4)

- Read for May 7 The Vietnam War: Who Fought?
Christian Appy, *Working-Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam*
[Note: This book is not available electronically; you will need to buy it.]
James Fallows, "What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?" (*The Washington Monthly*,
October 1975).
- May 7 Discuss: Appy and Fallows
- May 14 Final class – no assigned reading
Concluding reflections on America and the world.
- May 15 ****Paper # 2 due by 1:00 (via email)****

Note: Any student in this course who is found to have plagiarized a paper will receive an F for the course.

The Professor reserves the right to make any changes to the syllabus that he decides are necessary.

History 361 (Rosenberg-5)

Policies on Accommodations, Academic Integrity/Plagiarism, and Sexual Misconduct

1. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: “In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College’s students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and an appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, or call (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230.”

E-mail: AccessABILITY@hunter.cuny.edu Web: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/student-services/access>

2. Hunter College/CUNY and the History Department’s Statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: “Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedure. Here is the full statement on academic integrity:

<https://hunter-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/pages/540MS0v9xL13dmLGuVgZ>

Note the full Statement on Plagiarism on the Department's website:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/history/departmental-policy-on-plagiarism/>

Note: "Plagiarism is a very serious academic offense which will result in penalties ranging from reduction of class grade to failure in the course. Plagiarism occurs when the ideas and words, published or unpublished, of others are presented as one’s own without citing the original source. Plagiarism also occurs when the papers, research, or works of another person are presented as one’s own work." Please see the RWC explanation of Documentation Citation and Plagiarism:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/repository/files/the-documented-essay/guides-to-research-and-writing-from-sources/Quotation-Paraphrase-Plagiarism.pdf>

3. Hunter College’s Policy on Sexual Misconduct: “In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complementary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

The CUNY Policy on sexual misconduct can be found here:

<https://hunter-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/policies-and-requirements/institutional-policies/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct>