**US History in the International Context**

**Instructor: Lucas A. Sprouse, MAHR  
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Email:** [**lucasAsprouse@gmail.com**](mailto:lucasAsprouse@gmail.com) **Term: Fall 2019  
Credits: 5   
Instruction: English, including lecture and seminar  
Lessons: Mondays 14:40-16:10 and Wednesdays 16:20-17:50 (90+90)   
Office Hours: Mondays: 16:10-16:40; Wednesdays: 15:50-16:20 or by appointment**

**Course Description**   
**US History in the International Context** is a survey of the major historical developments in society, politics, economics, religion, and culture that helped to shape the United States of America.  This course will examine major movements in American history beginning with European exploration and colonization and ending with the modern day.  Central themes such as immigration, the evolving definition of freedom, expansionism, isolationism, and interventionism will be examined.

The aim of this course is to give students a deeper understanding of US history while providing some international context for contemporary political affairs.   As such, international relations will play a key role as we look at US relations with Canada and Mexico, American intervention in Latin America and Asia, and America’s role in Europe.  Some examples include the Monroe Doctrine, the Roosevelt Corollary, the Annexation of Texas, border arbitration between the US and Canada, Wilson’s Fourteen Points, Operation Overlord, the Marshall Plan, the Korean War, the Berlin Airlift, and NAFTA.

In addition to lectures, discussion-based seminars will focus on primary and secondary source readings, and students’ written and oral communication skills will be developed through essays and presentations.  Along with increased historical understanding, students will cultivate better critical thinking and analytical skills that can be applied in a range of academic and practical settings.

**Themes:**European Colonization and Contact with Native Americans  
From the Seven Years’ War to the American Revolution  
The Early Republic  
Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny   
Civil War and Reconstruction  
Immigration, Industrialization, and the Gilded Age  
Protectionism and the World Wars  
The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression  
The Cold War and a Consumerist Society   
9/11 and the War on Terror   
Conservativism, Progressivism, and Populism  
International Relations

**Required and Recommended Readings:**

Secondary Sources

* James A. Henretta, Eric Hinderraker, Rebecca Edwards, and Robert O. Self, *America’s History, For the AP Course,* (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014, 8th edition)
* *US History* (Wikibooks, 2013)

Primary Sources

* Primary sources will be supplied throughout the semester via Moodle

**Evaluation Criteria**Active Participation: 30%  
Writing Assignments: 50%  
Presentation: 20%

Active Participation: It is absolutely necessary to come to class and participate on a regular basis. Participation includes attendance, reading preparation, and active discussion during seminars. You are allowed four unexcused absences, after which your grade will significantly decrease.

Writing Assignments: These include 500 word reflections covering historical movements that we have discussed as well as a couple of 1000 word essays which will cover a broader range of material and take the place of examinations. In these assignments, you should briefly describe the movements, analytically compare and contrast them, and explain their impact to both US and world history. Critical analysis is key.

Presentation: Each student will research the relationship between one country and the United States (Canada, for example) in order to prepare a 30 minute presentation and lead a 10 minute discussion. You should be sure to provide a narrative, place the countries in their geographic and political contexts, and then describe their relationship’s impact not only on the countries being discussed but also the world as a whole. You are required to create some sort of visual aid to accompany your presentation and engage with your audience.

**Course Evaluation**A – excellent: 100-93%  
B – very good: 92-84%  
C – good: 83-74%  
D – satisfactory: 73-63%  
E – sufficient: 62-51%  
Fx – fail: 50-0%.