



HS/IR317 The American Century: US Policy in Western Europe

IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION: This course surveys the history of the US military intervention and presence in Europe from the early 20th century to present, with a specific focus on Spain. It explores the events, personalities and social and economic forces that have shaped US military policies in Europe, as well as the responses of the European governments and public to such policies.

Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of the design, execution and significance of the US military involvement in Europe. After a brief overview of US armed interventions abroad in the 19th century, the course will focus on topics including the First World War, the Russian Civil War, the Spanish Civil War and General Franco's Dictatorship, the Second World War, the Greek Civil War, the Cold War, and the post-Yugoslav wars.

Additionally, the course will examine the impact of US troops, both in wartime and peacetime, in the establishment of American cultural values and patterns in Europe, and will offer insight on the present status and perspectives of US military policy in Europe, including the current war in Ukraine. (3 credits)

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

INSTRUCTOR:

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- **Course related excursions:** The course includes two walking tours. The first one, called "American Footprints in Barcelona", shows the American influence in Barcelona's architecture and public space and includes also some sites of the Spanish Civil War. The second one is titled "Traces of the Sixth Fleet" and deals with the presence of US sailors and marines in Barcelona from the 1950s to the 1980s.
- **Class discussion:** A significant amount of class time will be devoted to the discussion of key themes, based on the course readings. Both the texts for each class and a list of reading questions will be available to students in Moodle. The work produced by students (short assignments, short presentations of specific topics, rough drafts of research papers, etc.) will be discussed in classtoo.
- **Lectures:** In every class the instructor will supplement the students' discussions with a lecture. The purpose of the lectures is to summarize the theoretical and factual information of the session and also to place each session in the general framework of the course.
- **Working documents:** Students will use a wide range of materials and documents related to US- European relations, such as speeches, government papers, newsreels, photographs and newspapers.
- **Film viewings:** Students will watch the film *A Foreign Affair*, which deals with the American military presence in Berlin after WWII. The film will be discussed in class. Prior to the viewing, students will be required to collect information about the film. The instructor will provide students with viewing and discussion questions.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- **Class participation** - 10%
- **Homework** - 15%
- **Term paper** - 20%
- **Oral presentation** - 5%



- **Midterm exam** - 25%
- **Final exam** - 25%

Class participation

All students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings, course issues and questions posed by the instructor.

Homework

Homework may include the following assignments: summaries of required readings, short reports of the excursions, a questionnaire related to the film viewing, short presentations of specific topics and drafts of the research paper.

Term paper

Students will write a 2000-word analytical paper on a specific aspect of US military interventions and/or presence in Europe during the Cold War (1945-1991). Students will have to cite at least six different academic sources (either books or articles from peer-reviewed journals) in their papers. They will have access to the collection of books on US-European relations available at the IES Abroad library.

Oral presentation

Students will give a short talk on the main points of their research papers.

Midterm exam

Final exam

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand the main processes and empirical regularities in the history of US-European relations.
- Encounter the key works and historiographical trends regarding the nature and impact of US policies in Europe.
- Judge multiple interpretations of historical events and critically study the motivations and interests that lie behind the US policy in Europe.
- Assess the legacy of US foreign policy in today's Europe.
- Draw conclusions from the historical records discussed in class.
- Gain proficiency in assessing primary and secondary sources, conducting historical research and writing a research paper following academic guidelines.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

CONTENT:

Session	Required reading
Session 1 Introduction: course objectives and procedures	
Session 2 The War of 1898 and its aftermath	Herring, George, <i>From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations since 1776</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 2008; chapter 8, “The War of 1898, the New Empire and the Dawn of the American Century, 1893-1901”, pp. 299-329.
Session 3 The United States and WWI: The path to war (1914-1917)	Keene, Jennifer, “The United States in the First World War”, in John Horne (ed.), <i>A Companion to the First World War</i> , Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2010, ps 508-523
Session 4 The American Expeditionary Force in WWI (1917-1918)	Stewart, Richard, <i>The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917-2003</i> , Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 2005, pp. 27-54.
Session 5 The US and the rise of European Fascism (1922-1939)	Schmitz, David F., <i>Thank God They're on Our Side: The United States and Right-Wing Dictatorships, 1921-1965</i> , Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999; chapter 3 “From Accommodation to Appeasement to War”, ps. 85-113.
Session 6 Roosevelt administration and the Spanish Civil War	Balfour, Sebastian, “Spain from 1931 to Present”, in R. Carr, <i>Spain: A History</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 253-264.
Session 7 The Last Great Cause: Americans in the War of Spain	Crain, Caleb, “Lost Illusions: The Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War”, <i>The New Yorker</i> , April 18, 2016.

Session 8 Walking tour: American footprints in Barcelona.	Pells, Richard, <i>Modernist America: Art, Movies, Music, and the Globalization of American Culture</i> , New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011; chapter 3, “The Globalization of American Architecture”, pp. 64-84.
Session 9 The US and WWII in Europe: From Poland to Normandy (1939-1944)	Herring, George, <i>From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations since 1776</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 2008; chapter 12, “The Great Transformation: Depression, Isolationism and War, 1931—1941”, pp. 517-536.
Session 10 The US and WWII in Europe: From Normandy to Germany (1944-1945)	Stewart, Richard, <i>The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917-2003</i> , Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 2005, pp. 146-166.
Session 11 US responses to the Holocaust	Desch, Michael C., “The Myth of Abandonment: The Use and Abuse of the Holocaust Analogy”, <i>Security Studies</i> , 15:1, 2006, pp 106-132
Session 12 The bombing of Germany in WWII	Macintyre, Ben, “Above and Below”, <i>The New York Times</i> , March 21, 2014.
Session 13 Midterm exam	
Session 14 Europe in the aftermath of WWII	Judd, Tony, <i>Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945</i> , London: Pimlico; chapter 1, “The Legacy of War”, pp. 13-40. Pre-class viewing of Billy Wilder’s film <i>A Foreign Affair</i> (1948).
Session 15 The origins of the Cold War	Herring, George, <i>From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations since 1776</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 2008; chapter 14, “Truman, the Cold War and the Revolution in US Foreign Policy, 1945-1953”, pp. 596-626.

Session 16 From the Pax Americana to the Détente (1950-1979)	Ryan, David, <i>The United States and Europe in the Twentieth Century</i> , London: Pearson, 2003; chapter 5, "The United States and Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals?", pp 68-85.
Session 17 Renewal and end of the Cold War (1979-1991)	Herring, George, <i>From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations since 1776</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 2008; chapter 19 "A Unique and Extraordinary Moment" Gorbachev, Reagan, Bush, and the End of the Cold War, 1981–1991", pp. 661-871 and 893—916.
Session 18 US military presence in Spain from Franco's Dictatorship to the present	Chislett, William, <i>Spain and the United States: the quest for mutual rediscovery</i> , Madrid: Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estrategicos, 2005; chapter I, "Overview", pp 11-45.
Session 19 Walking tour: Traces of the Sixth Fleet	Graupera, J. (2013). "Under the New Yorker Magnifying Glass", <i>Barcelona Metròpolis</i> , 87, pp. 70-76.
Session 20 From the New World Order to the War on Terror (1993- 2003)	Judt, Tony, <i>Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945</i> , London: Pimlico; chapter 21, "The Reckoning", pp. 665—685.
Session 21 Presentation of the research papers	
Session 22 The US and the Russian-Ukrainian War	Mankoff, Jeffrey, "Russia's War in Ukraine: Identity, History and Conflict", <i>Center for Strategic and International Studies</i> , April 2022.

Session 23 Guest speaker session with Professor Juan Pablo Soriano on “Status and prospects of the US military involvement in Europe”	Harris, Peter, Iren Marinova and Gabriella Gricius, “War in Ukraine in a Polarised America”, <i>LSE Public Policy Review</i> , vol. 3, issue 1, 2023.
Session 24 Sum up session	

Required readings:

- Balfour, Sebastian, “Spain from 1931 to Present”, in R. Carr, *Spain: A History*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 253-264.
- Chislett, William, *Spain and the United States: the quest for mutual rediscovery*, Madrid: Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estrategicos, 2005; chapter I, “Overview”, pp 11-45
- Crain, C. (2016). “Lost Illusions: The Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War”, *The New Yorker*, April 18, 2016, [16 pages].
- Desch, M. C. (2006). The myth of abandonment: The use and abuse of the Holocaust analogy”. *Security Studies*, 15(1), 106- 145.
- Graupera, J. (2013). “Under the New Yorker Magnifying Glass”, *Barcelona Metròpolis*, 87, pp. 70-76.
- Harris, Peter, Iren Marinova and Gabriella Gricius, (2023). “War in Ukraine in a Polarised America”, *LSE Public Policy Review*, vol. 3, issue 1.
- Herring, G. (2008). *From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations since 1776*, New York: Oxford University Press; chapter 8, “The War of 1989, the New Empire and the Dawn of the American Century, 1893-1901”, pp. 299-329, chapter 12, “The Great Transformation: Depression, Isolationism and War, 1931—1941”, pp. 517-536, chapter 14, “Truman, the Cold War and the Revolution in US Foreign Policy, 1945-1953”, pp. 596-626, and chapter 19 “A Unique and Extraordinary Moment” Gorbachev, Reagan, Bush, and the End of the Cold War, 1981–1991”, pp. 661-871 and 893—916.
- Judt, T. (2007). *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945* (London: Pimlico); chapter 1, “The Legacy of War”, pp. 13-40, and chapter 21, “The Reckoning”, pp. 665—685.
- Keene, J. (2020). “The United States in the First World War, in John Horne (ed.), *A Companion to the First World War*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, pp 508-523.
- Macintyre, B., “Above and Below”, *The New York Times*, March 21, 2014.
- Mankoff, J. (April 2022). “Russia’s War in Ukraine: Identity, History and Conflict”, *Center for Strategic and International Studies*.
- Pells, R. (2011). *Modernist America: Art, Movies, Music, and the Globalization of American Culture*, New Haven: Yale University Press; chapter 3, The Globalization of American Architecture, pp. 64- 84.
- Ryan, D. (2003). *The United States and Europe in the Twentieth Century*, London: Pearson; chapter 5, “The United States and Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals”, pp 68-85.
- Schmitz, D. F. (1999). *Thank God They’re on Our Side: The United States and Right-Wing Dictatorships, 1921-1965*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press; chapter 3, “From Accommodation to Appeasement to War”, ps. 85-113.
- Stewart, R. (2005). *The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917-2003*, Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., pp. 27-54 and 146-166.

RECOMMENDED READINGS (AVAILABLE AT THE IES ABROAD BARCELONA LIBRARY):

- Carroll, P., and Fernandez, J. (eds.). (2007). *Facing Fascism: New York and the Spanish Civil War*. NYU Press.
- De Grazia, V. (2005), *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through 20th-Century Europe*, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2005
- Hobsbawm, E. (1995). *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914—1991*, New York: Knopf Doubleday.



- Hochschild, A. (2016), *Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Hook, S. W. and J. Spanier (2013). *American Foreign Policy since World War II*, Los Angeles: Sage.
- Kroes, R. (1996). *If You've Seen One, You've Seen the Mall: Europeans and American Mass Culture*, Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Mazower, M., (1998). *Dark Continent*, London: Allan Lane.
- Moore, L. R. (ed.) (2003). *The American Century in Europe*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 - Powell, C. (2007), “The United States and Spain: from Franco to Juan Carlos”, in Nigel Townson (ed.), *Spain Transformed: the late Franco dictatorship, 1959-75*, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, pp 227-247
- Schmitz, D. F. (2006). *The United States and Right-Wing Dictatorships, 1965-1989*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Scott, J. M. and Rosati, J. A. (2020). *The politics of United States foreign policy*, Los Angeles: CQ Press.
- Westad, O. A. (2017). *The Cold War: A World History*, New York: Basic Books.