HS/IR 317 THE AMERICAN CENTURY: US POLICY IN WESTERN EUROPE
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION: This course addresses the main themes, issues and controversies in US policy in Western Europe during the period known as the American Century, from the Second World War to the present. The course will provide students with an understanding of how American governments have viewed their role in Western Europe during this period, the institutions and practices –both overt and covert- that they have developed to secure that role, and the responses that such policies have received from European governments. Students will explore the political ties between the United States and Europe, with a specific focus on Spain, and will be introduced to the main theoretical approaches and scholarly debates in this field.

After a brief introduction to US relations with Europe pre-Second World war, the course will focus on topics including the Spanish Civil War and General Franco’s Dictatorship, the rise of the US as an hegemonic power after 1945, the dynamics of the Cold War in Europe, the relationship between the US and the main European powers (France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy) and the role of the US in Europe after 9/11.

In addition to analyzing the design and execution of US policies in Europe, we will examine how US cultural diplomacy has contributed to the establishment of American cultural values and patterns in Europe. The course will also offer insight into the present status and future perspectives of US-European relations.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- **Course related trips**: The course includes two walking tours related to two different aspects of the American presence in Barcelona: the American influence in Barcelona’s architecture and public space in the 20th Century, and the presence of the US Sixth Fleet 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 class too.
- **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. This is a sample of the materials that will be presented in class:
  - President Wilson, The Fourteen Points, 1918
  - President Roosevelt, The Four Freedoms, 1941
  - Declaration on Liberated Europe, Yalta Conference, 1945
  - George Kennan, The Long Telegram, 1946
  - Winston Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech, 1946
  - The Truman Doctrine, 1947
  - The Marshall Plan, 1947
  - President Kennedy’s speech on the Berlin Crisis, 1961
  - Charles De Gaulle, Europe and Its Role in World Affairs, 1964
  - Transatlantic Declaration on the EC-US Relations, 1990
- President G.W. Bush's West Point Commencement Speech, 2003

These are documents specifically related to Spain:
- Reports by the US Ambassador in Spain on the proclamation of the Spanish Republic, 1931
- Letters from the US Consulate in Barcelona, 1936
- Letters from the US volunteers fighting in the Spanish Civil War, 1937-1938
- Drumbeat Report on the strategic importance of Spain, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1947
- Pact of Madrid between Spain and the United States, 1953
- Toasts of the President Nixon and Prince Juan Carlos of Spain, 1971
- "After Franco: Hope and Fear", Time, 3 November, 1975
- Pact of Friendship and Cooperation between the United States and Spain, 1976

- **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 screened before 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 to be completed on Moodle before class.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

1. **Class participation** (10% of the final grade). All students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings, course issues and questions posed by the instructor.

2. **Homework** (15%). Homework includes the following assignments: summaries of required readings, short reports of the course-related trips, a questionnaire related to the film viewing, two short presentations of specific topics and a draft of the research paper.

3. **Term paper** (30%). Students will write a 2500-word analytical paper on a specific aspect of US-European relations during the Cold War (1945-1991). The instructor will have two one-to-one meetings with each student to discuss the topic, the angle and the organization of his/her paper. Students will have to cite at least eight different sources (either books or articles) in their papers. They will have access to the collection of books on US-European relations available at the IES Abroad library as well as the online journal stores EBSCO and JSTOR. Throughout the process of researching and writing, students will be asked to evaluate the papers of their classmates and offer them advice.

4. **Oral presentation** (5%). Students will give a short talk on the main points of their research papers.

5. **Midterm exam** (20%). This exam will include essay questions and short answer questions.

6. **Final exam** (20%). This exam will have the same format as the midterm exam.

Throughout the course the instructor will regularly give feedback to the students about their learning process. This will be done in the classroom, either orally or through comments written in their short assignments and exams.

**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:**

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses
more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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### Session 22

**US-European relations under Obama**


### Session 23

**Debate on: “The transatlantic relations in the 21st century” Guest speaker: Esther Barbé (Professor of International Relations at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Research Program Coordinator at Institut Barcelona de Relacions Internacionals)**

### Session 24

**US relations with post-Francoist Spain (1978-present)**


### Final Exam

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- 70-76


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

• McKay, George (ed.), *Yankee Go Home (& Take Me With U): Americanization and Popular Culture*.
• Melling, Phil and Jon Roper (eds.), *Americanization and the Transformation of World Cultures*, Lampeter: Edwin Mellen Press, 1996.