HIS321G History of Transatlantic Relations

Course Description

The course will trace the origins and evolution of the transatlantic relationship between the United States and Europe from the colonization of the New World, i.e. the early 17th century, until 1989, i.e. the fall of communism. While the focus will be on major power relations, conflict and diplomacy, given the position of the course within the international affairs major, other key related domains will also be explored, when of special relevance. Such domains will include, i.a., immigration, economic relations, and to a lesser degree cultural relations. Issues of national identity and perception will also be discussed, using case studies to explore how Americans have been perceived by Europeans over time, and how they have perceived Europeans – perceptions, clearly, have also contributed to transatlantic dialogue and relations. Lectures complement readings, focus on individual aspects of special interest or offer alternative interpretations, and expose students to key issues of scholarly debate. Written assignments include a written analysis and PPT presentation of a primary source (“Documents of Transatlantic Relations”); and a biographical paper and PPT presentation (“Actors of Transatlantic Relations”). These will apply and reinforce methods and skills first learned in HIS101P and practiced at the 200-level. Presentations will be given in two-student teams. Topics are listed below for each week of term and must be chosen by the end of week two. A mid-term and final examination will be given.

Textbook


Additional readings (primary sources, on-line)

Additional case study readings (articles)

Topics (by semester week)
1. Course introduction
   a. Syllabus
   b. Choice of paper topics and presentations
   c. Lecture: What are transatlantic relations? Scope of course

2. Colonization of America (Carnes 1-2)
   a. English
   b. Spanish, French, Dutch

3. America in the British Empire – The American Revolution (Carnes 3-4)
a. Political and economic relations between colonies and mother country
b. American foreign policy under the Articles of Confederation (Netherlands, France)
c. Treaty of Paris

4. Foreign Policy of the Young Republic from Washington to Jefferson (Carnes 5-6)
a. Proclamation of Neutrality and Farewell Address
b. Pinckney’s Treaty
c. Jay’s Treaty
d. XYZ Affair
e. Quasi-War with France
f. Treaty of Môrtefontaine
g. Jefferson’s First Inaugural
h. Louisiana Purchase

5. Foreign Policy of the Young Republic from Madison to Monroe (Carnes 7)
a. War of 1812 – Treaty of Ghent
b. Anglo-American Rapprochement – Rush-Bagot Agreement
c. Transcontinental Treaty
d. Monroe Doctrine

6. Union and Confederate Foreign Policy during the Civil War (Carnes 14)
a. Britain
b. France
c. Postscript: U.S. Policy and Napoleon III in Mexico

7. Midterm

8. American Post-Civil War Imperialism (Carnes 22)
a. Isolationism or Imperialism? The debate
b. Treaty of Washington
c. Spanish-American War
d. Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine
e. Clayton-Bulwer Treaty and Pauncefote-Hay Pact

9. Immigration and Mentality: Independence through World War I
a. Main phases of immigration, countries of origin, push-pull factors
b. European perceptions of America; American perceptions of Europe

10. America and World War I (Carnes 23)
a. Wilsonian Diplomacy
b. Freedom of the Seas
c. “He Kept Us Out of War”
d. “Peace Without Victory”
e. American Expeditionary Force
f. “Fourteen Points”
g. Versailles and League of Nations

11. America During the Interbellum (Carnes 25)
a. Five-Power Treaty
b. Four-Power Treaty
c. Nine-Power Treaty
d. Kellogg-Briand Pact
e. Dawes Plan
f. Young Plan
g. FDR’s Isolationism (Neutrality Acts)
h. FDR’s engagement (Lend-Lease)

12. America and World War II in Europe (Carnes 27)
a. US entry into war
b. US war effort in Europe
c. Europe first and unconditional surrender policies
d. The war conferences

13. The Cold War I: Truman to Eisenhower (Carnes 28)
a. Potsdam Conference
b. Policy Towards Germany
c. Truman Doctrine and Containment
d. Foundation of NATO
e. Marshall Plan

14. The Cold War II: JFK to Reagan (Carnes 29-30)
a. JFK in Berlin
b. Cuban Missile Crisis
c. Détente, SALT talks
d. NATO Dual Track: Pershings and Disarmament
e. Reagan and Gorbachev