Has the United States created an “empire for liberty” as Thomas Jefferson hoped? Is the US an “exceptional” global hegemon? Can the US fairly be called an empire at all? What accounts for the rise of US world power? This course provides ways to answer these questions by exploring the US’ dramatic leap to preeminence and the nature of its global order. It introduces students to primary sources and competing interpretations of momentous events in US foreign relations since the closing of the western frontier including: wars fought around the world, covert operations to control foreign governments, efforts to organize the world economy, and the spread of US political and cultural influence.

Instructions and due dates for the assignments will be given in class and on Sakai. Assignment due dates are indicated on the syllabus. Assignments turned in late will be docked 1 full grade for each day they are late. Attendance and participation in class is required and is part of your grade. Do not plagiarize— you will fail the class.

Class Participation and attendance 10%
Group Project presentation 10%
Mid term (Prompt provided by instructor) 25%
1500 Word (5-7 page) Paper on one reading assignments 25%
Final Presentation and 1000 Word (3-4page) précis 25%
Attendance at outside events (Attendance and paragraph) 5%

The Writing Center provides Pomona students and 5C students in Pomona courses a community of experienced readers and writers, offering free, one-on-one consultations at any stage of the writing process—from brainstorming ideas to fine-tuning a draft. Consultations are available by appointment, which students can make online at writing.pomona.edu. The Writing Center also offers drop-in hours Sundays through Thursdays from 8-10pm.

To request academic accommodations due to a disability please contact http://www.pomona.edu/administration/dean-of-students/disability-accommodations/
If you attend another Claremont College, please contact your home college’s disability officer.

Policy on electronic devices: Please turn off cellular phones as well as other electronic devices, including laptop computers or recorders before entering class. If you need an accommodation for this policy, please contact me.

Books and other Required Readings:
The required books are available for purchase at the bookstore. They are also on reserve at Honnold-Mudd reserve desk and in the History Department Library. Additional readings will be on Sakai.

- Greg Grandin, Empire’s Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism
- Hunt, M. H., & Levine, S. I. Arc of Empire: America’s wars in Asia from the Philippines to Vietnam
- Emily Rosenberg, Financial Missionaries to the World: The Politics and Culture of Dollar Diplomacy, 1900–1930
- Andrew Bacvevich, American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy
- Victoria de Grazia, Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through Twentieth-Century Europe
## Weekly Assignments

### Section 1: The New Empire

#### Week 1: 8/30, 9/1: US Empire and World Empires

**Readings:** Bacevich Ch. 1; Hunt & Levine, Intro.; de Grazia, Intro.; On Sakai: Williams, “Empire as a Way of Life”; Ferguson, “Empire in Denial”

#### Week 2: 9/6, 9/8: Questions of Empire

**Readings:** Bacevich Ch. 1; Hunt & Levine, Intro.; de Grazia, Intro.; On Sakai: Williams, “Empire as a Way of Life”; Ferguson, “Empire in Denial”

#### Week 3: 9/13, 9/15: Imperial Thought and Practice in the 19th Century

**Group presentations on a primary document Tuesday**

**Readings:** On Sakai: Primary Documents;

#### Week 4: 9/20, 9/22: The New Empire


**Readings:** On Sakai: Hixon,” War and Disillusion;” Primary documents

#### Week 6: 10/4, 10/6 Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy/Nicaragua/DR

**Readings:** Rosenberg, all.

### Section 2: World Power

#### Week 7: 10/11, 10/13: World War II

**Mid Term, Thursday 10/13**

**Readings:** Hunt Levine Ch 2; On Sakai: Geir Lundestad, from *Empire by Invitation*

10/18: Fall Break

#### Week 8: 10/20: Cold War/Korea

**Readings:** Hunt & Levine Ch. 3; de Grazia, ch. 7-8

#### Week 9: 10/25, 10/27: Vietnam

**Readings:** Hunt and Levine, Ch 4 & 5. Film: "The Fog of War;"

#### Week 10: 11/1, 11/3: The New Interventionism

**Readings:** Grandin, all.

### Section 3: The Superpower’s Globe

#### Week 11: 11/8, 11/10: Capitalism Triumphant

**Readings:** de Grazia Ch. 9. On Sakai: Harvey, From *The Triumph of Neoliberalism*

#### Week 12: 11/15, 11/17: The New World Order

**Paper due Thursday 11/17 in class**

**Readings:** Bacevich, Ch2-6

#### Week 13: 11/22, 11/24 No class meetings: Remember who was here before

#### Week 14: 11/29, 12/1: The New Warfare State

**Readings:** Bacevich, Ch 7-9; On Sakai: Primary documents

#### Week 15: 11/29, 12/1 Obama's World

**Final Presentations**

#### Week 16: 12/6 Futures

**Final Presentations**

Final Précis Due Friday 12/9 at 5pm via email