

**Prof. David B.H. Denoon**

**Fall 2008  
V53.0796**

**Office Hours:**

**Rm 324, 19 West 4<sup>th</sup> St.**

**MON: 2:00 - 3:00**

**WED: 4:30 - 6:00**

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### **IR HONORS SEMINAR: AMERICAN EMPIRE?**

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad survey of the debate about American power and influence in international affairs, and to provide sufficient background for students to do a major research paper on the topic. Some view the American role today as creating an empire, while others view U.S. influence as just a reflection of the wealth and military might that Americans command. There are many other thoughtful perspectives as well.

In this seminar, there is a substantial amount of reading necessary; and, since much of this is in recent articles, there is no single text for the course. The course will be taught, to the maximum extent possible, in seminar fashion, so you must do the reading before coming to class. We will be covering a broad range of controversial topics which involve a combination of factual and ideological questions. There are also obvious moral considerations in many of the topics. This course will not focus on any one perspective and the seminar is designed to encourage a lively interchange of views.

This is an advanced, honors course designed to help students do research. In the major paper, each student will be expected to explore a theoretical issue, develop a testable hypothesis, and decide what kinds of evidence and methods to use in evaluating the proposition. For many, the course can be an early effort at preparing for the Senior Thesis. The seminar will be limited to 20 students who have a GPA of 3.65 or better.

#### **Requirements:**

- A) Reading: Assignments are on the attached list.
- B) Short Paper: A five-page paper will be due Sept. 29. This paper is to explore potential topics for the major paper.
- C) Major Paper: A 20-25 page paper will be due **December 8**.
- D) Exam: There will be a Mid-Term Exam on October 20 but no Final Exam.
- E) Class Participation: Each student will be expected to make presentations on assigned reading and participate fully in class discussion.
- F) Grading: Short paper 5%, Class discussion 20%, Mid-Term Exam 25%, Final Paper 50%

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**What is an Empire?**

1. Different Types of Empires:

Sept. 08

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| J. Fairbank | <u>The Chinese World Order</u> , 1-14   |
| N. Ferguson | <u>Empire: The Rise &amp; Demise of the British World Order</u><br>Chpts. 1,6, Conclusion |
| P. Kennedy  | <u>The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers</u> , Chpts. 1,2                                 |
| H. James    | <u>The Roman Predicament</u> , 1-38   |

2. U.S. Behavior as an Empire:

Sept. 15

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| C. Krauthammer  | "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," <u>National Interest</u> ,<br>Winter 2002/03, 5-17 |
| N. Barma et.al. | "A World Without the West," <u>National Interest</u> , July/<br>August 2007, 23-30  |
| F. Zakaria      | "The Future of American Power," <u>Foreign Affairs</u> , May/<br>June 2008          |
| S. Hersh        | "The Gray Zone," <u>The New Yorker</u> , May 24, 2004, 38-44                        |

3. 1790-1865: The U.S. Vulnerable to Other Empires:

Sept. 22

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| D. Merrill and<br>T. Paterson | <u>Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Vol. 1</u><br>Chapt. 3 "The Great Debate of the 1790s" (6 <sup>th</sup> ed.)<br>Chapt. 6 "The Monroe Doctrine"<br>Chapt. 8 "Manifest Destiny" |
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#### Four Opportunities for Empire: What Changed After 1991?

4. 1898:

Sept. 29

Merrill & Paterson

Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Vol. 1

Chapt. 11 "Becoming a World Power"

Chapt. 12 "The Spanish American War"

Chapt. 13 "The Open Door Policy to China"

5. 1919:

Oct. 06

M. Macmillan

Paris - 1919, Chapt. 1,2,4,6,30

Merrill & Paterson

Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Vol. 2

Chapt. 2 "W. Wilson & the League of Nations"

Chapt. 3 "The 1920s"

6. 1945:

Oct. 13 (Holiday: No Class)

S. Hook & J. Spanier

American Foreign Policy Since World War II,  
Chapt. 2,3

G. Kennan

"The Sources of Soviet Conduct," Foreign Affairs,  
(The "X" Article), July 1947, Vol. XXV, No. 4

7. Mid-Term Exam

Oct. 20

8. Post-1991:

Oct. 27

S. Hook and J. Spanier

American Foreign Policy Since World War II  
(2007 edition), Chapt. 9-14

A. Bacevich

American Empire, Chapt. 5,6

P. Zelikow

"The Transformation of National Security,"  
National Interest, Spring 2003, 17-28

H. Blix

"Inspections or Invasions?" Chapt. 10 in Lessons  
From Iraq, M. Pemberton & W. Hartung, eds.

**American Dominance:**9. Cultural:  
Nov. 03

J. Nye "Recovering American Leadership," Survival, Feb./  
March 2008, 53-68

R. Lieber "Falling Upwards: Declinism..," World Affairs,  
Summer 2008

S. Huntington "The Hispanic Challenge," Foreign Policy,  
March / April 2004, 30-45

10. Diplomatic:  
Nov. 10

S. Telhami "America in Arab Eyes," Survival, Spring 2007, 107-122

G. Kemp "Our Imaginary Foe," National Interest, May / June  
2008, 30-35

11. Economic:  
Nov. 17

P. Peterson "Riding for a Fall," Foreign Affairs, Sept./Oct. 2004, 111-125

D. Denoon The Economic and Strategic Rise of China and India,  
Chapts. 1,5,6

G. Hufbauer & J. Stiglitz "Free Trade vs. Fair Trade," National Interest, May /  
June 2008, 15-45`

12. Military:  
Nov. 24

B. Posen "Command of the Commons," International Security,  
Summer 2003, Vol. 28, No. 1, 5-46

D. Hendrickson & R. Tucker "Revisions in Need of Revising: What Went Wrong in the  
Iraq War," Survival, Summer 2005, 7-32

R. Betts "A Disciplined Defense," Foreign Affairs, November /  
December 2007

13. 14. Presentation of Papers:  
Dec. 1, 8