

HIS 404H1F/USA400H1-F

Choosing War: U.S. Experiences, 1812-2003

September-December 2017

Instructor:

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(Note: I will attempt to respond to e-mails within 48 hours, but weekends, holidays, and other schedule pressures may not always make this possible.)

Office hours:

Thursday 11-12 and by appointment.

Course description: The United States has gone to war regularly over the past two centuries and this course will consider how decisions to do so have changed -- or not changed -- over time. Key case studies will include the War of 1812, the Mexican War (1846-48), the Spanish-American-Cuban War (1898), World War I (1917-18), World War II (1941-45), the Korean War (1950-53), Vietnam (1954-73), and Iraq and Afghanistan in the early 21st century.

Grading Scheme:

- a. seminar participation (attendance, preparation of reading assignments, participation in discussions) – 40%
- b. a one-hour in-class test (October)– 20%;
- c. a 4000-word essay due on the last day of class – 40%.

(This course will use the Turnitin.com system for submission of essays – available on the Blackboard course website. As you may know from other courses, this is a system that allows for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism.

In using Turnitin.com, students are allowing their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Students who opt out of using Turnitin.com<<http://Turnitin.com>> are required to submit all of their research [rough notes, highlighted journal articles, photocopies / screenshots of book pages] and writing drafts. This is not intended as a deterrent but rather as an alternative means of assessing originality.)

Initial assignments for required reading and weekly meetings:

Week of

September 12: Introduction

September 19: William Earl Weeks, The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations, Volume 1: Dimensions of the Early American Empire, 1754-1965, Chapters 3-4. (This is an electronic resource of the University of Toronto library system, accessible on line.)

Website Reading # 1

September 26: Weeks, Chapters 6-7

Website Reading #2 (Michael Hunt, Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009 updated version), Chapter 2: Visions of National Greatness.

October 3: Walter LaFeber, The New Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations, Volume 2: The American Search for Opportunity, 1865-1913, Chapters 6-7. (This is an electronic resource of the University of Toronto library system, accessible on line.)

Website Reading #3 (current opinion pieces and news stories)

Academic Integrity:

The Department of History considers plagiarism to be “a gross form of cheating [that] can result in severe penalties under the University of Toronto’s code of Academic Behaviour.” The Department website makes “How Not to Plagiarize” available as a useful guide to avoid plagiarism (<http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/>). For further information on all issues dealing with academic integrity, including plagiarism, consult the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (on the Faculty of Arts & Science website).

Accessibility Services

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. Please feel free to approach me or Accessibility Services so we can assist you in achieving academic success in this course.