

Spring Semester, 2014
Prof. Hoff

American Thought and Culture 412
American Values and U.S. Foreign Policy

Required Texts:

William O. Walker III, *National Security and Core Values in American History* (2009)

Joan Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy: From Woodrow Wilson to George W. Bush* (2008)

Godfrey Hodgson, *The Myth of American Exceptionalism* (2009)

Norman Solomon, *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death* (2005)

Office Hours: 1-3 on Thursday in Wilson 2-163 or by appointment. **Office phone:** 994-5204

E-mail address: joanhoff1@aol.com **BE SURE TO PUT THE "1" AFTER MY NAME**

January 9 — Syllabus – ALWAYS BRING SELECTED BOOKS AND HANDOUTS TO CLASS FOR DISCUSSIONS

Lecture: Trends in the historiography of U.S. foreign policy

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 1-10; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, pp. 1-21; Hodgson, *Myth of American Exceptionalism*, pp. 1-21

January 16 – Lecture: Trends in the historiography of U.S. foreign policy

DISCUSSION OF THREE BOOK ASSIGNMENTS (how do these three revisionist books differ in their evaluation of early American foreign policy)

Write a two-to three--page, double spaced paper comparing and contrasting these readings in these three books with respect to the meaning of the quotation "a city upon a hill" and its relationship to the concept of American exceptionalism.

January 23 – NO CLASS -- EMAIL YOUR PAPERS TO ME USING Rich Text Format (RTF) BY JANUARY 23

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 13-44; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, pp. 22-35; Hodgson, *Myth of American Exceptionalism*, pp. 21-61

January 30 – DISCUSSION OF YOUR PAPERS AND WALKER AND HODGSON (about how economics and culture affected U.S. foreign policy in the 19th century)

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 45-63; Hodgson, *Myth of American Exceptionalism*, pp. 62-83

February 6 – DISCUSSION OF WALKER AND HODGSON BOOKS (about values and foreign policy from the 1890s to World War I)

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 63-85; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, pp. 35-67

February 13 – DISCUSSION OF WALKER AND HOFF BOOKS (about Wilson's foreign policy and American values)

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 85-120; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, pp. 68-87

February 20 – LECTURE: Characteristics of the modern American presidency
DISCUSSION OF WALKER AND HOFF BOOKS (about how economics and values affected U.S. foreign policy between the First and Second World Wars– reflecting Wilson’s legacy)

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 120-157 ; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, 87-111; Hodgson, *Myth of American Exceptionalism*, pp.83-98

February 27 – DISCUSSION OF WALKER, HOFF, AND HODGSON BOOKS (about U.S. Cold War foreign policy in the 1950s and 1960s)

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 157-202; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, pp. 112-133; Hodgson, *Myth of American Exceptionalism*, pp. 99-112

March 6 – DISCUSSION OF WALKER, HOFF, AND HODGSON BOOKS (about U.S. foreign policy in the 1970s with special emphasis on Nixon and Reagan)

HANDOUT: copy of Eisenhower’s farewell address

MOVIE: “Why We Fight” **TAKE NOTES AS YOU WATCH THIS FILM**

Write a three-to four-page evaluating this documentary given the emphasis it places on the Eisenhower’s farewell address. Is this argument convincing for understanding the economic aspects of U.S. foreign policy since the 1950s? What are some of the other ideas in this film?

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp. 203-256; Hoff, *Faustian Foreign Policy*, pp. 134-155

March 13 – NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

EMAIL YOUR PAPERS TO ME USING Rich Text Format (RTF) BY MARCH 17

March 20 – DISCUSSION OF YOUR PAPERS WALKER AND HOFF BOOKS (on the foreign policy of George H. W. Bush and Clinton from readings assigned on March 6)

BOOKS: Walker, *National Security*, pp.239-308; Hodgson, *Myth of American Exceptionalism*, pp. 129-190

March 27 – DISCUSSION OF WALKER AND HODGSON BOOKS (on contemporary significance of American exceptionalism and values in U.S. foreign policy)

BOOK: Solomon, *War Made Easy*, pp. 1-132

MOVIE: “Fog of War”

HANDOUT: Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, pp. 257-273; style sheet on footnotes

April 2 – DISCUSSION OF FOOTNOTES, SOLOMON BOOK, AND “FOG OF WAR”

BOOK: Solomon, 133-236

MOVIE: “The Unknown Known”

TOPIC ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR FINAL PAPERS

April 9 -- Individual appointments between 1-2 p.m. in my office to discuss final paper topics
DISCUSSION OF SOLOMON BOOK AND “THE UNKNOWN KNOWN”

April 16– NO CLASS, Individual appointments between 1-3 p.m. in my office to discuss final paper topics

April 23 – NO CLASS – WORK ON FINAL PAPERS

April 24 – HAND IN FINAL PAPERS TO HISTORY OFFICE BY NOON