

# Seminar in U.S. History: American Empire

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

HIST 5370 || CRN: 35828 || W (5:00-7:50) || LART 106

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### Course Description:

This graduate research seminar focuses on the history of the American Empire and its top priority will be to help students hone their skills in research and writing. We will begin by discussing the challenges and strategies involved in conceptualizing a manageable seminar paper – one that is based on original primary source research and engaged with relevant historiographical debates. Thus, during the first few weeks of the semester, we will discuss potential topics and explore the subject's historiography. Then, once students have defined their topic, they will devote their time outside of class to intensive research and writing. The course requirements include regular attendance, active and informed participation in class discussions, and the completion of all steps required for an original research project. Ultimately, this seminar paper should function as an important step on the path toward your graduate degree.

### Readings:

- ~ Daniel Immerwahr, [\*How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States\*](#)
- ~ Chalmers Johnson, [\*Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire\*](#)
- ~ Kate Turabian, [\*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed.\*](#)
- ~ Anders Stephanson, [\*Manifest Destiny: American Expansion and the Empire of Right\*](#)

### Course Requirements:

- ~ Participation (10%): Students must attend and participate in class discussions as posted in the syllabus.
- ~ Potential Research Topics (5%): For this assignment each student will submit two potential research topics. Each topic should consist of a 1 paragraph typed description of the topic, the time period, approach (political, economic, comparative, cultural, racial, gendered, military, religious, intellectual, etc...), and the questions you seek to answer.
- ~ Research Proposal (10%): The proposal is a preliminary statement that defines the student's topic, attempts to identify a thesis, presents questions to be answered, and forecasts potential problems.
- ~ Annotated Bibliography (20%): The annotated bibliography will consist of a list of primary and secondary sources. It will also include an evaluative summary of each source and a description of how the source will be used.
- ~ Outline (10%): This assignment should clearly identify the major sections of the student's paper and include a brief statement of what purpose each section will serve in relation to their overall argument.
- ~ Rough Draft Peer Review (15%): Each student will read and critique a peer's rough draft. A rubric for constructive criticism will be provided.
- ~ Final Paper (30%): The final paper should be 20 pages in length and must include proper citations. It should also be grammatically correct, structurally sound, free of typos and other errors, and written in 12 pt. font with one inch margins.

Academic Dishonesty: The student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. The student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge another whenever he or she quotes another person's actual words; paraphrases another person's words; uses another person's ideas, opinion or theory; or borrows facts, statistics, or other material, unless the information is common knowledge. It is official UTEP policy that all suspected cases of plagiarism must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation.

Accessibility: If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

## Calendar and Assignments:

Week 1 (6/9 – LART 106)

- Course overview
- Stephanson, *Manifest Destiny*

Week 2 (6/16 – LART 106)

- Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire*
- **Potential Research Topics due**

Week 3 (6/23 – LART 106)

- Johnson, *Blowback*
- **Research Proposal due**

Week 4 (6/30)

- Independent Research & Writing
- **Annotated Bibliography due**

Week 5 (7/7)

- Independent Research & Writing

Week 6 (7/14)

- Independent Research & Writing
- **Outline due**

Week 7 (7/21)

- Independent Research & Writing
- Individual Consultations

Week 8 (7/28 – LART 106):

- **Peer Review**

Week 9 (8/3)

- **Final Paper due**

★The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.★