Fall 2019

HIST 390-003: Historical Problems through Film - U.S. Foreign Policy & Post-Code War Conflicts

Deborah Morrison-Santana

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hist-syllabi

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hist-syllabi/8

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the NJIT Syllabi at Digital Commons @ NJIT. It has been accepted for inclusion in History Syllabi by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ NJIT. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@njit.edu.
**Historical Problems through Film:**
**U.S. Foreign Policy & Post-Cold War Conflicts**
**Thursdays 2:30-5:20**
**CKB 314**

**Instructor:** D. Morrison-Santana

**Contact Information:** dmorriso@njit.edu or deborah.morrison@rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12-1pm Hill Hall 720 (RU-Newark Campus) or available upon request

**Description:**
Beginning in the 1990s, the world looked differently than it had during the previous forty years of the Cold War, specifically for American foreign policy. This course will examine conflicts in the post-Cold War era, beginning with the shift toward international humanitarianism in the early 90s (including the drastic failures of action and inaction) to 9/11 and its effects on conflict, and finally the Arab Spring protests and into the Trump Era. We will screen a number of films, documentaries, news clips, etc. that center around these conflicts and discuss their implications for the world in which we currently live.

**Course Goals:**
After completing this course, students should:
- Have an understanding of the shift in global conflicts since the end of the Cold War.
- Understand the changing nature of U.S. foreign policy since 9/11.
- Have experience discussing films in an academic context in discussion and writing.
- Be able to interpret film in its historical context.

**Readings:**
- All readings are available on Canvas. If you do not have access to the course, please contact tech support.

**Assignments:**
- **Participation** – In addition to watching different screenings, students are expected to be on time and actively participate in course discussions.
- **Film worksheets** – these are to be completed by Sunday following a Thursday film screening (via Canvas).
- **Reaction Papers** – There are 5 reaction papers due throughout the semester. A comprehensive rubric will be handed out and discussed in class.
- **Final Paper** – the prompt for the final paper will be given the second to last week of class and will be due two weeks later. It will be cumulative, incorporating all of the lectures, films, clips, etc. that we cover throughout the semester.

**Grading:**
- Participation (25%)
- Worksheets (25%)
- Reaction papers (25%)
- Final paper (25%)
COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Attendance** is mandatory for this course and will be taken each class. Missing classes without proper documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note) will affect your participation grade. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a fellow student on what you missed (do not email me asking what you missed) in addition to watching a film, documentary, or clips that were screened in that class. If you miss more than 3 classes (excused or unexcused), you will fail the course. Excessive lateness, routinely being on your phone, and/or falling asleep in class will also negatively affect this grade.

2. **No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). These devices are distracting not only to you, but to the rest of the class as well. If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day; if you are caught using it during a quiz or exam, it will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Continuous use of these technologies will result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day.

3. **Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an “F” for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code.

For more information, please consult NJIT Academic Integrity Policy available through the NJIT website.

4. Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.

5. **Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email (please allow me 24-hours to respond before sending another email. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

6. **Your grade is your responsibility and is non-negotiable.** If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester asking/begging for a better grade.

7. Please be **respectful** of everyone in the class, including me. If you are being disrespectful, you will be asked to leave.

8. All assignments must be completed specifically for this course. You cannot hand in something you used in another course.
## Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>Reading(s) Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TH 9/5</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 9/12</td>
<td>Gulf War (<em>Jarhead</em>)</td>
<td>George H.W. Bush's 1991 State of the Union Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 9/19</td>
<td>Humanitarian intervention in the early 1990s</td>
<td>&quot;Can Military Intervention Be 'Humanitarian'&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 9/26</td>
<td>Somalia (<em>Black Hawk Down</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;Operation Restore Hope&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 10/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 10/10</td>
<td>Ignoring Rwanda</td>
<td>Dallaire Chapter in <em>Hard Choices</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 10/17</td>
<td>Rwanda (<em>As We Forgive</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;The U.S. and the Genocide in Rwanda: Evidence of Inaction&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 10/24</td>
<td>Bosnia (<em>No Man's Land</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;CIA Intelligence Report - Bosnia: Serb Ethnic Cleansing&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 10/31</td>
<td>Afghanistan (<em>At Five in the Afternoon</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan&quot;; &quot;The Taliban in Afghanistan&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 11/7</td>
<td>September 11th</td>
<td>&quot;9/11 and American Foreign Policy&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 11/14</td>
<td>Iraq 2003 (<em>Ghosts of Abu Ghraib</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;From 'Shock and Awe' to 'Hearts and Minds'&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 11/21</td>
<td>Darfur (<em>The Devil Came on Horseback</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;The U.S. Investigation into the Darfur Crisis...&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T 11/26</td>
<td>Killing Osama Bin Laden (<em>Zero Dark Thirty</em>)</td>
<td>&quot;Getting Bin Laden&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 12/5</td>
<td>Arab Spring (<em>Tickling Giants - Egypt</em>)</td>
<td>Arab Spring Interactive Timeline (link on Moodle)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>