**HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prof. Benedetta Calandra**

**February-March 2025**

**CLASSES:**

**Monday (aula A seminario), 1-4 pm**

**Wednesday (aula 2 Tassis) 12-3 pm**

**Office hours: Wednesday, 3 pm-4 pm 309 Rosate or online**

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a187fd63d6b6d47c7af3b798642b80ae1%40thread.tacv2/Generale?groupId=3e6c027c-bbb3-46d8-a9ad-31a1ba259c25&tenantId=4f0132f7-dd79-424c-9089-b22764c40ebd

## Contents

The course will allow students to reflect on meaningful moments of U.S. history, starting from what has conventionally recognised by historians as the beginning of “the American century”: the Cuban-Spanish American war of 1898. Specific attention will be given to the expansion of U.S. culture on the international and transnational arena, also through e gendered perspective (as demonstrates, for instance, the case of the politics of reproduction in the island of Puero Rico).

A core topic, therefore, will be the role played by the United States in international affairs during the 20th century, with specific reference to Latin American countries, from Central America to Chile. This area will provide several case studies on hard and soft power, i.e. the use of coercion by the U.S. but also the attractiveness of its model of modernity and development.

The course, focused on the imperial dimension of U.S. power, will synthetically analyse some crucial issues of the international history of the United States and the economic, political and social factors that underlie and explain those relations. The course will be entirely in English.

## More information

The textbook for the course is Joshua Freeman, "American Empire. The Rise of A Global Power, The Democratic Revolution At Home, 1945-2000", The Penguin History of the United States (Series edited by Eric Foner) New York, 2013.

For class discussions and presentations, instead, if not proposing texts of their interest, students can choose one of these readings:

Thomas F. O'Brien, *Making the Americas : the United States and Latin America from the age of revolutions to the era of globalization* University of New Mexico press , 2007

Victoria De Grazia *, Irresistible empire : America's advance through twentieth-century Europe /* Harvard University press, 2006

Marco Mariano (ed), *Defining the Atlantic Community. Culture, Intellectuals, and Policies in the Mid-Twentieth Century,* Routledge, 2015.

Daniel Immerwahr . *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*, Starus and Giroux 2019.

A.G. Hopkins, *American Empire: A Global History*, Princeton University Press 2018.

David W. Ellwood *Una sfida per la modernità. Europa e America nel lungo Novecento* , Carocci, 2021.

Benedetta Calandra, *Il corpo del Caribe. Le politiche sulla riproduzione tra Puerto Rico e Stati Uniti (1898-1993)*. Ombe corte 2020.

Jennifer Nelson, Sterilization, birth control and abortion, “American Women’s history,”, 2020.

Johanna Schoen, Choice and coercion: women and the politics of sterilization in north caorlina, 1929-75, “Journal of Women’s history”, 2001.

**The course, February-March 2025: a tentative schedule**

**Week one- class 1 and 2**

*Monday, February 17* American Empire: introduction to the course. The Monroe Doctrine and its repercussions

*Wednesday, February 19* The beginning of “the American century”: the Cuban-Spanish- American war of 1898.

**Week 2 – class 3 and 4**

*Monday February 24*, U.S.-Caribbean Relations between Imperialism and Population control: the case of Puerto Rico.

*Wednesday, February 26,* The Great Depression and the Good Neighbour Policy

**Week 3- class 5 and 6**

*Monday March 3,* The ‘read scare’: mccarthyism, Guatemalan revolution and Operation Success.

*Wednesday, March 5*, The 1960s: the Peace Corps, the social movements and the Counterculture.

**Week 4- class 7 and 8**

*Monday March 10*, Guest lecture, *Women’s Sterilizations in Bolivia and the case of the Peace Corps*, prof. Molly Geidel, Dartmouth College.

*Wednesday March 12*, National Security Doctrine and the Condor Operation: the case of Chile and “the other America” with political refugees.

**Week 5 – class 9 and 10**

*Monday March 17*, Guest lecture, Doc. Marta Gara, *Between Hollywood and Capitol Hill: Jane Fonda’s activism in the late seventies,* Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Milan

*Wednesday March 19* in-class oral presentations

**Week 6, class 11 and 12**

*Monday, March 24* The wall between Mexico and the U.S.

*Wednesday, March 26* written test