

## The United States and Empire

050.300.01

TTH 4, 2:15-3:35, Art History 100

Instructor: Professor Louise Barnett

Ruth Adams Building 205C

Office hours: W, TH 9:30-11:30 and by appointment

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“We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality.”

Presidential aide, quoted by Ron Suskind in  
*The New York Times Magazine* (October, 2004)

Empires have always sought to create their own reality by imposing the rule of a dominant outside group on a subordinate colonial population. What made the anonymous aide’s comment instantly famous and widely quoted was the assumed opposition of empire to the history of the United States and the will of the American people. But empire can take many forms beyond the obvious one of occupying another country and exploiting it: this course will examine the relationship of the United States to various kinds of empire from the end of the nineteenth century to the present time. Our texts will be both fiction and non-fiction and will include two feature films.

### Texts:

The following paperbacks are required and have been ordered by the Co-op Bookstore.

William J. Lederer & Eugene Burdick, *The Ugly American*

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

Ward Just, *The Dangerous Friend*

Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*

Walter La Feber, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism, New and Expanded Edition*

### E-reserve:

Andrew J. Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy*, pp. 225-244 + notes

Peter W. Stanley, *Reappraising an Empire: New Perspectives on Philippine-American History*, pp. 117-141 + notes

Chalmers Johnson, *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*. pp. 3-33; 175-192; 34-64; 217-229

H. W. Brands, *Bound to Empire: The United States and the Philippines*, pp. v-x; 227-356 + notes

Sharon Delmendo, *The Star-Entangled Banner: One Hundred Years of America in The Philippines*: ch. 3, “Back to Bataan *Once More*,” pp. 86-114; Conclusion, “The Battleground of History: The Balangiga Bells,” pp. 168-198 + notes

## Requirements

You will be expected to bring the text under discussion to class and to participate in class discussion. There will be two five-page papers, a 10-12 page paper, and a final examination. Papers cannot be submitted by fax or e-mail. Students are expected to observe the University's policy on academic integrity at all times.

**\*\*Cell phones should be turned off during class.**

## Evaluation

Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Paper 3	30%
Exam	20%
Classwork	10%

## Tentative Schedule of Assignments

### General:

January 16	Introduction
18	<i>Blowback</i> , chs. 1, 10: 3-33, 216-229
23	<i>American Empire</i> , ch. 9: 225-244

### The Philippines:

25	<i>Reappraising an Empire</i> , ch. 5: 117-141
30	<i>Bound to Empire</i> , preface: v-x; ch. 12: 227-247; ch. 13: 248-264; ch. 14: pp. 265-278; ch. 15: 279-297
February 1	<i>Bound to Empire</i> , ch. 16: 298-318; ch. 17: 319-344; conclusion: 345-356
6	<i>The Star-Entangled Banner</i> , ch. 3: 86-114; film "Back to Bataan"
8	discussion of film & conclusion: 168-198; <b>first 5 page paper due</b>
13	<i>Dogeaters</i> , pp. 1-88
15	<i>Dogeaters</i> , pp. 89-168
20	<i>Dogeaters</i> , pp. 169-251

### Southeast Asia:

22	<i>Blowback</i> , ch. 2, Okinawa: 34-64
27	<i>Blowback</i> , ch. 8, Japan: 175-192
March 1, 6	<i>The Quiet American</i>
20, 22, 27	<i>The Ugly American</i> ; <b>second 5 page paper due</b>
29	<i>A Dangerous Friend</i>

April 3, 5  
10, 12

*A Dangerous Friend*  
*Michael Jordan and the new Global Capitalism*

The Middle East:

April 17, 19  
24, 26

film "Syriana" and discussion  
Iraq: readings to be assigned  
**final paper is due on April 26**

Final Examination:

May 8, 8-11