COURSE DETAIL

THE AMERICAN CENTURY AND THE MAKING OF A SUPERPOWER
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University
Program(s) Utrecht University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History
UCEAP Course Number 156
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE AMERICAN CENTURY AND THE MAKING OF A SUPERPOWER
UCEAP Transcript Title AMER CENT & SUPERPW
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the history of U.S. foreign relations, tracing the nation’s trajectory from its emergence as an imperial power in the late 19th century to its contemporary role on the global stage. Beginning with the concept of the "end of the Frontier" and the ideology of American Exceptionalism, the course examines the evolving role of the United States in the world, analyzing how it has shaped—and been shaped by—key political, geopolitical, cultural and economic transformations of the 20th and 21st centuries. Key themes include the increasing projection of American hard and soft power, the interplay between domestic politics and foreign policy, and the ideological and discursive practices underpinning U.S. global engagement. Special attention is given to how internal political changes, from evolving partisan dynamics to shifting public opinion and economic priorities, have influenced America’s global strategies. The course critically investigates pivotal moments such as the two World Wars, the Cold War, and the post-9/11 "War on Terror," providing a nuanced understanding of how a former colony transitioned from a regional actor to a superpower—and, for some, a global hegemon. Through lectures, discussions, and primary source analysis, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the forces that have shaped U.S. foreign relations and their implications for the broader international order.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
GE3V25003

Host Institution Course Title
THE AMERICAN CENTURY AND THE MAKING OF A SUPERPOWER

Host Institution Course Details
https://osiris-student.uu.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/cursus

Host Institution Campus
Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty Faculty of Humanities
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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