

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

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://osiris-student.uu.nl/onderwijs/catalogus/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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