

Critical Reading and Writing 111  
U.S. Foreign Policy: ideology and intervention

Section 3: T/Th. 9:30-10:45 in M-1-420 Instructor: Erin O'Brien

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Course Aerial View: Since 1893 the U.S. Government has militarily intervened in other nations' political life hundreds of times, and has conducted more successful regime overthrows in modern history than any other nation. (Kinzer, 2006) Ideologies (world views), such as Manifest Destiny, are key ingredients in the overthrow process.

What is a regime change? Why are they conducted? What are their consequences? What are ideologies? What roles do ideologies, like anti-communism, play in conducting regime changes? How does political rhetoric expose the nature and functions of ideologies? How might we critically apply a model of ideology-as-magical thinking and political rhetoric-as-magical storytelling to unpack the connections between worldviews and regime change?

These are the core questions we examine using the General Education Academic Capabilities: careful reading, critical thinking, clear writing, teamwork, information literacy/technology, speaking-listening and academic self assessment, along with supporting strategies. This course fosters your ability to "know what you know so you can show what you know" in light of college-level expectations.

Required Text:

Kinzer, Stephen. 2006. *Overthrow: America's century of regime change from Hawaii to Iraq*. NY: Times Books.

Homework: These essential tasks are designed to complete/contribute to in-class work and the formal assignments, so class time depends on homework! *If you do not finish an assignment on time, please still come to class and hand in ASAP!* I make every effort to avoid putting anyone on the spot, so do your best and bring what you have to class. *Because “stuff happens” and I don’t want to add to the stress of being in college,* I have a “*don’t ask, don’t tell*” policy for late work; don’t ask permission to hand it in late and don’t tell me why it is late! Just do it! As part of academic self-assessment, I expect you to keep track of when your assignments are handed in and returned! Remember: even if you don’t finish on time, still turn in a task and indicate you haven’t yet finished. I’ll return it with feedback. You can re-submit when you finish.

Grading: Value of Course Components: All ~~Graded~~ Aspects of the Course: Essay 1, Homework, Attendance/participation and IEssay II/Presentation are worth 25% each of your final grade. ~~In order to write your Final Exam, you must save all your work from this course! You must date and label everything!~~ Informal tasks receive check, check+ or check-

PC Lab sessions. Thursdays: Oct.6 - Nov.17 ONLY THESE DATES!  
in Purple Lab UL-0042

Peer Mentor: We have the privilege of a Peer Mentor to assist you in this course and for additional help navigating the UMB system. Peer Mentors are experienced students who are here for you!

Materials: print materials: \$5.00 ✓ portable storage; UMB library bar code. Green and yellow highlighters, 4x6 index cards, loose-leaf paper and a notebook with dividers for notes you keep for yourself. We’re using BlackBoard for course management, so be prepared to print materials.

**Academic Honesty** is essential to being a member of the academic community. Plagiarism,(even accidental), results in severe penalties, so don't even go there! See UMB Student Code of Conduct:  
<http://www.umb.edu/academics/undergraduate/office/students/CodeofStudentConduct.html>

Tutoring & Other University Support:

Free and outstanding individual tutoring is available at The Reading, Writing & Study Strategies Center & Subject Tutoring Program: Campus Ctr. 1<sup>st</sup> fl. Rm1300. Sign up early to ensure receiving a tutor!

University Health Services Quinn Admn. Building 2<sup>nd</sup> fl. Rm. 039 offers mental health services to UMass students, including stress management, relaxation and referrals. 617.287.5690

The Ross Center for Disability Services arranges accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The Center provides recommendation forms to apply for accommodations in your courses. You must present the recommendations within a reasonable time frame, preferably by the end of Add/Drop period. Contact the Ross Center at 617.287.7430 or in the Campus Ctr., Upper Level. Check out their web pages at umb.edu

Proposed Semester Agenda/Schedule (will change slightly)

Week 1

**9.6** Introductions/ A learning theory/Regime Change Prior Knowledge Inventories/ Careful reading: "Instances of US Forces Abroad"



read Syllabus/check out **BlackBoard**/

**9.8** Advising with Ana Ketler/Syllabus quiz journals Due




YouTube: Critical Thinking and choose 1:, Regime Change, **Manifest Destiny**/write up mini-Essay 1(based on research and inventories? Highlight pk and new?)

Week 2

**9.13** Discuss background **researchCT**/Syllabus journal Stephen Kinzer YouTube &amazon research /



~~Journal Kinzer~~: Stephen Kinzer YouTube & amazon research Discuss-Kinzer Overview /

Kinzer Preview/annotation strategies: Introduction & Ch. 14;  finish Kinzer previewing annotations: Intro, Ch. 14 & 9

Week 3

9.20 Annotate/discuss “Why We Fight” (Jarecki,2005.) 98 min

9.13 mEssay 1 Due



Annotate/ Background Research Film: Use IMDb, You Tube for *Why We Fight*

9.22 Annotate/discuss film.  preview: annotateDEJ K 4,9

Week 4

9.27 K 4,9 DEJ



9.29 preview: annotateDEJ K 4,9

Week 5

9.17 mEssay 2 due

10.4 Info Literacy prep



Info Literacy prep



Finish today’s work

no



10.6 Info lit w. Janet Dipaolo-H-4-CLI





Week 6

9.30 mEssay 4 Due


10.11 w. Janet Dipaolo-H-4-CLI




10.13  advising session2  midterm prep




Week 7 MID-SEMESTER !!

**10.18** Academic Self Assessment  Finish today's work

**10.20** Academic Self Assessment  finish today's work

Week 8: Midterm

**10.25** Academic Self Assessment/ /  finish Info Lit prep/ find CLI in Healey! ~~cont. from~~ class

**10.27**   ~~Info Literacy prep~~ PeerFeedback

Wk 9

**11.1** Essay II Conferences  Essay II planning

**11.3**  Info Lit Prep  Info Lit Prep/ Essay I planning

Week 10 WITHDRAWAL & PASS/FAIL DEADLINE

**11.8** InfoLit in Healey CLI  /finish Healey classwork

**11.10** InfoLit in Healey CLI Healey CLI  EssayI/finish Healey classwork

**11.11** Essay II draft

Week 11

**11.15** 

**11.17**   Essay

Week 12

**11.22** Conferences & Team Feedback

 Holiday

Week 13

**11.29** cia factbook: Magical vs Critical Thinking Roundtable

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12.1 ideology & Political Rhetoric journals Magical vs Critical Thinking Roundtable 

### Week 14

12.6 conferences/ Team Feedback

12.8 Essay 2 prep

<p>Last class ESSAY II DUE</p>
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1) 12.13 How can ordinary people like us engage in careful reading & critical thinking to make informed judgments about US foreign policies? How can we act on our knowledge?

Essay 2 due

What counts as a regime change? Fair elections? Civil war? Only outside intervention?

Hw and class participation

I'll ask you to share your hw results as a way to expand our knowledge and get a chance to critique the text, juxtapose our work to that of others

Divide readings

Apply major themes to all texts

Essay 2: either a regime/ideology big idea or content academic self assessment

Informal assignments, e.g. HW: check, +/-

Grade your own class participation

- 1) What constitutes a REGIME      What constitutes a REGIME      CHANGE?
- 2) Why do they occur (causes) How do RChanges occur? How are ideologies, e.g., manifest destiny/American Exceptionalism, blueprints, inspiration, mystification and justification and political rhetoric, to US RChanges? How usg get away with so many? eisenhower
- 3) What are ~~their~~ consequences for both the US and the country experiencing overthrow?
- 4) How do 'facts' and ideology work together to conjure magical thinking and storytelling? Eisenhower/rumsfeld cia factbk
- 5) How can ordinary people like us engage in careful reading & critical thinking to make informed judgments about US foreign policies? How can we act on our knowledge?
- 6) Some of your responses will form the context/background of your Essays, while others will help you form a thesis/theory of US RChange