

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Johns Hopkins University
Introduction to the History of American Diplomacy**

Course Syllabus

Course Lecturer: Charles Ray

Email Address: charlesray.author@gmail.com

Class Hours and Location: Check schedule for your campus
Normally scheduled from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

A. Description

This course is a brief introduction to the history of American diplomacy from the founding of the republic to the present day, with an emphasis on the cultural and historical underpinnings of America's diplomatic service. It will be presented in six 2-hour sessions in the form of lecture with question and answer session. There are no reading assignments for this course.

B. Course Topics/Sessions

1. Course introduction. American diplomacy in the pre-independence period to the colonial victory at Yorktown in 1781.
2. Independence – the early years. Diplomacy from 1783 to 1812. Attempts to avoid foreign entanglements.
3. Diplomacy from the War of 1812 to 1860. Emphasis on the Monroe Doctrine and the wars with Mexico.
4. The Civil War (1860-1865). Keeping the Union together.
5. Coming of Age. American diplomacy from 1866 until the fall of the Soviet Union.
6. The 21st Century and beyond. Diplomatic challenges in the post-Cold War era.

C. Class Participation

This is a non-credit course with no reading assignments. Normally, there will be lecture from 1:00 to 2:00, and a break from 2:00 to 2:15. From 2:15 to 3:00 there will be a question and answer period. Students are encouraged to make note of questions during the lecture.