

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class covers contemporary American foreign policy. We will we will examine US Foreign Policy in terms of its theoretical paradigms, historical precedents, decision-making processes, and current issues. Over the course of the quarter, we will discuss American power, the goals for which this power is employed, and the United States' effectiveness at achieving these goals. The objective of this course is to give students the intellectual tools required to comprehend world affairs – particularly US foreign policy – in a sophisticated manner. As such, we will work to bridge the gap between the academic literature and the real world. By the end of the course, students should be able to (1) employ basic concepts in International Relations to analyze US foreign policy and (2) become critical consumers of policy and journalistic writing on the subject. Students are therefore expected to stay current with foreign policy developments by reading a major newspaper on a daily basis.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- **Class participation (20%):** You should complete the assigned readings and actively participate in class discussion. This portion of your grade is based on both quantity (how often you discuss the readings, ask questions, etc.) and quality (comments based on a careful reading of the material vs. unsubstantiated opinions).
- **Critical Response Assignments (20%):** You will compose 4 *brief* response papers, in which you will select and briefly explain a particular concept/phrase/word from the readings, analyze what this illuminates about an aspect of the overall argument, and raises a question or concern about it. You are expected to use theoretical and conceptual evidence from course readings. The papers should be 400-600 words (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). We will sign up for these on the first day of class, be prepared.
- **Group Research Project (25%):** In groups of 3-4, you will produce a short presentation (> 5 double-spaced pages long, including a "References" section), expanding upon atopic in the week's readings, as it relates to your interests. Each group will have ~20 minutes to outline the basic aspects of their research project to the rest of the class. Presentations must involve all group members, who must be prepared to answer questions and submit the final group essay at the end of the group presentation.
- **Paper Précis (5%):** A précis of the paper (1-2 pp max) offering a rough sketch of your general themes/texts/arguments and on which I'll provide comments and suggestions. You can also include your secondary sources in the précis, or some of them; but this isn't a requirement.
- **Final Paper (30%):** Students are expected to write one 5,000 word essay (8-10 pages) that explores a question of relevance to the core themes and topics of the course. The essay is due at noon on XXX. This assignment will be assessed on the extent to which you:
 - a. Offer a clear, concise thesis statement describing the central argument of the essay.

- b. Provide reason and evidence to support that central argument throughout the essay and address counterarguments.
- c. Deliver a well-written, organized, properly cited essay.
- d. Conduct a comprehensive research and incorporate the literature into your analysis.

ASSIGNED READINGS

Part I: Introduction and Theory

Week 1

Monday: IR Theory Overview I

Snyder, Jack. "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy*, Nov/Dec 2004, pp. 52-62.

Mearsheimer, John. "The False Promise of International Institutions", *International Security* 19:3 (Winter 1994/1995), pp. 5-49.

Wednesday: IR Theory Overview II

Keohane, Robert O. and Martin, Lisa L. "The Promise of Institutional Theory", *International Security* 20:1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51. 6 A

Wendt, Alexander. "Constructing International Politics", *International Security* 20:1 (Summer 1995), pp. 71-81.

Week 2

Monday: American Power

Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*, 5th Edition. New York: Norton (2013). "The National Interest: The '4 Ps' Framework," pp. 8-18.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*, Public Affairs: New York (2004): Ch. 1, "The Changing Nature of Power."

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," *National Interest* 70 (2002): 5-17.

Wednesday: Is America in Decline?

Layne, C. 2012. "This time it's real: The end of unipolarity and the Pax Americana." *International Studies Quarterly*, 56(1) 203-213.

Haass, R. N. 2008. "The age of nonpolarity: what will follow US dominance." *Foreign Affairs*, 44-56.

Nye Jr, J. S. 2010. "The Futures of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective." *Foreign Affairs*, 89, 2.

Week 3

Monday: National Interest

- Hans Morgenthau, "The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy: The National Interest Vs. Moral Abstractions," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. XLIV, No. 4 (December 1950). 833-854
- Rice, Condoleezza. "Promoting the national interest." *Foreign Affairs* (2000): 45-62.

Wednesday: National Interest II

- Williams, Michael C. "What Is the National Interest? The Neoconservative Challenge in IR Theory." *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2005, pp. 307-337.
- Nye, Joseph S. "Redefining the national interest." *Foreign Affairs* (1999): 22-35.

Week 4

Monday: Historical Context

- Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*. (New York: Routledge, 2002), pp. 3-29, 79-98.
- Barry Posen and Andrew Ross, "Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy," *International Security*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (Winter 1996/97), pp. 5-53.

Wednesday: Obama-Trump Shift?

- Colin Dueck, *The Obama Doctrine: American Grand Strategy*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 13-39, 41-47, 91-109
- Hal Brands, "U.S. Grand Strategy in an Age of Nationalism: Fortress America and Its Alternatives," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Spring 2017), pp. 73-90.

Part II: Sources of Foreign Policy

Week 5

Monday: President

- Elizabeth N. Saunders, *Leaders at War: How Presidents Shape Military Interventions*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2011), pp. 1-19, 186-211.
- Ken Silverstein, "Their Men in Washington," *Harpers* (July 2007), <http://harpers.org/archive/2007/07/their-men-in-washington/>.

Wednesday: Congress

- Ornstein, Norman F. and Thomas E. Mann. 2006. "When Congress Checks Out." *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.
- William G. Howell and Jon C. Pevehouse, "When Congress Stops Wars: Partisan Politics and Presidential Power", *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 86, No. 5 (Sep/Oct 2007), pp. 95-107

Week 6

Monday: Interest Groups

Helen V. Milner and Dustin Tingley, *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015), pp. 33-51, 77-120.

David G. Haglund and Tyson McNeil-Hay, "The 'Germany Lobby' and US Foreign Policy: what, if Anything, Does It Tell Us about the Debate over the 'Israel Lobby'?", *Ethnopolitics*, Vol. 10, No. 3-4 (September-November 2011), pp. 321-344.

Wednesday: Public Opinion

Christopher Gelpi, Peter Feaver, and Jason Reifler, *Paying the Human Costs of War: American Public Opinion and Casualties in Military Conflicts* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), pp. 1-22

Gelpi, Chris. 2010. "Performing on Cue? The Formation of Public Opinion Toward War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 54(1): pp. 86-116.

Holsti, Ole R. 1992. "Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: Challenges to the Almond Lippmann Consensus." *International Studies Quarterly*, 36(4).

Week 7

Monday: Media and Journalism

Matt Baum, 2002, "Sex, Lies, and War: How Soft News Brings Foreign Policy to the Inattentive Public." *American Political Science Review* 96 (1): 91-109.

Danny Hayes and Matt Guardino, "Whose Views Made the News? Media Coverage and the March to War in Iraq", *Political Communication*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2010), pp. 59-87

Osnos, Peter. "An Elegy for Journalism?" *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010.

Part III: Topics in Foreign Policy

Wednesday: U.S. Foreign Economic Policy

Dolan, Chris. 2003. "Economic Policy and Decision Making at the Intersection of Domestic and International Politics: The Advocacy Coalition Framework and the National Economic Council," *Policy Studies Journal* 31 (2): 209-236.

Drezner, D. W. 2003. "The hidden hand of economic coercion." *International Organization*, 57(03), 643-659.

Gelb, Leslie. 2010. "GDP Now Matters More than Force," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010.

Week 8

Monday: Sanctions

Rose Gottemoeller, "The Evolution of Sanctions in Practice and Theory," *Survival* 49/4, (Winter 2007-08): 99-110.

Robert A. Pape, "Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work," *International Security* 22/2 (Autumn 1997): 90-110.

John Mueller and Karl Mueller, "Sanctions of Mass Destruction," *Foreign Affairs* 78 (May/June 1999): 43-53.

Wednesday: Foreign Aid

Jeremi Suri, *Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation Building from the Founders to Obama*, New York: Simon and Schuster (2012): Ch. 1

Jeffrey Sachs, "The Case for Aid," *Foreign Policy* (2014).

William Easterly, "Foreign Aid for Scoundrels," *The New York Review of Books* (November 25, 2010).

Week 9

Monday: Environmental Governance I

Glaser, C. L. 2013. "How Oil Influences US National Security." *International Security*, 38(2), 112-146.

F Sprinz, Detlef and Tapani Vaahoranta, (1994) "The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy" *International Organization*. Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 77-105.

Wednesday: Environmental Governance II

Liverman, Diana M., et al. (1999) "Environmental issues along the United States-Mexico border: Drivers of change and responses of citizens and institutions." *Annual Review of Energy and the Environment* 24(1), 607-643.

Levi, Michael. 2013. "America's Energy Opportunity. How to Harness the New Sources of U.S. Power." *Foreign Affairs*, May/ June 2013.

Week 10

Monday: Spreading Democracy I

Sean M. Lynn-Jones, "Why The United States Should Spread Democracy," *Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University Discussion Papers* 98/7 (March 1998). (17pg)

Hal Brands, "The Enduring Dilemmas of Democracy Promotion," *National Interest* (March 13, 2014). (4pg)

Carothers, Thomas. 2006. "Backlash against Democracy Promotion." *Foreign Affairs*, 85, 55

Wednesday: Spreading Democracy II

President George W. Bush, "Freedom Agenda", <http://www.ned.org/remarks-by-president-george-w-bush-at-the-20th-anniversary/>

Middle East Institute, "Democracy Promotion: Obama's Mixed Record," 11/19/14, <http://www.mei.edu/content/article/democracy-promotion-obamas-mixedrecord>

“The US is No Stranger to Interfering in the Elections of Other Countries,” Los Angeles Times, <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-us-intervention-foreign-elections20161213-story.html>

Week 11

Monday: US and Russia

Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*, 5th Edition. New York: Norton (2013). “Reagan, Gorbachev, and the End of the Cold War,” pp. 194-210 and, “Russia: Friend, Competitor, Adversary?” pp. 520-531.

Stephen Kotkin, “The Resistible Rise of Vladimir Putin,” *Foreign Affairs* 94 (March/April 2015): 140-153.

Kathryn Stoner and Michael McFaul, “Who Lost Russia (This Time)? Vladimir Putin,” *Washington Quarterly* 38/2 (Summer 2015): 167-187.

Legvold, R. 2014. “Managing the New Cold War.” *Foreign Affairs*, 80-81.

Wednesday: US and Middle East

Layne, C. 2009. “America’s Middle East grand strategy after Iraq: the moment for offshore balancing has arrived.” *Review of International Studies*, 35(01), 5-25.

Haas, Richard. 2013. “The Irony of American Strategy: Putting the Middle East in Proper Perspective.” *Foreign Affairs*, May/ June 2013.

Miller, Aaron. 2014. “Middle East Meltdown.” *Foreign Policy*, October 30. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/10/30/middle-east-meltdown/>

Week 12

Monday: US and China I

John J. Mearsheimer, “The Gathering Storm: China’s Challenge to US Power in Asia,” *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 3/4 (Winter 2010): 381-96.

Aaron L. Friedberg, “The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?,” *International Security*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2005), pp. 7-45.

Wednesday: US and China II

Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, “How China Sees America: The Sum of Beijing’s Fears”, *Foreign Affairs*, 91:5 (September/October 2012), pp. 32-47.

Joseph S. Nye and Wang Jisi, “The Rise of China’s Soft Power and Its Implications for the United States”, in Richard Rosecrance and Gu Guoliang, Eds., *Power and Restraint: A Shared Vision for the U.S.-China Relationship* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2009), pp. 23-34.

Week 13

Monday: Humanitarian Intervention

Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya," *Foreign Affairs* 90/6 (November/December 2011): 48-59.

Benjamin A. Valentino, "The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention: The Hard Truth about a Noble Notion," *Foreign Affairs* 90/6 (November/December 2011): 60-73.

Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen," *The Atlantic* (April 2001): 84-108.

Wednesday: Counter-insurgency

David J. Kilcullen, "Countering Global Insurgency," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (2005), pp. 597-617.

Douglas Porch, "The Dangerous Myths and Dubious Promise of COIN," *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (May 2011), pp. 239-257.

Washington Post. 2014. "How the Islamic State Evolved in an American Prison." Nov 4.

Week 14

Monday: Is America In Decline? II

Daniel H. Nexon, "What's This, Then? "Romanes Eunt Domus"?", *International Studies Perspectives*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (2008), pp. 300-308.

Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order*, Chapter 8

Barry R. Posen, *Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2014), pp. 24-68.

Wednesday: Wrap-up session