

**Political Science 4013: American Foreign Policy
Fall 2014**

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Office Hours:
T, W, R 9:00-11:00
or By Appointment

Time and Location:
T, R 12:30-1:45
NRC 108

Course Description

From Washington's farewell address to the Cold War and to the present War on Terrorism, our country's foreign policy has evolved over time. Often, these concepts seem abstract and distant to a land sheltered between two oceans. Other times, foreign policy becomes a vivid, and real, concern. Whether it is the price of an imported good or the concern for service members overseas, the conduct of our country's foreign policy affects all of us. This course seeks to provide you with the tools to make sense out of the formation and conduct of American Foreign Policy. Throughout, we will address four basic questions. These are:

- WHAT policies has the U.S. pursued? Answering this requires historical knowledge of American actions and their consequences.
- HOW is foreign policy made? Answering this question requires looking at the major actors involved in the formulation of policy and the process by which decisions are made.
- WHY is foreign policy enacted? Answering this tries to get at the motive behind policy. Does the U.S. act out of security concerns? A desire for wealth? Its values?
- How SHOULD the US act in the world? We will engage this question by examining several current issues in American foreign policy.

Required Readings

Finkel, David. 2010. *The Good Soldiers*. New York: Picador Books.

Jentleson, Bruce W. 2014. *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century* (5th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Priest, Dana and William Arkin. 2011. *Top Secret America: The Rise of the New American Security State*. New York: Back Bay Books.

I have also assigned various other readings. These are all available on D2L.

Course Requirements and Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>
Participation	10%	-
Midterm	20%	Thursday, October 2 nd
Reading Summaries	20%	-
Debate	10% <i>+1% bonus to winner</i>	TBA
Policy Essay	20%	Thursday, December 4 th
Final	20%	Tuesday, December 9 th 10:00-11:50

Participation - Informed, quality participation in class discussions.

Midterm - The test will be taken in class and consist of 20-25 questions (of various types) and a short essay.

Reading Summaries - You are expected to write weekly summaries for each reading.

Beginning with the readings for Week 2 (on Thursday), I will be asking you to hand in brief summaries of most of your readings. Regardless of whether the reading is historical, descriptive, analytical, or argumentative, a couple of short paragraphs will suffice. I am looking for your assessment; please do not give me a book report. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the central question? What is the author trying to explain?
- What is the central argument? (cause and effect or independent and dependent variables, important intervening variables or scope conditions)
- What are the competing arguments?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of this argument versus the competition?
- What evidence does that author present that is convincing...or not?
- So what? Why does this matter? What are the policy implications? What are the theoretical implications?

This will be difficult at first, but you will get the hang of it. Moreover, this is a skill that will serve you well in your future classes and occupations.

These will not be graded for content. Rather, you will get credit for making a good attempt at critical engagement. I do not expect you to be able to get everything from an article or chapter the first time you read it, but I expect that you will make a determined effort to grapple with the reading.

- Summaries/diagrams that have made a decent attempt at engaging the material will get a check. Submitting all the summaries and receiving a check will earn you an "A" on this assignment.
- Summaries that do not include all the readings or exhibit a last minute sloppy attempt will receive a check minus. Receiving nothing but check minuses on your summaries would earn you a "C" on this assignment.
- Not doing them will earn you an "F".

This assignment serves several purposes:

- First, it gives you an incentive to keep up with the reading. These readings are complex and cumulative and catching up on readings is difficult.
- Second, the lectures and discussion will make much more sense and you will get more out of them.
- Third, it is a tool that will enable you to better participate in discussion.

- Finally, and most useful for you, when it comes time for the papers and exams, you will have a study guide already prepared.

Debate -I will divide the class into groups consisting of at least 6 people. Your team will be responsible for choosing a topic of current importance in US Foreign Policy and engaging in a formal debate. Details on the assignment will be handed out in a later class. Your teams will be given the ability to assign a reading to the class before debate day. I will determine your grade for the day but the rest of the class will determine the MVP of the pro and con side as well as which team prevailed in the debate.

Policy Essay - You will write a 4000 word maximum (12-15 page) policy essay (in the style of the journal *Foreign Affairs*) focusing on an issue of 21st century American foreign policy in a particular geographical region (Western Europe, Russia, China, East Asia, etc.) or within in a particular policy arena (national security, environmental policy, global trade and development, etc.). You would be very smart to align the topic with your debate topic so your research will apply to both. The paper should examine, analyze, and evaluate the options taken (or not taken), and propose possible alternative solutions to the issue.

- All paper ideas must be discussed with me no later than **October 9th**.
- Annotated bibliographies will be due **October 30th**
- **The paper is due on the last day of class (Thursday, December 4th)**

Final - The final exam will be taken in class and is cumulative. It will also consist of 20-25 questions, a short essay, and a longer essay integrating everything we have learned.

Note

All assignments are to be submitted to the dropbox on D2L. I will not accept emailed attachments. Compatibility with my office computer (Windows 7 PC) is the responsibility of the student. Late assignments are penalized 10 points each day late.

Incomplete Policy – University Policy states that “a student must satisfactorily complete the *majority* of course work, and average ‘D’ or better on work to date, but has been ‘unavoidably prevented from completing the remaining work of the course’”.

Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns. Problems and concerns about grades are easier to solve early in the semester than late.

Course Outline

Part I – The Traditions and Logics of U.S. Foreign Policy

August 19: Introduction

- Review Syllabus

August 21

Reading:

- Nau, Henry R. 2007. Why We Fight Over Foreign Policy. *Policy Review*. 142: 25-42.

August 26

Reading:

- Jentleson, Chapter 4

August 28

Reading:

- Federalist papers # 3, 5, 8, 11. <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

September 2

Reading:

- Paterson, Thomas G. [ed.] 1978. *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy, Documents and Essays*, Volume I: To 1914 Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Co: 85-89, 167-168, 296-299
- Merrill, Dennis, J. and Thomas G. Paterson. 2000. *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy Volume I: To 1920*, (5th ed.) Houghton Mifflin: Chapter 11, pp. 346-375

September 4

Reading:

- Mead, Walter Russell. 2002. The American Foreign Policy Legacy. *Foreign Affairs* 81(1): 163-176
- McDougall, Walter. 1997. Back to Bedrock: The Eight Traditions of American Statecraft. *Foreign Affairs* 76(2): 134-146.

Part II – International and Domestic Influences

September 9

Reading:

- Jentleson, Chapter 1

September 11

Reading:

- Jentleson, Chapter 2

September 16 H

Reading:

- Priest and Arkin, Chapters 1-2

September 18

Reading:

- Jordan, Amos, William Taylor, and Michael Mazarr. 1999. *American National Security*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press: 93-122.

September 23

Reading:

- Jentleson, Chapter 3

September 25

Reading:

- Priest and Arkin, Chapter 4,5

September 30

Reading:

- Priest and Arkin, Chapter 9

October 2

- Midterm

Part III – American Foreign Policy in Action

October 7

Reading:

- Jentleson, Chapter 5

October 9

Reading:

- Jentleson, Chapter 6

October 14

Reading:

- Spanier, John and Steven Hook. 1998. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press: Chapter 6.

October 16

Reading:

- Deudney, Daniel. and G.John Ikenberry. 1992. Who Won the Cold War? *Foreign Policy* 87: 123-138.
- Wohlforth, William. 1999. The Stability of a Unipolar World. *International Security* 24(1): 5-41.

October 21

Reading:

- Finkel, Chapters 1-2
- Video - TBA

October 23

- Finkel, Chapters 3-4
- Video – TBA

October 28

Reading:

- Finkel, Chapters 5-6
- The National Security Strategy of the United States, 2002. [*browse this*]
- Mearsheimer, John and Stephen Walt. 2003. An Unnecessary War. *Foreign Policy* 134: 50-59.

October 30

Reading:

- Finkel, Chapters 7-8

November 4

Reading:

- Finkel, Chapters 9-10

November 6

Reading:

- Stanley Hoffmann, "Why Don't They Like Us?" *American Prospect*, Nov 19, 2001

Part IV – Current Issues & Debates

November 11: Debate 1

Reading:

- TBA

November 13: Debate 2

Reading:

- TBA

November 18: Debate 3

Reading:

- TBA

November 20: Debate 4

Reading:

- TBA

November 25: Debate 5

Reading:

- TBA

December 2

Reading:

- Finkel, Chapters 11-13

December 4
Review for Final

FINAL – 10:00-11:50 Tuesday, December 9th