

Political Science 6080: American Foreign Relations

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Office Hours:
M, W 8:30-10:00, 3:00-4:00
Or by Appointment

Time and Location:
Online

Course Description:

From Washington's farewell address warning of foreign entanglements to the Cold War and to our present War on Terrorism, our country's foreign policy has evolved and changed over the history of our country. This course seeks to examine the formation and conduct of American Foreign Policy. Throughout the course, we will address several basic questions. A few include: What is foreign policy and what are the factors that have shaped current American foreign policy? How has American foreign evolved from the 18th century to the present? What are the primary institutions and bureaucracies in the United States that affect foreign policymaking? What is current American foreign policy towards important areas such as Asia, Russia, and the Middle East? What are the major policy/ethical/legal issues in contemporary US foreign policy?

Required Reading:

The readings come from a variety of journal articles and book chapters. The journal articles should be readily available from JSTOR or other online databases. Any book chapters or journal articles that are not available via these sources will be posted by me on the course's Blackboard page.

Course Requirements and Grading

Participation

Each student is expected to complete all required readings and significantly contribute to discussion each week. Since this is an online course, a lack of participation will appear as if you have not done the reading, or that you are absent altogether. Individuals that wrote discussion papers and questions should take a large role in directing and shaping discussion. If there is no discussion, I will direct it and alter grades accordingly. Participation (and not merely attendance) is essential for your success in this class. This comprises 30% of your grade.

Discussion Papers and Questions

You will write 5 discussion papers (3 page maximum). Discussion papers should not be a simple recitation of what you have read. Instead, they should be a critical response to what you have just read. Approaches can include: 1.) criticisms and suggestions for improvement in the theory, methods, or conclusions of specific papers. 2.) extensions or research questions that come from the readings. 3.) theoretical or methodological inconsistencies between articles from the same week or from previous weeks. A document that may help (one that I used in grad school) will be posted to the Blackboard page.

Of course, this is not an exhaustive list of what you can write about. If you have any questions about what you wish to write about, please let me know. In addition, students will also provide three questions to be discussed by the class. The papers and questions should be sent via email (or posted to Blackboard) to the rest of the class and the instructor by (we will determine what day works for

everyone). Students not writing for the week should still read and be ready to discuss the points and the questions raised in the discussion papers. We will determine who is writing for each week in the first class meeting. This comprises 25% of your grade. Late papers (the day/time agreed on above) will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade.

Some Approaches:

What is the research question or the main thesis?

What is the logic of the argument?

How does the author justify or explain his/her argument? Make sure to identify and define key terms.

What are the major implications of the argument?

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the argument?

What could be the alternative explanations for the author's evidence?

What type(s) of research method and tools does the author use?

How does the author measure the main concept of the argument?

How convincing is the quantitative or qualitative evidence offered by the reading?

Literature Review

These are important, and some are foundational, readings in foreign policy. It is likely that you will, at some point, come back to these readings in either an academic or professional capacity. As a result, it is important that you have a thorough knowledge of these readings.

Accordingly, you will write a 15 page literature review on one of the reading topics. More specifically, I would like for you to identify 4-6 other works related to your topic, identify and discuss prominent themes in the literature, discuss current work, point out strengths and weaknesses of current work, and develop pertinent research questions.

In order to help you, I have established several dates by which I would like to see certain elements of your research proposal. These are due prior to class. I will not grade the individual components, just the end results.

- Week of September 10th: Identify topics of interest.
- Week of October 10th: An annotated bibliography with at least 10 sources
- Week of November 5th: A rough draft of the first half of your paper.
- December 4th: Paper due by 5:00pm. In your paper, you should address questions and comments given to you from the first draft.

This is 25% of your grade. A good paper here is critical to complete the final portion of your grade. Late papers will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade per day late

Take Home Final. You will have a take home final distributed before the last class discussion. There will be two questions based on the topics we cover throughout the semester. I will email the questions to you on December 6th and it will be due back at 5:00pm on December 13th. You are free to use the literature reviews written by you and the other students. Late papers will be deducted by one letter grade on top of the grade I assess for the paper per day. This is 20% of your grade.

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

Blackboard Site

You have been added to an online blackboard system. The blackboard system allows for students to interact with the instructor, and to interact with each other. All the material for this course (e.g., reading materials, a copy of the syllabus, hand-outs, and study guides) will be posted to this system. You can login at <https://blackboard.ecu.edu/>. Your user name is your PirateID and your password is your normal password. I will offer more detail about the course blackboard page throughout the semester.

Disability Services

East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Slay 138, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The DSS telephone number is (252) 737-1016.

University Emergency Policies

In case of campus wide emergencies, you may obtain information about changes in the University class schedule by calling 252 328-0062. ECU Alert: In addition, in case of adverse weather or other campus emergencies you may consult <http://www.ecu.edu/alert/> for information. To obtain information about this class when there is a campus wide emergency, please check the web site for this class or your ECU e-mail account as soon as possible.

Course Outline

Week 1 (August 21 – August 24): Introduction

Readings:

- Mathews, Jessica Tuchman. 1989. Redefining Security. *Foreign Affairs* 68(2): 162-177
- Newsom, David D. "Foreign Policy and Academia." *Foreign Policy*, no. 101 (Winter 1995-96): 52-67.
- Walt, Stephen. 1998. International Relations: One World, Many Theories. *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-46.

I. Influences on Policymaking

Week 2 (August 27 - August 31): Institutional Influences of US Foreign Policy

Readings:

- Cronin, Patrick and Benjamin Fordham. 1999. Timeless Principles or Today's Fashion? Testing the Stability of the Linkage Between Ideology and Foreign Policy in the Senate. *Journal of Politics* 61(4): 967-998
- Hill, Kevin. 1993. The Domestic Sources of Foreign Policymaking. *International Studies Quarterly* 37(2): 195-214
- Jacobs, Lawrence and Benjamin Page. 2005. Who Influences U.S. Foreign Policy? *American Political Science Review* 99(1): 107-123.
- Sofaer, Abraham, D. 2007. Presidential Power and National Security. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 37(1):101-123.

Week 3 (September 4 - September 7): Public Opinion and its Influences

Readings:

- Aldrich, John H., John L. Sullivan and Eugene Borgida. 1989. Foreign Affairs and Issue Voting: Do Presidential Candidates 'Waltz Before a Blind Audience'. *American Political Science Review* 83:123-141
- Gartner, Scott Sigmund and Gary M. Segura. 1998. War, Casualties, and Public Opinion. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(3): 278-300
- Baum, Matthew A. 2002. Sex, Lies, and War: How Soft News Brings Foreign Policy to the Inattentive Public. *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 91-109
- Baum, Matthew A. and Phillip B.K. Potter. 2008. The Relationships Between Mass Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 39-65

Week 4 (September 10 - September 14): Organizational/Bureaucratic Influences

Readings:

- Allison, Graham T. 1969. Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *American Political Science Review* 63(3): 689-718
- Drezner, Daniel W. 2000. Ideas, Bureaucratic Politics, and the Crafting of Foreign Policy. *American Journal of Political Science* 44(4): 733-749.
- George, Alexander L. 1972. The Case for Multiple Advocacy in Making Foreign Policy. *American Political Science Review* 66(3): 751-785.
- Maoz, Zeev. 1990. Framing the National Interest: The Manipulation of Foreign Policy Decisions in Group Settings. *World Politics* 43(1): 77-110.

Week 5 (September 17 - September 21): Psychological/Sociological Influences

Readings:

- Hermann, Margaret G.. 1980. Explaining Foreign Policy Behavior Using the Personal Characteristics of Political Leaders. *International Studies Quarterly* 24(1): 7-46.
- Janis, Irving. "Escalation of the Vietnam War: How Could it Happen?" In *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays*, ed. G. John Ikenberry. pp. 544-572
- Jervis, Robert. 1988. War and Misperception. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 18(4): 675-700.
- Levy, Jack S. 1997. Prospect Theory, Rational Choice, and International Relations. *International Studies Quarterly* 41(1): 87-112

II. Assessing Past Foreign Policy Eras

Week 6 (September 24 - September 28): Early Foreign Policy Philosophies

Readings:

- Dunne, Michael. 1998. The History & Historiography of American Diplomacy: Principles, Tradition, and Values. *International Affairs* 74(1): 165-183.
- Huntington, Samuel. 1982. American Ideals vs. American Institutions. *Political Science Quarterly* 97(1): 1-37.

- 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.

Week 7 (October 1 - October 5): The Cold War

Readings:

- Gaddis, John Lewis. 1993. The Tragedy of Cold War History. *Diplomatic History* 17(1): 1-17.
- Leffler, Melvyn P. 1996. Inside Enemy Archives. *Foreign Affairs* 75(4): 120-135.
- Lippman, Walter. 1987. The Cold War. *Foreign Affairs* 65(4): 869-884
- X (George Kennan). 1947. The Sources of Soviet Conduct. *Foreign Affairs* 25(4): 566–582.

Week 8 (October 10 - October 12): A Unique Moment: The Post-Cold War World

Readings:

- Deudney, Daniel. and G. John Ikenberry. 1992. Who Won the Cold War? *Foreign Policy* 87: 123-138.
- Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. The End of History. *The National Interest*
- Gholz, Eugene, Daryl G. Press, and Harvey M. Sapolsky. Come Home America: The Strategy of Restraint in the Face of Temptation. *International Security* 21, no. 4 (Spring 1997): 5-48.
- Wohlforth, William. 1999. The Stability of a Unipolar World. *International Security* 24(1): 5-41.

III. Statecraft

Week 9 (October 15 - October 19): Diplomacy

Readings:

- Dorussen, Han. 2001. Mixing Carrots With Sticks: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Positive Incentives. *Journal of Peace Research* 38(2):251–262.
- Newhouse, John. 2009. Diplomacy Inc: The Influence of Lobbies on U.S. Foreign Policy. *Foreign Affairs* 88: 73-92.
- Nincic, Miroslav. 2006. The Logic of Positive Engagement: Dealing with Renegade Regimes. *International Studies Perspectives* 7(4): 321-341.

Week 10 (October 22 - October 26): Sanctions

Readings:

- Dashti-Gibson, Jaleh, Patricia Davis, and Benjamin Radcliff. 1997. On the Determinants of the Success of Economic Sanctions: An Empirical Analysis. *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (2): 608-618.

- Elliott, Kimberly Ann. 1998. The Sanctions Glass: Half Full or Completely Empty. *International Security* 23(1): 50-65.
- Lopez, George A. and David Cortright. 2004. Containing Iraq: Sanctions Worked. *Foreign Affairs* 83 (4): 90-103.
- Pape, Robert A. 1998. Why Economic Sanctions Still Do Not Work. *International Security* 22(2): 66-77.

Week 11 (October 29 - November 2): Conflict

Readings:

- Fordham Benjamin. 2004. A Very Sharp Sword: The Influence of Military Capabilities on American Decisions to Use Force. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*: 48 (5): 632-656
- Leeds, Brett Ashley and David R. Davis. 1997. "Domestic Political Vulnerability and International Disputes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 41(6): 814-834.
- Luttwak, Edward N. 1999. Give War a Chance. *Foreign Affairs* 78(4): 36-44
- Ostrom, Charles W. Jr. and Brian L. Job. 1986. The President and the Political Use of Force. *American Political Science Review* 80(2): 541-566.

IV. Current & Future American Foreign Policy Issues

Week 12 (November 5 - November 9): Nuclear Proliferation

Readings:

- Allison, Graham. 2004. How to Stop Nuclear Terror. *Foreign Affairs* 83(1): 64-74.
- Feinstein, Lee and Anne-Marie Slaughter. 2004. A Duty to Prevent. *Foreign Affairs* 83(1): 136-150
- Kaysen, Carl, Robert S. McNamara, and George W. Rathjens. 1991. Nuclear Weapons after the Cold War. *Foreign Affairs* 70(4): 95-110
- Rosen, Stephen Peter. 2006. After Proliferation: What to Do If More States Go Nuclear. *Foreign Affairs* 85(5): 9-14

Week 13 (November 12 - November 16): Terrorism

Readings:

- Heymann, Philip B. 2001/2. Dealing with Terrorism: An Overview. *International Security* 26(3): 24-38.
- Jordan, Jenna. 2009. When Heads Roll: Assessing the Effectiveness of Leadership Decapitation. *Security Studies* 18(4): 719-755
- Rotberg, Robert I. 2002. Failed States in a World of Terror. *Foreign Affairs* 81(4): 127-141.
- Walt, Stephen M. 2001/2002. Beyond bin Laden: Reshaping U.S. Foreign Policy. *International Security* 26(3): 56-78

Week 14 (November 19): On Interventions

Readings:

- Crocker, Chester. 1998. The Lessons of Somalia. *Foreign Affairs* 74(3): 2-8.
- Diamond, Larry. 2004. What Went Wrong in Iraq. *Foreign Affairs* 83(5): 34-56.
- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War. *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2): 269-292

Week 15 (November 26 - November 30): The Future of US Foreign Policy

Readings:

- Bernstein, Richard, and Ross H. Munro. 1997. The Coming Conflict with America. *Foreign Affairs* 76(2): 18-32.
- Layne, Christopher. 1997. From Preponderance to Offshore Balancing: America's Future Grand Strategy. *International Security* 22(1): 86-124
- Lindsay, James M. 2011. George Bush, Barack Obama and the Future of US Global Leadership. *International Affairs* 87(4): 765-780.
- Posen, Barry R., and Andrew L. Ross. "Competing U.S. Grand Strategies." In *Strategy and Force Planning* Faculty, eds., *Strategy and Force Planning* (Newport, RI: Naval War College Press, 1995), pp. 115-134.

Week 16 (December 3): Paper Work Week

No Readings, Finish up Papers