

POLS 4351
United States Foreign Policy

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Class meets MWF 10:00-10:50

Office Hours: MW 11-2 and 3:15-5:15

Course Description

In this course students will learn about the key events that have shaped American foreign policy throughout its history and explore some of the contemporary challenges. The first part of the course will explore the history of United States Foreign Policy, providing students with a base of knowledge. The second part of the course explores different influences on foreign policy and the varying facets that must be considered. The third part turns to contemporary and emerging issues. Foreign policy entails military, diplomatic, and economic interactions with other nations as well as interactions with international institutions and the international community. US Foreign Policy is not only about governance and conflict but is a strong statement of what a nation is and what it stands for. In this course we will explore these questions and begin to gain some new insights.

Learning Goals of the Course

In this course students will:

1. Develop knowledge of United States Foreign Policy
2. Acquire the ability to critically assess policy challenges.
3. Improve communication skills.
4. Successfully gain the ability to formulate their own ideas and opinions in United States foreign policy based on the use of evidence.
5. Improve knowledge of intercultural awareness, social responsibility and community engagement through interacting with State Department officials.

Course Readings

Stephen W. Hook and John Spanier, American Foreign Policy Since World War II

Foreign Policy, A resource created for the course available from McGraw Hill.

The books have been ordered at the university bookstore, further readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Means of Assessment

1. Students are expected to come to class having completed the reading and prepared to discuss. Participation will count as 5% of the final grade. Students with more than three unexcused absences will have their grades negatively impacted. Absences will be excused for medical reasons, family emergencies and to attend school functions.
2. Students will write 1 6-8 page policy memo during the semester. The policy memo will be addressed to either the President or the Secretary of State based on a scenario distributed by the instructor. The policy memo will be worth 25% of the final grade and will be submitted through Blackboard. Late policy memos will lose one letter grade for each class session that they are late.
3. There are two options for this portion of the course. **Option #1:** Each student will be responsible for leading discussion of one of the readings to the class in a 15 minute presentation. The presentation will be worth 20% of the grade. Each date in the

syllabus marked “Presentation” will be one of the dates available. Further information is available on Blackboard. **Option #2:** Write a 3 page paper discussing each of the guest speakers, how they contributed to your understanding of foreign policy and how they changed your cultural awareness. This paper will be due on the last day of class submitted through Blackboard and will be worth 20% of the final grade. Students must inform the professor of their selection by September 16th.

4. There will be a midterm exam consisting of short answer questions conducted at the midpoint of the course. The exam will be worth 25% of the final grade. A review sheet will be posted on Blackboard. Make-up exams will be given for medical reasons only.

5. There will be a final exam consisting of essay questions given during the regular final exam period. The final will be worth 25% of the final grade. A review sheet will be posted on Blackboard.

6. There will also be two surprise geography quiz where students can gain up to 2% extra credit (for each quiz) for correctly identifying countries on a continent. Students will have five minutes to complete the quiz. They will be given without notice throughout the semester.

News Sources

Students are not required to keep up with news but since our class will be directly impacted by current events it will help your understanding to follow news regularly. Some examples of newspapers with good coverage are www.nytimes.com (which limits you to ten articles per month), www.washpost.com, www.guardian.co.uk (which also shows how much attention American politics and policy get in some foreign countries), www.cnn.com, www.msnbc.com and www.foxnews.com. A good way to keep up with the news is a Free subscription to the **UN Wire**, available at <http://www.smartbrief.com>, which is a good way to keep up with the news. It is delivered by e-mail Monday-Friday.

Grading Scale

A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

Special Needs

In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU’s Operating Policies and Procedures, persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Class Etiquette

Behavior consistent with basic rules of courtesy contributes to a productive classroom. To minimize distractions that occasionally disturb the class, refrain from bringing food into the classroom, turn off all cell phones or other electronic devices with audible signals that would disrupt classroom presentations or activities. Students should also avoid whispering or other disrespectful behavior. Laptops may be used for note taking only.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Angelo State University Honor Code http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf :

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Therefore, you are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code. Click on the link to access the code.

Withdraw Information

The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be **October 31, 2013**.

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

Schedule

8/26-Introduction

8/28- Situating United States Foreign Policy

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 1

Part I. United States Foreign Policy Since World War II

8/30-The Origins of the Cold War

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 2

9/4-Containment

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 3

9/6-The Cold War and Developing Nations

Hook and Spanier, Pg. 71-88

9/9-The War in Vietnam

Hook and Spanier, Pg. 88-100

9/11- The Rise of Détente

Hook and Spanier, Pg. 101-110

9/13-Human Rights and Foreign Policy

Hook and Spanier, Pg. 110-124

9/16-Peace Through Strength?

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 6

9/18- The End of the Cold War

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 7

9/20-The Only Remaining Superpower

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 8

9/23- 9/11 and the War on Terror

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 11

9/25- A New Direction? Barack Obama and Foreign Policy

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 14

Part II. Current Issues Facing United States Foreign Policy

9/27- National Security Concerns Part I

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 9

9/30-National Security Concerns Part II

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 13

10/2- Midterm

10/4-The United States and Leadership in the World

Foreign Policy Pg. 2-14

Presentation #1

10/7-The United States and the European Union

Hook and Spanier, Chapter 10

10/9-The New Superpower: US Relations with China

“China’s America Obsession.” Foreign Policy –Blackboard

10/11 China and National Security

Foreign Policy Pg. 105-121

Presentation #2

10/14-Foreign Policy and Democracy Promotion

Foreign Policy, Pg. 15-30

Presentation #3

10/16 Foreign Policy and Multilateralism

Foreign Policy, Pg. 31-44

Presentation #4

10/18 Defense Spending and Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy, Pg. 46-61

Presentation #5

10/21 Foreign Aid and Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy, Pg. 62-71

Presentation #6

10/23 Foreign Aid and Pakistan

Foreign Policy, Pg. 122-136

Presentation #7

10/25 Guatemala, Central America, Afghanistan and Governance

Guest Speaker #1: Dr. Edward Gonzalez, USAID, Department of State,

Optional Readings will be posted on Blackboard

10/28 State Building and Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy, Pg. 73-90

Presentation #8

10/30 The State Department on the Ground

Guest Speaker #2: Julie Gianelloni Conner (the Diplomat in Residence for Central Texas)

11/1 Iran, Nuclear Weapons and Intervention

Foreign Policy, Pg. 92-104

Presentation #9

11/4 Free Trade and Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy, Pg. 138-151

Presentation #10

11/6 Foreign Policy and Energy Independence

Foreign Policy, Pg. 152-168

Presentation #11

11/8 Border Security, Drug Wars and Foreign Policy

Ginger Thompson “US Expands Its Presence in Mexico, Ramping Up Drug War.”:

[http://truthout.](http://truthout.org/news/item/2544:us-expands-its-presence-in-mexico-ramping-up-drug-war)

[org/news/item/2544:us-expands-its-presence-in-mexico-ramping-up-drug-war](http://truthout.org/news/item/2544:us-expands-its-presence-in-mexico-ramping-up-drug-war) -Blackboard

Policy Memo Due

11/11 National Security and Military Intervention

Foreign Policy, Pg. 170-186

Syria Article: [http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/07/gen-martin-dempsey-lays-out-usmilitary-](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/07/gen-martin-dempsey-lays-out-usmilitary-options-for-syria/)

[options-for-syria/](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/07/gen-martin-dempsey-lays-out-usmilitary-options-for-syria/) -Blackboard

11/13 Foreign Policy and Domestic Influences

Foreign Policy, Pg. 188-204

Presentation #12

11/15 The Presidency and Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy, Pg. 205-220

Presentation #13

Part III. The Future of American Foreign Policy: Debating Perspectives and New Horizons

11/18 Reframing the Present

Andrew Bacevich. "Naming Our Nameless War" Available at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-bacevich/war-on-terror-names_b_3346062.html--

Blackboard

11/20 The Gathering Storm

Vali Nasr, The Dispensable Nation. Pg. 185-213-Blackboard

11/22 Pakistan and the Future of United States Foreign Policy

Possible Guest Speaker: Dr. Farhat Haq, Monmouth College

11.25 The Pacific Century?

Hilary Clinton. http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/10/11/americas_pacific_century -

Blackboard

11/27 Edward Snowden, Cyber Security and Foreign Policy

Materials to be posted on Blackboard

12/2 America, the Pivotal Nation?: The Future of American Foreign Policy

Vali Nasr, The Dispensable Nation. Pg. 250-256

12/4 Egypt: The Future of American Engagement

Guest Speaker #3: Dr. Jennifer Terrell, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Gender Studies, American University of Cairo

12/6 Review Day

Guest Speaker Paper Due

A Short Final Exam will be given during the final exam period. The exam will consist of essay questions. A review sheet will be given prior to the final exam. The final exam will be held on December 9, 2013 at 10am