

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
PSCI 3327/001
Spring 2011

Course Information

Course Number/Section: PSCI 3327/001
Course Title: American Foreign Policy
Term: Spring 2011
Days & Times: Tues. and Thurs. 11:30 – 12:45 p.m.
Location: GR 2.302

Contact Information

Instructor: Adam Yeeles
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Office: Green Hall 3.318
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Course Description

This course examines the ways in which the policy making process structures the premises, concepts, and objectives in U.S. foreign policy. It analyzes the factors which motivate and shape the U.S. government's role in international politics, and its interaction with other countries.

Student Learning Objectives

Participants in this course will be introduced to various analytic and theoretical frameworks for making sense of historical and contemporary events in American foreign relations. Students will develop an understanding of:

- the history and evolution of U.S. foreign policy
 - the political and bureaucratic actors involved in foreign policymaking
 - the major frameworks for analyzing foreign policy decision-making
 - the public sources of foreign policy
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Required Textbooks and Materials

The following books can be purchased from the University bookstore or any online source:

Rosati, Jerel A. and James M. Scott. 2011. *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy* (5th Edition). Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN: 9780495797241

Bennett, Andrew and George Shambaugh. 2010. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in American Foreign Policy* (5th Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9780073545646

Selected additional readings are listed below.

Section I

Jan. 11 Introduction

Jan. 13 The Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy – RS Ch. 1

Section II – History of United States Foreign Policy

Jan. 18 **Book Choice Submitted**

Jan. 18 - 20 History of United States Foreign Relations – RS Ch. 2

Discussion - Taking Sides 1

Jan. 25 - 27 The Global Context and American Power – RS Ch. 3

Discussion - Taking Sides Issue 2

Feb. 8 - 10 Traditions in United States Foreign Policy – Snyder 2004, Morgenthau 1952

Discussion - Taking Sides Issue 8

Section II - Government Sources of Foreign Policy

Feb. 15 - 17 President – RS Ch. 4 & 5, Rothkopf 2005, Koh 1988

Discussion - Taking Sides 16

Feb. 22 - 24 Congress – RS Ch. 11, Grimmett 2010

Discussion - Taking Sides Issue 13

Mar. 1 - 3 Foreign Policy Bureaucracy – RS Ch. 6, Clarke 1987, Acheson 1971

Discussion - Taking Sides Issue 3

Mar. 8 – 10 The Military and Intelligence Community - RS Ch. 7 & 8, Legro 1994

Discussion – Taking Sides Issue 5

Mar. 10 **Mid-Term Exam**

Mar. 15 - 17 Spring Break

Section III – Foreign Policy Decisionmaking

Mar. 22 - 24 Decisionmaking Theory (Rational Actor) – RS Ch. 10, Allison 1969

Discussion - Taking Sides Issue 9

Mar. 29 - 31 Psychological Theories – Levy 2003, Jervis 1992

Discussion: Taking Sides Issue 6

Apr. 5 – 7 Group Think, Personality and Beliefs – Janis 1982, Byman 2001

Discussion: Taking Sides Issue 10

Section IV – Public Sources of Foreign Policy

Apr. 12 **Book Review Due**

Apr. 12 - 14 Public Opinion and Mass Media – RS Ch. 12

Discussion: Taking Sides Issue 17

Apr. 19 – 21 Mass Media – RS 16, Strobel 1996

Discussion: Taking Sides Issue 18

Apr. 26 - 28 Group Politics – RS Ch. 15, Read one of the following bullets:

- Mearsheimer and Walt 2006, Dershowitz 2006
- Martin 1999, McHenry 1974, Weil 1974, Richardson 1985

Discussion: Taking Sides Issue 12

Section V - Conclusions

May 3 Conclusions – RS Ch. 17

May 10 **Final Exam – 11:00 a.m.**

Grading and Course Policies

Course grades will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Mid Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Book Review	15%
Position Paper	10%
Participation	15%

Grades are based on the standard grading scale: A= 100-90, B=89-80, C=79-70, etc., with pluses/minuses at the instructor's discretion.

Mid-Term Exam: An *in-class* midterm exam will be given during the semester on *Mar. 10*. The exams will cover all material from the course (lectures, discussions and readings) covered through *Mar. 3*.

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for *Tuesday, May 10 at 11:00 a.m.* The exam will cover all material from the course (lectures, discussions and readings) covered since the Mid-Term exam.

Book Review: Students will be required to write an extended, critical review of a book broadly related to the major themes covered in this course. The review is expected to survey both the content of the book and evaluate the way the author addresses the issues at hand. This paper should be approximately 4-6 double-spaced pages. This critical review will be due in class on *Apr. 12*, but you will be required to submit your choice to the instructor by *Jan. 18*.

Position Paper: Students will be asked to write an opinion paper (500 - 700 words) addressing a question related to topics discussed in the course. Further details on what is expected and the due dates for this assignment will be discussed in class.

Participation: Students are expected to attend all classes and a significant portion of the class will be devoted to discussion. Attendance is not considered participation. However, you will be expected to participate in the Taking Sides discussions, as well as on-line discussions. Periodically, a question will be posted on Elearning and students will be required to respond to the question and/or your classmate's responses to the question. Reasonable and original participation in these discussions will be required to receive full credit.

Additional Readings:

Acheson, Dean. 1971. The Eclipse of the State Department. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 49, No. 4: 593-606.

Allison, Graham T. (September 1969). Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3: 689-719.

Byman, Daniel L. and Kenneth Pollack. 2001. Let Us No Praise Great Men: Brining the Statesman Back, *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 4: 107-146.

Clarke, Duncan L. (Spring 1987). Why State Can't Lead. *Foreign Policy*, No 66: 128-142.

Dershowitz, Alan. "Debunking the Newest – and Oldest – Jewish Conspiracy: A Reply to the Mearsheimer-Walt 'Working Paper'" Kennedy School of Government Faculty Research Working Paper Series (Number RWP06-011), April 05, 2006.

Janis, Irving L., Groupthink. (2nd ed.) Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982

Jervis, Robert. 1992. "Political Implications of Loss Aversion," *Political Psychology*, Vol 13, No. 2: 187-204.

Koh, Harold Hongju. (June 1988). Why the President (Almost) Always Wins in Foreign Affairs: Lessons of the Iran-Contra Affair. *Yale Law Journal*, Vol. 97, No. 7: 1255-1342.

Legro, Jeffrey. 1994 "Military Culture and Inadvertent Escalation in World War II," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 4: 108-142.

Levy, Jack. "Political Psychology and Foreign Policy," in the Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology, ed. by David Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis (Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 253-84.

Martin, William. (Spring 1999). The Christian Right and American Foreign Policy. *Foreign Policy*, No. 114: 66-80.

Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen Walt. "The Israeli Lobby and US Foreign Policy," Kennedy School of Government Faculty Research Working Paper Series (Number RWP06-011), March 13, 2006.

McHenry, Donald F. and Raja Neogy. (Summer 1974). Captive of No Group. *Foreign Policy*, No. 15: 142-151.

Morgenthau, Hans H. 1952. Another "Great Debate" The National Interest of the United States. *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 46, No. 4: 961-988.

Richardson, Bill. (Autumn 1985). Hispanic American Concerns. *Foreign Policy*, No. 60: 30-39.

Rothkopf, David J. (March/April 2005). "Inside the Committee That Runs the World," *Foreign Policy*, Vol. 147: 30-40

Snyder, Jack. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories. *Foreign Policy*, No 145: 52 - 62.

Strobel, Warren P. 1996. "The Media and U.S. Policies Toward Intervention: A Closer Look at the 'CNN Effect'." In *Managing Global Chaos: Sources and Responses to International Conflict*. Edited by Crocker, Chester A. and Fen Osler Hampson, eds. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.

The White House: Office of the President of the United States. (2002). National Security Strategy of the United States of America. Retrieved from <http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/nsc/nss/2002/>

The White House: Office of the President of the United States. (May 2010). National Security Strategy. Retrieved from http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. (2010). Remarks by the President at United States Military Academy at West Point Commencement [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-united-states-military-academy-west-point-commencement>

Weil, Martin. (Summer 1974). Can the Blacks Do for Africa What the Jews Did for Israel? *Foreign Policy*, No. 15: 109-130.

Recommended Books to Review:

- Bacevitch, Andrew. 2009. *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*.
- Benedick, Richard Elliot. 1998. *Ozone Diplomacy: New Directions in Safeguarding the Planet*.
- Carter, Jimmy. 2006. *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*.
- Evans, Gareth. 2009. *The Responsibility to Protect*.
- Ferguson, Niall. 2005. *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*.
- Haas, Richard. 2009. *War of Necessity, War of Choice: A Memoir of Two Iraq Wars*.
- Heinrichs, Waldo. 1990. *Threshold of War: Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Entry into World War II*.
- Hoopes, Townsend, and Douglas Brinkley. 1997. *FDR and the Creation of the U.N.*
- Kinzer, Stephen. 2003. *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*.
- Lambert, Frank. 2005. *The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World*.
- MacNamara, Robert. 1995. *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*.
- Macmillan, Margaret Olwen. 2002. *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*.
- Nye, Joseph. 2004. *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*.
- Rabe, Stephen. 1988. *Eisenhower and Latin America: The Foreign Policy of Anti-communism*.
- Riddell, Roger C. 2007. *Does Foreign Aid Work?*
- Schlesinger, Stephen E., Steven Kinzer and John H. Coatsworth. 2001. *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*.
- Spain, James W. 1998. *In Those Days: A Diplomat Remembers*.
- Weiner, Tim. 2008. *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*.
- Wise, David, and Thomas Ross. 1963. *The U-2 Affair*.

University Policies and Procedures

All University policies and procedures also apply to this course. They may be found at:
<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>

These descriptions and timeline are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor