

Course Outline

Government 311 United States Foreign Policy

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Note: This outline should not be used by students currently enrolled in this course. The current schedule, assigned readings, and requirements are available to enrolled students on the course Moodle.

For information on my grading policies, expectations, and the drop/add wait list process, see <http://dfoyle.faculty.wesleyan.edu/>.

Course Description

This course provides a survey of the content and formulation of American foreign policy with an emphasis on the period after World War II. It evaluates the sources of American foreign policy including the international system, societal factors, government processes, and individual decision makers. The course begins with a consideration of major trends in U.S. foreign policy after World War II. With a historical base established, the focus turns to the major institutions and actors in American foreign policy. The course concludes with an examination of the challenges and opportunities that face current U.S. decision makers. A significant component of the course is the intensive discussion of specific foreign policy decisions.

Requirements and Course Grading

Grades will be based on: (1) a take-home final (35%), (2) a take-home midterm (30%), and (3) participation (35%).

Class periods will be devoted to a mixture of lecture and discussion. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the day's assigned reading.

Exams

Midterm: The take-home midterm will be comprised essays. The exam is open book and open note. You may not give or receive aid from any other person.

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References to material from the course are expected. No references to material from outside the course are expected. Excused (no penalty) late exams will be allowed only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies. No unpenalized extensions will be granted due to the pressures of academic life (such as work due in other classes) so plan accordingly.

Unexcused late exams will be penalized 1/3 of a full letter grade (e.g., B+ to B) for each day it is late (every full 24 hours from the due time is a one grade step). Please inform me immediately through e-mail that your exam will be late under this provision. No unexcused late exams will be accepted after 7 days.

Final: There will be an essay-format, take-home final. The expectations are the same as described for the midterm.

Participation

Participation will be evaluated based upon the student's contribution to discussion, responsiveness to other students, and quality of insight. Class attendance is a basic requirement of the participation grade.

Readings

There are two books for purchase.

Jeffrey Lantis, U.S. Foreign Policy In Action (USFPA), ISBN 1444331000.

James McCormick (ed.) Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy (DSAFP), 2012, 6th edition, ISBN 1442209615.

Example Schedule

Historical Legacy, Patterns, and Decisions

Day 1: Overview of course

Day 2: The Legacy of U.S. Foreign Policy History

Walter Russell Mead, "The American Foreign Policy Legacy," Foreign Affairs 81 (January/February 2002): pp. 163-76.

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 1-35.

Day 3: Models of American Foreign Policy Making: International and Societal Forces

Ole R. Holsti, "Theories of International Relations," Making American Foreign Policy, (New York: Taylor & Francis Group, 2006): pp. 313-343.

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 38-67.

Mead, "Tea Party, Populism, and the Domestic Culture of U.S. Foreign Policy," DSAFP, pp. 55-66.

Eugene Wittkopf and Christopher Jones, "Pattern and Process in American Foreign Policy: An Analytical Perspective" American Foreign Policy, (Belmont, CA: Thompson & Wadsworth, 2007), pp. 17-26.

Day 4: Models of American Foreign Policy Making: Individual Level

Ole R. Holsti, "Cognitive Process Approaches to Decision-Making: Foreign Policy Actors Viewed Psychologically" Making American Foreign Policy, (New York: Taylor & Francis Group, 2006): pp. 33-54.

Philip Tetlock and Charles McGuire, Jr., "Cognitive Perspectives on Foreign Policy," in G. John Ikenberry, American Foreign Policy, 5th ed., (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004): pp. 484-500.

Nelson, "Person and Office: Presidents, the Presidency, and Foreign Policy," DSAFP, pp. 179-188.

Day 5: Case Discussion -- Cuban Missile Crisis

Institute for the Study of Diplomacy Case 129 "The Cuban Missile Crisis"

Vojtech Mastny, "Soviet Foreign Policy, 1953-1962," in Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad, eds. The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Vol. 1, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010): pp. 331-333.

Day 6: Case Discussion – Vietnam

Richard Neustadt, "Americanizing the Vietnam War" (Boston: Kennedy School of Government, 1983).

Recommended:

Bruce Kuklick, Blind Oracles, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006): pp. 206-220.

Gordon Goldstein, Lessons in Disaster, (New York: Holt and Company, 2008): pp. 144-185.

Robert McNamara, In Retrospect (New York: Vintage Books, 1996): (selections).

Fredrick Logevall, "Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam," Presidential Studies Quarterly, March 2004, pp. 100-112.

Thomson, "How Could Vietnam Happen? An Autopsy," DSAFP, pp. 333-344.

Logevall & Goldstein, "Will Syria Be Obama's Vietnam?" New York Times, October 9, 2014.

The Decision Making Context

Day 7: The Presidency

Larry George, "Democratic Theory and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy" The Constitution and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1996): pp. 57-81.

Lantis, USFPA, 68-99

Fisher, "Presidents who Initiate Wars," DSAFP, pp. 189-208.

Day 8: Congress

Harold Hongju Koh, "Why the President Almost Always Wins in Foreign Affairs" The Constitution and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy, (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1996): pp. 158-180.

Lindsay, "The Shifting Pendulum of Power: Executive-Legislative Relations on American Foreign Policy" DSAFA, pp. 223-238.

Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, "National War Powers Commission Report," 2011.

Josh Gerstein, "President Obama Invokes Iraq War Authorization in Syria," Politico September 23, 2014.

Midterm Posted by end of the week on Friday.

Day 9: Case Study Discussion -- Iraq War 2003

Jeffrey S. Lantis and Eric Moskowitz, "The Return of the Imperial Presidency? The Bush Doctrine and U.S. Intervention in Iraq," in Ralph G. Carter, ed., Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy, 4th ed. (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011): pp. 38-73.

Douglas Foyle, "Leading the Public to War?" International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 2004, pp. 269-294.

Day 10: Structured Debate -- The War on Terror

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 100-111.

Day 11: Public Opinion and Elections

Foyle, Douglas C. "Vox Populi as a Foundation for Foreign Policy Renewal? Unity and Division in Post-Bush Administration Public Opinion," in Steven W. Hook and James M. Scott, eds, U.S. Foreign Policy Today: American Renewal? (Washington: CQ Press, 2012, pp. 54-76).

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 204-224.

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Berinsky, "Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict," DSAFP, pp. 123-138

Nincic, "External Affairs and the Electoral Connection," DSAFP, pp. 157-178.

Day 12: Interest Groups and Political Parties

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 163-203.

McCormick, "Ethnic Interest Groups in American Foreign Policy," DSAFP, pp. 67-88.

Mearsheimer and Walt, "The Israel Lobby," DSAFP, pp. 89-104.

Day 13: Public Opinion Exercise

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 226-237.

Project 1: Alternative News Media and Foreign policy: Educating the Public

Project 2: The Media and National Security: Is There a Public "Right to Know"?

We will spend half of the class period (40 minutes) on each of these questions. The section will begin with a presentation by the group assigned for that period.

Day 14: Case Discussion -- DP World

Foyle, Douglas C., "Anatomy of a Crash: Port Security and the 2006 Dubai Ports World Controversy," in Ralph Carter, ed., Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade, 3rd ed. Washington: CQ Press, 2008, pp. 151-184.

Day 15: Foreign Policy Institutional Actors

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 116-144.

Peter Baker and Eric Schmitt, "Many Missteps in Assessment of ISIS Threat," New York Times, September 29, 2014.

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Destler, "How National Security Advisers See Their Role," DSAFP, pp. 209-222.

Jervis, "Why Intelligence and Policymakers Clash," DSAFP, pp. 267-284.

Smith, "Policy Preferences and Bureaucratic Position: The Case of the American Hostage Rescue Mission" DSAFP, pp. 345-360.

Midterm Due.

Day 16: The Military

Feaver & Gelpi, "American Veterans in Government and the Use of Force," DSAFP, pp. 105-122.

Adams & Leatherman, "A Leaner and Meaner Defense," DSAFP, pp. 253-266.

Russo & Haney, "Intermestic Politics and Homeland Security," DSAFP, pp. 285-300.

The Future of American Foreign Policy

Day 17: Interests and Goals

Nye, "The Future of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective," DSAFP, pp. 33-47.

Rachman, "Think Again: American Decline," DSAFP, pp. 47-54.

Day 18: Grand Strategy

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 243-82.

Walter A. McDougall, "Can the U.S. Do Grand Strategy" FPRI Telegram, no. 3, April 2010.

Charles A. Kupchan and Peter L. Trubowitz, "Grand Strategy for a Divided America," Foreign Affairs, July/August 2007.

Day 19: Security Threats

Stephen Walt, "What Would a Realist World Have Looked Like?" Foreign Policy, January 8, 2016, <http://foreignpolicy.com/author/stephen-walt/>.

Richard Cohen, "The Limits of American Realism," New York Times, January 11, 2016.

Peter Baker, "Balancing Terror and Reality in State of Union Address," New York Times, January 11, 2016.

Western, "Sources of Humanitarian Intervention: Beliefs, Information, and Advocacy in U.S. Decision on Somalia and Bosnia," DSAFP, pp. 399-416.

Lizza, "Obama: The Consequentialist" DSAFP, pp. 429--448.

Current Director of National Intelligence Threat Assessment.

Day 20: Economics

Destler, "American Trade Policymaking: A Unique Process," DSAFP, pp. 301-318.

Day 21: The Financial Crisis, the Budget Deficit, and Foreign Policy

Niall Ferguson, "Complexity and Collapse: Empires on the Edge of Chaos," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2010, pp. 18-32.

Paul Krugman, "Nobody Understands Debt," New York Times January 2, 2012.

Stephen M. Walt, "Indispensable or Insolvent," Foreign Policy, March 21, 2010, <http://foreignpolicy.com/author/stephen-walt/>.

John Cassidy, "The Reinhart and Rogoff Controversy: A Summing Up." New Yorker <http://www.newyorker.com/rational-irrationality/the-reinhart-and-rogooff-controversy-a-summing-up>,

Paul Krugman, "Reinhart and Rogoff Are Not Happy" New York Times, <http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/26/reinhart-and-rogooff-are-not-happy/>.

Day 22: Defense Policy

Jones, "Roles, Politics, and the Survival of the V-22 Osprey," DSAFP, pp. 361-382.

Elisabeth Bumiller and Thom Shanker, "Panetta Strategy for Cutting Military Budget," *New York Times*, January 2, 2012.

"Service Chiefs Testify on Risks of Sequestration," November 7, 2013, <http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/467469/service-chiefs-testify-on-risks-of-sequestration>.

Joe Gould, "Beyond U.S. Budget Deal, Defense Faces Uncertainty," November 27, 2015, <http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/policy-budget/budget/2015/11/17/beyond-us-budget-deal-defense-faces-uncertainty/75902464/>

Day 23: The Great Powers and Simulation Day 1: A Nuclear Detonation In Iran

Goldgeier, "NATO Expansion: The Anatomy of a Decision" DSAFP, pp. 383-398.

Andrei Shleifer and Daniel Treisman, "Why Moscow Says No," Foreign Affairs, January/February 2011, 122-138.

Joshua Pollack, "Emerging Strategic Dilemmas in U.S.- Chinese Relations," Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, July/August, 2009, pp. 53-63.

Layne, "China's Challenge to U.S. Hegemony" Current History, January 2008, pp. 13-18.

Simulation, see Lantis pp. 145-162.

Day 24: Simulation Day 2: A Nuclear Detonation In Iran

Day 2 assignment: 1 options memo

Day 25: Day 3 Simulation: A Nuclear Detonation In Iran

Day 26: Why does the U.S. do what it does?

Lantis, USFPA, pp. 282-295.

Final Due: Finals Day 1 at 11:59 p.m.