

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT
Spring 2006

Gov 311: US Foreign Policy

MW 8:30-9:50

Instructor: Arman Grigorian

Class Location: PAC 422

Office: PAC 220

Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30 or by appointment.

Course Description: The principal focus of this course is the US national security policy and the debates surrounding it. Some of the questions we will explore are exactly the ones that occupy the editorial pages of major newspapers and foreign policy periodicals: Why is the US in the crosshairs of Islamic terrorism? What is the best strategy for combating it? What in general should be the US role in the world? Should the US try to remake the world in its image, by force if necessary? Can such a strategy be successful? Should the US have invaded Iraq? What should the US do in Iraq now that it is there? We will not limit our discussion to these questions, however. We will go somewhat deeper into the theoretical and historical background that underpins the contemporary debates surrounding these questions. More specifically, we will explore some of the crucial events and decisions in the history of the US foreign policy, such as the process that gradually ended American isolationism in the first half of the 20th century, the decisions to get involved in the two world wars, the decision to “fight” the Cold War, the events that led to the Vietnam debacle, etc. We will also try to situate much of this history and contemporary policy debates in the more fundamental theoretical contest between Realists and Liberals.

Format: The class will be held as a seminar. This means active participation will be expected, and a relatively large portion of the grade will be determined by both the quantity and the quality of that participation.

Prerequisites: Government 155 or instructor’s permission.

Requirements: Students will be required to attend all the class meetings, and do all the readings. More than one unexplained absence will result in a failing grade for the class participation portion of the grade, and three or more cases of unexplained absence will result in a failing grade for the course. There will be two assignments. The first will be a 5-7 page mid-term essay on a topic that I will assign. The second will be a 15-20 page research paper. Students will choose the topic for the research paper, but they will have to get my approval. To that end they will have to hand in a 2-page proposal by February 20. The research papers will be due in the course mail-box at noon on May 15. No incompletes or extensions will be given with the exception of cases of verifiable medical or family emergencies. Late papers will be penalized at the rate of half a grade for every

24 hours. The heavy workload for other courses and extracurricular activities will not be considered emergencies.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Class participation – 20%

Mid-term essay – 30%

Research paper – 50%

The following books are available for purchase:

Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991).

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2001).

George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, Expanded Edition (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1984).

Eric Nordlinger, *Isolationism Reconfigured: American Foreign Policy for a New Century* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995).

Anatol Lieven, *Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Tony Smith, *Foreign Attachments: The Power of Ethnic Groups in the Making of American Foreign Policy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000).

All other articles and book chapters will be available through the reserve room and/or electronically.

January 25: Introduction and Overview.

January 30, Feb. 1 - Realism vs. Liberalism.

- Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America: An Interpretation of American Political Thought since the Revolution* (New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace, 1955), ch. 11.
- G. John Ikenberry, "America's Liberal Grand Strategy" in Ikenberry ed., *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays*, 5th edition (New York, NY: Longman, 2005), pp. 268-290.
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chs. 1-2.

February 6-8 - Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy.

- Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action, Public Goods and the Theory of Groups* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005), pp. 1-22, ch. V.
- Jack Snyder, *The Myths of Empire*, chs. 1-2

February 13, 15, 20: The Origins: From Isolationism to Engagement.

- Eric Nordlinger, *Isolationism Reconfigured*, chs. 2-3, 8.
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, pp. 238- 261.
- George Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, chs. I, IV, V.

February 22, 27 - The Origins of the Cold War.

- Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, ch. 7.
- Dale Copeland, *The Origins of Major War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2000), ch. 6.
- Robert Kaufman, "On the Uses and Abuses of History in International Relations Theory: Dale Copeland's *The Origins of Major War*," *Security Studies*, Vol. 10, no. 4 (Summer, 2001), pp. 179- 185 and 194-204.
- Dale Copeland, "Theory and History in the Study of Major War," *Security Studies*, Vol. 10, no. 4 (Summer, 2001), pp. 224-235.

March 1, 6, – The Vietnam War.

- Lyndon Johnson, "American Policy in Viet-nam," in Margus Raskin and Bernard Fall, eds., *The Viet-nam Reader* (New York, NY: Vintage, 1967), pp. 343-351.
- George Herring, *America's Longest War : The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*, 2nd edition (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1986), chs. IV, VII .
- Andrew Krepinevich, Jr., *The Army and Vietnam* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), ch. 6.
- Sol W. Sanders and William Henderson, "The Consequences of 'Vietnam'," *Orbis*, Vol. 21. no. 1 (Spring 1977).
- Melvin Laird, "Iraq: Learning the Lessons of Vietnam," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, no. 6 (November/December 2005).

March 8, 27, 29 – End of the Cold War and the Debate over Grand Strategy

- Patrick Tyler, "US Strategy Plan Calls for Insuring No Rivals Develop," *The New York Times*, March 8, 1992.
- "Excerpts from Pentagon's Plan: Prevent the Re-emergence of a New Rival," *The New York Times*, March 8, 1992.
- Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 70, no. 1 (Winter, 1990-91).
- Robert Art, "Defensible Defense: America's Grand Strategy after the Cold War," *International Security* 15, no. 4, (Spring 1991).
- Christopher Layne, "The Unipolar Illusion: Why New Great Powers Will Rise," *International Security*, Vol. 17, no. 4, (Spring, 1993).
- Eugene Gholz, Daryl Press, and Harvey Sapolsky, "Come Home America: The Strategy of Restraint in the Face of Temptation," *International Security*, Vol. 21, no. 4, (Spring, 1997).
- Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, no. 4 (July/August 2002).

April 3, 5 – Clinton's Grand Strategy: Expanding the Zone of Peace and Democracy?

- William J. Clinton, "Advancing Our Interests through Engagement and Enlargement," in Peter Hays, Brenda Vallance, and Alan Van Tassel, eds., *American Defense Policy*, 7th Edition (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), pp. 284-298.
- Strobe Talbott, "Why NATO Should Grow," *The New York Review of Books*, August 10, 1995.
- Zbigniew Brzezinski, "A Plan for Europe," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 74, no. 1 (January/February, 1995).
- Michael Brown, "The Flawed Logic of NATO Expansion," *Survival*, Vol. 37, no. 1 (Spring, 1995).
- Tony Smith, "In Defense of Intervention," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 73, no. 6 (November/December, 1994).
- Doug Bandow, "NATO's Hypocritical Humanitarianism," in Ted Galen Carpenter, ed., *NATO's Empty Victory: Postmortem on the Balkan War* (Washington, DC: CATO Institute, 2000), pp. 31-47.

April 10, 12 – Sept 11: "Why do they hate us?"

- Barry Rubin, "The Real Roots of Arab Anti-Americanism," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, no. 6 (November/December, 2002).
- Fareed Zakaria, "The Politics of Rage: Why Do They Hate US?" *Newsweek*, October 15, 2001.
- Stephen Walt, *Taming American Power: The Global Response to US Primacy* (New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2005), ch. 2.
- Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, no. 3 (August, 2003).

April 17 – The Doctrine of Prevention and the War in Iraq

- The National Security Document.
- Kenneth Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad?” *Foreign Affairs* 81, no. 2 (March/April 2002).
- John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, “An Unnecessary War,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 134 (January/February, 2003).
- Paul Schroeder, “The Case against Preemptive War,” *The American Conservative*, (October 21, 2002).

April 19, 24 – American Empire?

- Stephen P. Rosen, “An Empire, if You Can Keep It,” in *National Interest*, no. 71, Spring 2003.
- Philip Zelikow, “The Transformation of National Security,” *National Interest*, no. 71, Spring 2003.
- Jack Snyder, “Imperial Temptations,” *National Interest*, no. 71, Spring 2003.
- Michael Mann, *Incoherent Empire* (London, UK: Verso, 2005), pp. 29-44.
- Stephen Walt, *Taming American Power*, ch. 5

April 26, May 1, 3, 8 – Domestic Sourced of Contemporary American Foreign Policy, or Why Realists Write Op-eds.

- Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004), chs. 1-2, 5.
- Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), chs 1-2, 5-7
- Tony Smith, *Foreign Attachments: The Power of Ethnic Groups in the Making of American Foreign Policy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000), chs. 1, 3-4.