

Government 311 United States Foreign Policy

Fall 2011
MW 2:40-4pm
Class Location: PAC 422
Home Page: <http://dfoyle.web.wesleyan.edu/>
Office Hours: W 11:30-1:30 pm
and by appointment

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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 considers 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 major institutions and actors in American foreign policy are considered. The course concludes with an examination of the challenges and opportunities that face U.S. decision makers in the current context. It is assumed that students have a basic understanding of the American system of government.

Students are strongly encouraged to stay current with foreign policy developments through reading one of the major newspapers (e.g., New York Times or Washington Post) in either the paper or on-line version.

Course Grading

Grading Policies: For specifics on my grading standards and numerical thresholds for various grades, see my website under the “Courses and Grading” link.

Please note: I do not “round” the numerical scores. A numerical score must at least reach the minimum threshold of a grade to receive that grade (e.g., 89.99 is a B+ while 90 is an A-).

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, but you may not give or receive aid from any other person. The midterm will be posted on the Moodle (an announcement will be sent). It is due as indicated on the class schedule. Turn in your completed midterm at any point before the deadline in the appropriate section of the Moodle.

You do not need to footnote anything. 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. The final will be due at the end of the final exam window for this course time. Turn in your final on Moodle. Excused and unexcused rules apply as outlined 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. You will receive two participation grades: one for the first half of the semester (classes 2-13) and one for the second half of the semester (classes 14-25). These two grades will be averaged to yield the final participation grade

Readings

The following books are required reading:

John Lewis Gaddis, Strategies of Containment, rev. edition (also available through the Moodle electronically)
Glenn P. Hastedt, ed., Annual Editions: American Foreign Policy 11/12, 15th edition

The books are on reserve at Olin Library. A number of other readings are available directly from the course Moodle as indicated on the syllabus.

The following item is available for purchase (in paper or pdf format) directly from the Kennedy School of Government at <http://www.ksgcase.harvard.edu/>. Make sure you purchase the 28 page case study (listed as a “case” for type).

Case 271.0 Richard Neustadt, “Americanizing the Vietnam War”

The following items are available for purchase (in paper or pdf format) directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

ISD Case 334 “The Cuban Missile Crisis”

To order the cases, go to the ISD website: <http://www.guisd.org/>. Please note that these items are non-returnable.

Students with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

I. Introduction

1. September 5 Introduction: Overview of Course

II. Decisions and Decision Makers

2. September 7 A U.S. Foreign Policy Legacy? -- Isolationism and Internationalism
- Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 3-23 (Moodle)
Walter Russell Mead, "The American Foreign Policy Legacy," Foreign Affairs 81 (January/February 2002): pp. 163-76. (Moodle)
3. September 12 Models of American Foreign Policy Making: International and Societal Forces
- Ole R. Holsti, "Theories of International Relations," Making American Foreign Policy, pp. 313-343 (Moodle)
Eugene Wittkopf and Christopher Jones, "Pattern and Process in American Foreign Policy: An Analytical Perspective" American Foreign Policy, pp. 17-26 (Moodle)
4. September 14 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, pp. 33-54
Philip Tetlock and Charles McGuire, Jr., "Cognitive Perspectives on Foreign Policy," in G. John Ikenberry, American Foreign Policy, 5th ed., pp. 484-500.
5. September 19 The Origins of the Cold War
- Gaddis, Strategies of Containment, pp. 24-124 (Moodle)
Vladimir, O. Pechatnov, "The Soviet Union and The World, 1944-1953," in Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad, eds. The Cambridge History of the Cold War, Vol. 1, 2010, pp. 90-111. (Moodle)
- Recommended:
- X Article/George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," Foreign Affairs 65 (Spring 1987):852-68. (Moodle)
NSC-68. (Moodle) Skim in comparison to the X article.
Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 125-234 (Moodle)

6. September 21 Case Discussion: The Cuban Missile Crisis
- ISD Case 334 “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, 2010, pp. 312-333. (Moodle)
7. September 26 Case Discussion: Vietnam
- Americanizing the Vietnam War by Richard Neustadt– this case will be the basis for discussion.
Bruce Kuklick, Blind Oracles, 2006, pp. 206-220 (Moodle)
Gordon Goldstein, Lessons in Disaster, pp. 144-185 (Moodle)
Selections from McNamara, In Retrospect (Moodle)
Fredrick Logevall, “Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam,” Presidential Studies Quarterly, March 2004, pp. 100-112. (Moodle)
Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 235-271 (Moodle)

Note: Read rest of Gaddis, Strategies, pp. 271-391 (Moodle) over the next couple of weeks for background.

III. Institutions

8. September 28 The Presidency and the Constitution
- Larry George, “Democratic Theory and the Conduct of American Foreign Policy” (Moodle)
Mead, “The Carter Syndrome” (Hastedt reader #21)
Miller Center, “National War Powers Commission Report” (Hastedt reader #22)
Slaughter & Rabkin, “Law, Liberty, and War” (Hastedt reader #28)
9. October 3 Congress
- Harold Hongju Koh, “Why the President Almost Always Wins in Foreign Affairs” (Moodle)
James M. Lindsay, “From Deference to Activism and Back Again: Congress and the Politics of American Foreign Policy” (Moodle)
Howell and Pevehouse, “When Congress Stops Wars,” (Hastedt Reader #27)

10. October 5 Case Discussion: The 2003 Iraq War

Jeffrey S. Lantis and Eric Moskowitz, "The Return of the Imperial Presidency? The Bush Doctrine and U.S. Intervention in Iraq," (Moodle)

Douglas Foyle, "Leading the Public to War?" International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 2004 (Moodle).

Midterm posted by end of day Friday, October 7

11. October 10 Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Elections

Foyle, "*Vox Populi* as a Foundation for Foreign Policy Renewal? Unity and Division in Post-Bush Administration Public Opinion," (Moodle)

Foyle, Douglas C. "Public Opinion's Influence on Foreign Policy: Conditionality and Engagement in the Third Wave," (Moodle).

Roberts, "The War We Deserve" (Hastedt reader, #18)

Huliaras, "The Evangelical Roots of U.S. Africa Policy," (Hastedt reader #19)

Martin, "Waiting Games," (Hastedt reader #20)

12. October 12 Case Discussion: Dubai Ports Crisis

Foyle, "Anatomy of a Crash: Port Security and the 2006 Dubai Ports World Controversy" (Moodle)

13. October 17 Bureaucratic Politics

Graham Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," American Political Science Review Vol. 63 (September 1969): 689-718. (Moodle) (focus on the *main concepts* of the organizational and bureaucratic politics models).

Stephen Krasner, "Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison in Wonderland)" Foreign Policy (Summer 1972): 159-79. (Moodle)

IV. Actors and Issues

14. October 19 Foreign Policy Actors: The State Department, National Security Adviser, Homeland Security, and the Intelligence Community
- Charles Parker and Eric Stern “Bolt from Blue or Avoidable Failure?”
Foreign Policy Analysis November 2005 (Moodle)
- Ivo H. Daalder and I.M. Destler, “How National Security Advisers See Their Role” (Moodle)
- Light, “The Homeland Security Hash” (Hastedt reader #23)
- Kerbel, “Lost for Words” (Hastedt reader #25)
- Atwood, McPherson, Natsios, “Arrested Development,” (Hastedt reader #26)
- Luce & Dombey, “US Foreign Policy: Waiting on a Sun King,”
Financial Times (Moodle)
- Lois Romano, “Hillaryland Goes State” Washington Post, March 11, 2010 (Moodle)
- Friday, October 21 Midterm Due (on Moodle) at noon (covers classes 1-13)**
15. October 26 Foreign Policy Actors: The Military
- Ole Holsti, “A Widening Gap Between the U.S. Military and Civilian Society? Some Evidence, 1976-96” International Security 23 (Winter 1998/99): 5-42 (Moodle)
- Kohn, “Coming Soon” (Hastedt reader #24)
- FPRI, “Mind the Gap: Post-Iraq Civil-Military Relations in America A Conference Report” January 2008 (Moodle)
16. October 31 Economics – American Ideas and Foreign Economic Policy Making
- Stephen Cohen, Joel Paul, Robert Blecker, “Decisionmaking Explained: The How and Why of Policymakers’ Behavior” (Moodle)
- Mead, “America’s Sticky Power” (Hastedt reader #31)
- Leverett & Noel, “The New Axis of Oil,” (Hastedt reader #32)
17. November 2 Economics – The Financial Crisis, Government Debt, and Foreign Policy
- Niall Ferguson, “Complexity and Collapse: Empires on the Edge of Chaos,” Foreign Affairs, March/April 2010 (Moodle)
- Paul Krugman, “How the Other Half Thinks,”
<http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/02/how-the-other-half-thinks/>
- Justin Wolfers, “Krugman vs. Ferguson: Letting the Data Speak,” (click on imbedded links too)
<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/15/krugman-vs-ferguson-letting-the-data-speak/>
- Stephen M. Walt, “Indispensable or Insolvent” at
http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/21/indispensable_or_insolvent
- Roubini, “The Coming Financial Pandemic” (Hastedt reader #33)

23. November 28 Case Discussion: Global Economics
- Thomas D. Lairson, “The Global Financial Crisis: Governments, Banks, and Markets” (Moodle)
24. November 30 Iraq and Afghanistan
- Woodward, Obama’s Wars, selections (Moodle)
 Kagan, “How We’ll Know When We’ve Won” (Hastedt reader #43)
 Biddle, “Is it Worth It?” (Hastedt reader #44)
 Daxner, “Afghanistan: Graveyard of Good Intent” (Hastedt reader #445)
 Rid, “Cracks in the Jihad,” (Hastedt reader #46)
 Edelstein, “Exit Lessons,” (Hastedt reader #47)
25. December 5 A World of Snakes: Additional Foreign Policy Challenges
- DNI Threat Assessment, 2010 (Moodle)
 Shen, “Can Sanctions Stop Proliferation?” (Hastedt reader #34)
 Sigal, “Let’s Make a Deal” (Hastedt reader #12)
 Erikson, “Requiem for the Monroe Doctrine” (Hastedt reader #13)
 Gerecht, “Mirror Imaging the Mullahs” (Hastedt reader #14)
 Lindsay & Takeyh, “After Iran Gets the Bomb,” (Hastedt reader #15)
 Etzioni, “Bottom-Up Nation Building” (Hastedt reader #17)
 Munson, “Lifting the Veil” (Hastedt reader #42)

VI. Conclusions

26. December 7 Why does the U.S. do what it does?

Final due at the end of the final exam window for this course’s date and time. See Registrar Schedule.