

U.S. Foreign Policy

Instructor: Brian Blankenship

Course Location: TBA

Course Meeting Time: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course introduces students to the sources of American foreign policy, as well as to the history of U.S. foreign relations. During the course, students will be exposed to various schools of thought on the proper direction and priorities of U.S. foreign policy, as well as the domestic actors involved in the formation and shaping of U.S. policy – including the president, Congress, public opinion, and the bureaucracy. The course consists of four main units: the ideological roots of American foreign policy; the domestic influences on U.S. policy; the history of U.S. foreign relations; and the interests the United States has pursued through its foreign policy. Class concludes with a discussion of current issues facing the United States.

All of the readings are posted online. There are no books to buy.

Learning Objectives

In addition to substantive knowledge, students can expect to develop the following skills over the duration of the course:

- Students will come to a critical understanding of competing theories and debates on U.S. foreign policy, and will become more familiar with the study of foreign policy and international politics more broadly.
- Students will improve their persuasive and analytical writing skills.
- Students will learn how to dissect, restate, and critique theoretical and empirical arguments in scholarly political science work.

Requirements

Late work will lose 10% of possible points per day.

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Attendance and weekly readings are mandatory, and students should come prepared with discussion points and questions based on the week's materials. Class may not be missed except in case of exceptional emergency, religious observance, or illness with a doctor's note, and I must be informed as far ahead of time as practicable. Absences harm not only the participation grade, but affect grading of all other work as I am less able to assess the student's understanding of and engagement with the relevant texts. Make-up work may be assigned for approved absences.

Response Paper 1: 15%

Students will be required to submit a two-page paper, worth 20 % of the final grade, in response to a week's readings. These papers should briefly summarize the week's readings, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the readings, and raise questions for further analysis or clarification.

Response Paper 2: 15%

The second two-page response paper will ask students to evaluate U.S. security, economic, or humanitarian interests and policies based on one of the week's readings from Unit 4 of the course (Interests in American Foreign Policy).

Midterm Exam: 20%**Final Exam: 30%****Course Texts**

Almost all readings will be placed on library reserve, electronically or physically. The only book required for purchase is:

Samantha Power, *"A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Basic Books, 2002.

Course Schedule

1 The Ideological Roots of American Foreign Policy

Section 1. American Exceptionalism

Chapter 1 of Mead, Walter Russell. 2009. *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Chapter 11 of Hartz, Louis. 1991. *The Liberal Tradition in America*, 2nd ed. Wilmington, MA: Mariner Books.

Chapters 1-2 of Kissinger, Henry. 1994. *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Section 2. Liberalism and Realism in U.S. Foreign Policy

Introduction to Miller, Paul D. 2016. *American Power and Liberal Order: A Conservative Internationalist Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

Chapter 2 of Nau, Henry. 2015. *Conservative Internationalism: Armed Diplomacy under Jefferson, Polk, Truman, and Reagan*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Schmidt, Brian, and Michael Williams. 2008. "The Bush Doctrine and the Iraq War: Neoconservatives Versus Realists." *Security Studies* 17: 191-220.

2 The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy

Section 3. The Executive Branch

Peterson, Paul E. 1997. "The President's Dominance in Foreign Policy Making." *Political Science Quarterly* 112: 215-234.

Chapter 6 of Armacost, Michael. 1969. *The Foreign Relations of the United States*. Belmont, CA: Dickenson Publishing Co.

Allison, Graham. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63: 689-718.

Section 4. Congress and Public Opinion

Chapter 2 of Milner, Helen, and Dustin Tingley. 2015. *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Chapter 1 of Narizny, Kevin. 2007. *The Political Economy of Grand Strategy*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Schwartz, Thomas. 2009. “‘Henry,...Winning an Election is Terribly Important’: Partisan Politics in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations.” *Diplomatic History* 33: 173-190.

3 The Evolution of American Foreign Policy

Section 5. Isolationism and Engagement, 1789-1945

Bukovansky, Mlada. 1997. “American Identity and Neutral Rights from Independence to the War of 1812.” *International Organization* 51: 173-208.

Chapters 3-5 of Zakaria, Fareed. 1996. *From Wealth to Power: The Unusual Origins of America’s World Role*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Section 6. The Cold War, 1946-1989

Jervis, Robert. 2001. “Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 3: 36-60.

Friedberg, Aaron. 1992. “Why Didn’t the United States Become a Garrison State?” *International Security* 16: 109-142.

Postscript to Lebow, Richard Ned, and Janice Gross Stein. 1994. *We All Lost the Cold War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Haas, Mark. 2007. “The United States and the End of the Cold War: Reactions to Shifts in Soviet Power, Policies, or Domestic Politics?” *International Organization* 61: 145-179.

Section 7. Unipolarity and the War on Terrorism, 1990-

Krauthammer, Charles. 1990. “The Unipolar Moment.” *Foreign Affairs* 70: 23-33.

Mueller, John, and Mark Stewart. 2012. “The Terrorism Delusion: America’s Overwrought Response to September 11.” *International Security* 37: 81-110.

Goldgier, James M. 2008. “NATO Expansion: The Anatomy of a Decision.” in Wittkopf and McCormick, eds., *Domestic Sources of Foreign American Policy*, 5th ed. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

4 Interests in American Foreign Policy

Section 8. Security Priorities

Posen, Barry, and Andrew Ross. 1996. "Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy." *International Security* 21: 5-53.

Posen, Barry. 2013. "Pull Back: The Case for a Less Activist Foreign Policy." *Foreign Affairs* 92: 116-128.

Brooks, Stephen, G. John Ikenberry, and William Wohlforth. 2012. "Don't Come Home America: The Case Against Retrenchment." *International Security* 37: 7-51.

Gavin, Frank. 2015. "Strategies of Inhibition: U.S. Grand Strategy, the Nuclear Revolution, and Nonproliferation." *International Security* 40: 9-46.

Section 9. Economic Priorities

Chapters 2 and 4 of Norrlof, Carla. 2010. *America's Global Advantage: US Hegemony and International Cooperation*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Drezner, Daniel. 2013. "Military Primacy Doesn't Pay (Nearly As Much As You Think)." *International Security* 38: 52-79.

Frieden, Jeffrey. 1989. "The Economics of Intervention: Overseas Investments and Relations With Underdeveloped Areas, 1890-1950." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31: 55-80.

Section 10. Humanitarian Priorities

Chapters 1-3 and 14 of Power, Samantha. 2002. *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Basic Books.

5 Current Issues in American Foreign Policy

Section 11. Challenges to the Pax Americana?

G. John Ikenberry. 2008. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs* 87: 23-37.

Subramanian, Arvind. 2011. "The Inevitable Superpower: Why China's Dominance Is a Sure Thing." *Foreign Affairs* 90: 66-78.

Byman, Daniel. 2015. "Beyond Counterterrorism: Washington Needs a Real Middle East Policy." *Foreign Affairs* 94: 11-18.

Pollack, Kenneth. 2016. "Fight or Flight: America's Choice in the Middle East." *Foreign Affairs* 95: 62-75.

Section 12. The Future of U.S. Foreign Policy

Lissner, Rebecca Friedman, and Mira Rapp-Hooper. 2018. "The Day after Trump: American Strategy for a New International Order." *Washington Quarterly* 41: 7-25.

Staniland, Paul. 2018. "Misreading the 'Liberal Order': Why We Need New Thinking in American Foreign Policy." *Lawfare*, July 29, 2018.

Brooks, Stephen, and William Wohlforth. 2016. "The Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won't Overtake the United States." *Foreign Affairs* 95: 91-104.

Porter, Patrick. 2018. "Why America's Grand Strategy Has Not Changed." *International Security* 42: 9-46.