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Political Science 383
TTH 10:15-11:35
ED 125
Office Hours: T 12-2
in HUM 16
(and by appt.)

American Foreign Policy

Spring 2011

This upper-level undergraduate course examines the patterns of American foreign policy over the past century and provides an introduction to the political institutions and processes involved in the making of foreign policy as well as a region-by-region overview of US foreign policies and case studies of their execution. Specific issues considered include: American political culture and American exceptionalism; debates on American national interests; the role of interest groups and public opinion; the Congress; the presidency; the military; the intelligence communities, the State Department and diplomacy, especially in the context ending wars. This examination of institutions, policymaking processes and foreign policy case studies provides a foundation for discussion of contemporary global challenges facing the US as well as emerging issues of the future.

Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for this course, however, completion of RPOS 102 is strongly recommended. It will be assumed that students have a strong foundation in 20th century world history. Students who have not sufficiently studied 20th century world history should consider taking this course after taking appropriate history courses. Alternatively, students may undertake additional remedial work in the first few weeks of the course by reading a history of the period e.g. Geoffrey Blainey, *A Short History of the Twentieth Century* (Penguin, 2007) or Martin Gilbert, *A History of the Twentieth Century* (Harper Perennial, 2002). It is also assumed that students will have a strong foundation in 20th century US history and be familiar with wars and major international events in which the US was involved. Although we will be briefly reviewing the major events of the history of US foreign policy in the first few weeks of the course, students without sufficient background in US history (e.g. students not from the US) and students who wish to deepen their knowledge of the history of US foreign policy might wish to read Stephen E. Ambrose and Douglas G Brinkley, *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938*, 9th ed. (Penguin: 2011).

Required Texts (available at the UAlbany Bookstore):

Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, *US Foreign Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2008)

Gideon Rose, *How Wars End: Why We Always Fight the Last Battle* (Simon and Shuster, 2010)

Harry W. Kopp and Charles A. Gillespie, *Career Diplomacy: Life and Work in the U.S. Foreign Service* (Georgetown University Press, 2008)

Additional reading:

Additional articles assigned will either be available through URL on syllabus or posted on Blackboard. For the duration of the course, students should read a newspaper with good international coverage such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* or the *Economist*. For a digest of newspapers from around the world see <http://www.worldpress.org/>

Additional resources are found in the main foreign policy journals such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy Magazine*, *Washington Quarterly*, *World Policy Journal* and the *National Interest*.

International affairs journals published by masters students in professional international affairs programs may also be exceptionally useful as well: *The Journal of International Affairs* (Columbia); the *Harvard International Review*; the *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, the *Brown Journal of World Affairs*

There are also several undergraduate-run international affairs journals that students may also consider submitting papers to for publication: e.g. *Hemispheres* (Tufts) <http://ase.tufts.edu/hemispheres/>

Foreign policy blogs: e.g. Stephen Walt *A Realist in an Ideological Age* <http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/> and James M. Lindsay *The Water's Edge* <http://blogs.cfr.org/lindsay/?cid=otc-Lindsayuse>

Columbia International Affairs On-line (CIAO) is a very useful resource that includes many journals and policy papers and you can access through the UAlbany library. <http://www.ciaonet.org.libproxy.albany.edu>

Discussion of International Careers

The course also incorporates an opportunity for students to explore international careers, particularly in the US Foreign Service. For example, in sections of the course that cover the workings of the State Department, one session will be devoted to discussion of the Foreign Service and there will be additional readings distributed across the course that examine issues and roles of the five Foreign Service Officer (FSO) career tracks: Political, Economic, Consular, Management and Public Diplomacy. Those students who are interested in a diplomatic career may use the course to prepare themselves to apply to the Foreign Service and take a practice foreign service exam administered by the instructor. Those students interested in exploring a Foreign Service career should read, within the first two weeks of the semester, the *Guide to the Foreign Service Officer Selection Process 2010-2011*

http://careers.state.gov/uploads/e0/37/e03714459a7db348ecd722e7907ba631/3.0_FSO_RegGuide.pdf

The Foreign Service application process is long and onerous, acceptance into the Foreign Service is extremely competitive and the career requires extensive travel and frequent transfers to different countries, which may dissuade many from following through with taking the exam. Nevertheless, some students may find it useful to undertake the optional Foreign Service exam preparation tract along with this course, even if they do not ultimately decide to take the exam. The suggestions for study and preparation are rather general and could be leveraged in applying for other international public sector positions (e.g. Peace Corps, USAID, intelligence community, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security international organizations within the United Nations) or positions at international non-governmental organization (INGO) positions such as CARE, Oxfam, Amnesty International, Greenpeace, etc. A good guide to exploring all the options is Maria Pinto Carland and Candace Faber, *Careers in International Affairs* (Georgetown University Press, 2008). Although extensive government budget cuts may have reduced federal government hiring over the past few years, a recent study of the federal workforce indicates that a large percentage of public service workers will be retiring in the near future and there will be great demand for well-prepared university graduates for careers in public service. To get a better understanding of demography of the federal government and the kinds of jobs that will be opening up and the skills they will require, read, *The Changing Nature of Public Service*, Final Report, April 19, 2009 <http://www.princeton.edu/gstf/Volcker-Report.pdf>

Course Requirements and Grading:

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|---|-----------|
| Mid-term Exam | about 25% |
| Final Exam | about 35% |
| First paper | about 10% |
| Second paper | about 20% |
| Class participation (including quizzes) | about 10% |

Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings in advance of class and be prepared to discuss them in class. The base line grade for class participation is a D, which will be earned by students who simply attend class. Routine attendance with minimal participation will earn a C.

Regular contributions to discussions that are appropriate and draw on readings will earn a B. Students who are consistently well-prepared to discuss the assigned readings and do so nearly every week will receive an A for class participation.

Make-ups and late assignments

Make-up exams will be permitted for those students who are ill or have a death in the family. Students requesting a make-up must notify the instructor before or within 24 hours of the exam and subsequently provide a physician's note or other documentation to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education who may then send an email excuse notification to the instructor. The make-up exam will not be graded until the instructor receives an emailed excuse from the Vice Provost. Students will be given paper assignments well in advance of their due date and there is no reason that students cannot complete writing their paper well in advance. Late paper assignments will only be accepted if the student has a good reason and late papers will be penalized at ½ letter grade for every 24 hours after the due date.

Academic integrity

Students should review the description of plagiarism in the undergraduate bulletin

http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

All students are expected complete the tutorial at: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html>

Those who have not done so for a previous course should do so during the first week of this course.

Students must properly reference **all** sources, including assigned readings, in **all** written assignments.

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Those involved will fail the course and be reported to judicial affairs.

Class Schedule:

1/20 Introduction

Part I Conceptual and Historical Context of U.S. Foreign Policy

1/25 The International System and the Conduct of US Foreign Policy

Cox and Stokes, pp. 1-17, 45-52

Walter Russell Mead, "The American Foreign Policy Legacy," *Foreign Affairs*, Jan-Feb 2002.

1/27 World War I

Cox and Stokes, pp. 52-55

Rose Chs. 1-2

2/1 World War II

Cox and Stokes, pp. 56-62

Rose Chs. 3-4

2/3 The Cold War and after

Cox and Stokes, pp. 17-23 and ch. 4, 5

2/8 American Exceptionalism

Cox and Stokes, chs. 2, 21

Part II Governmental Frameworks and Policy-making Processes

2/10 The Presidency and executive branch

Cox and Stokes, 107-115

Congressional Research Service, *National Security Council: An Organizational Assessment*, June 8, 2009 http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL30840_20090608.pdf
Review National Security Council webpage at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc>

2/15 State Department

Read "U.S. Dept of State Mission and Structure" at: http://www.state.gov/www/dept/dept_mission.html
Hillary Rodham Clinton, "Leading Through Civilian Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

2/17 The Foreign Service

Kopp and Gillespie, Chs. 1-4 (optional: 7-8)

3/1 Department of Defense

Cox and Stokes, ch. 7.

Read "History" and "mission" under "About" and review DoD website at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Andrew Krepinevich, The Pentagon's Wasting Assets, *Foreign Affairs*, July/Aug, 2009

William Pfaff, "Manufacturing Insecurity," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

3/3 Intelligence Community

Michael Warner, "Sources and Methods for the Study of Intelligence"

Phyllis Provost McNeil, "The Evolution of the U.S. Intelligence Community--An Historical Overview"

Review the website of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

<http://dni.gov/> and also look at the links provided there to see the 16 organizations in the US intelligence community and review those websites

3/8 Congressional Powers and Politics

Cox and Stokes, pp. 115-128

James M. Lindsay, "Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3, (Sep., 2003), pp.530-546

Kopp and Gillespie, Ch 6.

Read "History" and "Oversight plan" under "about" tab at: <http://internationalrelations.house.gov>

Read "History" under "about" tab at: <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

Find a hearing of interest and watch it.

3/10 Regionalism, Public Opinion and Interest Groups

Cox and Stokes, ch. 8, 9

3/15 Mid-term exam

Part III US and the World

3/17 Latin America and Africa

Cox and Stokes, Ch. 15, 16

3/22 The EU and Russia

Cox and Stokes, chs. 12, 13.

Walter Laqueur, "Moscow's Modernization Dilemma" *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

3/24 East Asia: Legacies of the Korean and Vietnam Wars

Rose Chs. 5, 6.

3/29 Asia: New Realities

Cox and Stokes, Ch. 14

Elizabeth Economy, "Game Changer," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

3/31 The Middle East

Cox and Stokes, Ch. 11

Rose Ch. 7

Part IV Current Challenges and Emerging Issues

4/5 Economic Globalization and US Economic Policy

Cox and Stokes 17.

Barry Eichengreen, "Mr. Bernanke Goes to War," *The National Interest*, December 16, 2010

<http://nationalinterest.org/article/mr-bernanke-goes-war-4573>

National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2025*, Nov. 2008, Intro, Ch. 1, 3

http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_2025/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf

Review Office of US Trade Representative website: <http://www.ustr.gov/>

4/7 Foreign aid, sustainable development and the global environment

Cox and Stokes, 19

National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2025*, Nov. 2008, Chs. 2, 4

http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_2025/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf

4/12 Global Terrorism

Cox and Stokes, Ch. 18, 20

National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2025*, Nov. 2008, Ch. 5

http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_2025/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf

4/14 Ending the Iraq War

Rose Ch. 8

Kopp and Gillespie, Ch 5.

4/26 The War in Afghanistan

Cox and Stokes, 22

Rose Ch. 9

Robert Blackwill, "Plan B in Afghanistan," *Foreign Affairs*, V. 90, No. 1, pp. 42-50

Paul Miller, "Finish the Job," *Foreign Affairs*, V.90, No. 1, pp. 51-65.

4/28 The Future of American Power

Zakaria, Fareed, "The Future of American Power - How America Can Survive the Rise of the Rest" *Foreign Affairs* (2008)

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. "The Future of American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

Roger Altman and Richard Haas, "American Profligacy and American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

Arne Duncan, "Back to School" *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010

National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2025*, Nov. 2008, ch.3

http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_2025/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf

5/3 Changing US diplomacy, United Nations and global governance

Kopp and Gillespie, Ch 10.

Jesse Lichtenstein, "Digital Diplomacy," *New York Times Magazine*, July 12, 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/18/magazine/18web2-0-t.html?pagewanted=1&sq=e-diplomacy&st=cse&scp=3>

Thomas G. Weiss, "Toward a Third Generation of International Institutions: Obama's UN Policy," *Washington Quarterly*, July 2009.

Patrick Stewart, "Irresponsible Stakeholders," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2010