

The United States in World Politics

Political Science 245
Winter 2007
CL 0133
T, R 5:30-7:18 pm

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Course Description

This is a course on contemporary U.S. foreign policy, with a strong emphasis on security affairs. This course proceeds in three parts. First, we will begin with a brief theoretical introduction, which will provide you with some useful conceptual building blocks. Second, we will discuss the position and role of the U.S. in the world. And third, we will focus on important security issues in contemporary American foreign policy, such as terrorism and democracy promotion. You should look at the first part as providing the foundation for many of the substantive issues that we will cover in parts two and three.

Course Requirements

- Mid-term @ 30 %
- Final Exam @ 30 %
- 7-10 page paper @ 25 %
- Attendance/Class participation @ 15%

There are three required assignments. You will submit a critical paper that analyzes one class reading. For the purposes of this class, you will choose one reading from a list that I will provide, and then offer a sophisticated critique. Each paper should be structured in five parts: (1) an introduction with a clearly stated argument; (2) a brief summary of the reading; (3) a critique of the reading that tells me what you think are its strengths and weaknesses; (4) a section that points out ways that the article could be improved; and (5) a conclusion that suggests implications for international relations. I will hand out more specific paper guidelines during the quarter. Papers are due in class on Tuesday, March 6.

You will also have a mid-term and final exam that tests your ability to recall and integrate the main arguments of the readings and lecture material presented in class. Both the mid-term and final exam will consist of multi-part essay questions. Rather than seeking to trick you, I will pass out a study guide with 7-10 potential exam questions about a week before each exam. This should provide you with more than enough time to think about the questions, re-read material and study notes, and prepare thoughtful, coherent answers. The mid-term and final exam will test

your ability to answer two of the study guide questions.

Please note that attendance/class participation will NOT be a murky component of your grade. Instead, attendance will be taken throughout the quarter, and your attendance frequency will strongly determine how many points (out of 15) you receive. Students who vigorously participate can enhance their attendance scores.

GEC Goals and Objectives

Goals/ Rationale

1. International issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.
2. Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

Learning Objectives

1. Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.
2. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
3. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
4. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Meeting the Objectives:

While this is a course in American politics, we will spend quite a bit of time discussing, among other things, the politics, economics, and security affairs of foreign countries. In order to gain a better understanding of a number of vital American security issues, such as nuclear proliferation and terrorism, it is important to explore the domestic, regional, and international contexts of relevant foreign countries. Students will learn about issues and problems in U.S. foreign policy through lectures, readings, in-class discussions, and small group activities. Course exams and papers will test your understanding of important concepts and arguments, and they will also allow you to explore your own thoughts about a number of contemporary American security topics. Finally, while this is a political science course, ideas from diverse literatures, such as economics, history, philosophy, geography, institutions, psychology, business, and leadership studies, will be discussed in lectures and readings throughout the quarter.

Late Policy and Missed Exams

Failure to submit papers by the assigned due date listed above will result in a one full letter grade deduction (A to B, B to C, and so on) per day. Only in dramatic cases will you be allowed to complete the mid-term (MID-TERM: Thursday, February 1, 5:30-7:18 pm) or final exam

(FINAL: Tuesday, March 13, 5:30-7:18 pm) should you fail to take them at their scheduled times.

Readings

There is one required book for this class:

Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 2nd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2004).

Copies of the Mingst and Snyder textbook are available for purchase at SBX (on High St.).

In addition, I have created a course packet of book chapters and journal articles, which you can buy at Grade A Notes (located off of 17th and High St.). All of the book chapters and journal articles in the course packet are required readings. For your convenience, I will place a course packet on reserve in Sullivant Library.

Misc.

While this course doesn't require outside research, you will probably find it useful to incorporate current events into your exams and papers as a way to bolster your arguments and poke holes in the claims made by various authors. I recommend that you to look at some of these sources: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *BBC*, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, *Financial Times*, and *The Economist*, all of which are either available online, at the main library, or at your local bookstore. And finally, just so you know, quality television programming such as *The Charlie Rose Show* and *C-SPAN* frequently discuss many of the themes covered in this course. I encourage you to tune in occasionally.

Schedule of Readings

Jan. 4 Class Introduction

I. Theoretical Foundations

Jan. 9

Key Concepts

John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in Mingst and Snyder (hereafter noted as "M&S"), pp.54-72.

Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Relations" and "Political Power," in M&S, pp. 49-53.

Michael J. Glennon, "Why the Security Council Failed," in M&S, pp. 208-218.

John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," in M&S,

pp. 283-294.

II. The Position and Role of the U.S. in World Politics

Jan. 11 *Unipolarity*

William C. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 5-42. (located in course pack; hereafter noted as "cp")

Michael Mandelbaum, "David's Friend Goliath," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2006), pp. 50-57. (cp)

Stephen Walt, "Taming American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5 (September/October 2005), pp. 105-120. (cp)

Jan. 16 *U.S. Grand Strategy*

Francis Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), pp. 1-11, 44-65. (cp)

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," *The National Interest*, No. 70 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-17. (cp)

Joseph Nye, "U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 4 (July/August 2003), pp. 60-73. (cp)

Recommended (not required):

"The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," The White House, March 16, 2006. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2006/nss2006.pdf>)

III. Contemporary Issues and Problems in U.S. Foreign Policy

Jan. 18 *Failed States*

& 23

Robert I. Rotberg, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Summer 2002), pp. 85-96. (cp)

Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States in a World of Terror," in M&S, pp. 157-163.

Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen," in M&S, pp. 233-253.

Jan. 25 *Identity Conflict: Ethnicity and Religion*

John Mueller, "The Banality of Ethnic War," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Summer 2000), pp. 42-70. (cp)

Barry R. Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," in M&S, pp. 357-366.

Robert I. Rotberg, "Sudan and the War in Darfur," in Karen M. Rohan ed., *Great Decisions, 2005 ed.* (New York: Foreign Policy Association, 2005), pp. 57-68.

(cp)

Vali Nasr, *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts Within Islam Will Shape the Future* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2006), pp. 17-29. (cp)

Jan. 30 **Review Session**

Feb. 1 **Mid-Term Exam**

Feb. 6 **American Democracy Promotion**

& 8 Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 76, No. 6 (November/December 1997), pp. 22-43. (cp)

Immanuel Kant, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in M&S, pp. 20-24.

Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," in M&S, pp. 73-86.

Robert Jervis, "Compulsive Empire," in M&S, pp. 138-141.

Gregory Gause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5 (September/October 2005), pp. 62-76. (cp)

Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Prone to Violence: The Paradox of the Democratic Peace," *The National Interest*, No. 82 (Winter 2005/06), pp. 39-45. (cp)

Feb. 13 **Iraq**

Kenneth M. Pollack, "Next Stop Baghdad?," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 2 (March/April 2002), pp. 32-47. (cp)

Thomas R. Mattair, "Exiting Iraq: Competing Strategies," *Middle East Policy*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Spring 2006), pp. 69-83. (cp)

Joseph R. Biden, Jr., "Breathing Room," *The National Interest*, No. 85 (September/October 2006), pp. 36-40. (cp)

Feb. 15 **The Roots of Terror**

& 20 Michael Mousseau, "Market Civilization and its Clash with Terror,"

International Security, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-29. (cp)

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in M&S, pp. 163-169.

Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism," in M&S, pp. 367-381.

Timothy M. Savage, "Europe and Islam: Crescent Waxing, Cultures Clashing," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Summer 2004), pp. 25-50. (cp)

Feb. 22
& 27

Hamas, Hezbollah & Israel: Conflict in the Middle East

Michael Herzog, "Can Hamas be Tamed?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85, No. 2 (March/April 2006), pp. 83-94. (cp)

Ahmad Nizar Hamzeh, *In the Path of Hizbullah* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2004), pp. 6-26. (cp)

Nahum Barnea, "Think Again: Israel Vs. Hezbollah," *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2006), pp. 22-28. (cp)

Mar. 1 ***Nuclear Proliferation***

John Mueller, "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World," in M&S, pp. 341-347.

Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, "Indian and Pakistani Nuclear Weapons: For Better or Worse?" in M&S, pp. 322-341.

William J. Perry, "Proliferation on the Peninsula: Five North Korean Crises," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 607 (September 2006), pp. 78-86. (cp)

Scott D. Sagan, "How to Keep the Bomb From Iran," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85, No. 5 (September/October 2006), pp. 45-59. (cp)

Mar. 6

TBA

Papers Due

Mar. 8 ***Review Session***

Mar. 13 ***Final exam*** (normal class time: 5:30-7:18 pm)