

Prof. Randall Schweller
2106 Derby Hall
Office Hours.: Tues 12-1:15

Political Science 245
Fall 2001, T-R: 1:30-3:18
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The United States in World Politics

Course Description: The course is divided into two parts. The first half of the course provides a brief overview of the three major theoretical perspectives in the field of international relations. The second half of the course focuses on current issues and debates in American foreign policy, applying, when possible, the theoretical material from the first half of the course.

Course Requirements:

- *Midterm: 33%
- *Final: 33%
- *Paper: 33%

The Paper: You will choose an issue in American foreign policy (e.g., U.S. relations with China, or Japan, or the EU; or U.S. foreign policy in a region, such as the Middle East, Far East, Latin America; U.S. foreign economic policy or global environmental policy; or whatever U.S. foreign policy issue is of most interest to you). You will track the issue for seven weeks in the NY Times or, if you request, any other newspaper (e.g., Columbus Dispatch, Washington Post, Boston Globe, etc). In the bulk of the paper, you will simply summarize the newspaper entries about your issue for the seven weeks (providing the date, title of article, and a one-paragraph summary of the article). In the final 2 pages, you will provide your own analysis of the issue over the seven-week period. The analysis should answer the following questions: What is the U.S. trying to accomplish? What are the complexities and complications, if any, that confront U.S. foreign policy makers? Does the U.S. have a reasonable expectation of meeting its goals? Do you believe the U.S. is following the right policy? If not, what should the U.S. be doing instead? If and when possible, try to apply IR theories to the issue.

Required Course Reading Materials:

- *John T. Rourke, ed., *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American Foreign Policy* (Guilford, Conn.: Dushkin/McGraw Hill, 2000).
- *Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001).

PART ONE: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

International Anarchy and Its Consequences (2 classes)

- * Kenneth N. Waltz, "Political Structures" and "Anarchic Orders and Balance of Power," in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 70-90.
- * Hedley Bull, "Does Order Exist in World Politics," in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 139-42.
- * Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 248-60.

Contending Theoretical Perspectives

1. Realism (2 classes):

- * Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories" in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 27-33.
- * Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Relations" and

“Political Power” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 34-38.

* Hans Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power,” “Different Methods of the Balance of Power,” and “Evaluation of the Balance of Power,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 143-48.

2. Liberalism (1 class):

* Michael Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 39-51.

* Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 4-5.

* John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 346-57. (Note: Mearsheimer is a realist, who is critiquing neoliberal institutionalism).

3. Social Constructivism and Structural Marxism (1 class):

* John Gerard Ruggie, “What Makes the World Hang Together? Neoliberalism and the Social Constructivist Challenge,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 91-119.

* Andre Gunder Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 52-59.

* Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 149-56.

Contending Theoretical Views of the Post-Cold War World (1 class)

* William Wohlforth, “The Stability of a Unipolar World,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 157-173.

* Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 174-79.

* Anne-Marie Slaughter, “The Real New World Order,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 193-200.

Review Session and Midterm Examination (2 classes)

PART TWO: ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Topic 1: American Grand Strategy (2 classes)

* Issue 1: Should the U.S. Continue Its Internationalist Policies? Madeleine Albright vs. Frank Chodorov in Rourke, pp. 2-19.

* Issue 2: Should the U.S. Seek Global Hegemony? Robert Kagan vs. Charles Maynes in Rourke, pp. 20-39.

* Issue 3: Should the United States Follow a Unilateralist Foreign Policy? Christopher Layne vs. Hugh De Santis in Rourke, pp. 42-64.

Topic 2: Globalization and U.S. International Economic Policy (1 class)

- * David Held, et al, “Globalization,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 431-39.
- * Thomas Friedman, “The Backlash,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 440-45.
- *Issue 12: Lawrence Summers vs. Robert Kuttner in Rourke, pp. 234-247.

Topic 3: The China Threat? (1 class)

- *Issue 6: Is the U.S. Policy of Strategic Engagement with China Ill-Conceived? Aaron Friedberg vs. Chalmers Johnson in Rourke, pp. 102-25.

Topic 4: U.S. Interventionism (1 class)

- * Michael W. Doyle, “International Intervention” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 268-77.
- *Issue 4: Was U.S. Intervention in Kosovo Justified? Samuel Berger vs. David Mayer in Rourke, pp. 66-81.
- *Edward Luttwak, “Give War a Chance,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 283-87.

Topic 5: Nuclear Weapons in the Post-Cold War World (2 classes)

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation and U.S. Security

- * Thomas Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 240-47.
- * John Mueller, “The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 261-67.
- * Jaswant Singh, “Against Nuclear Apartheid,” in Mingst and Snyder, pp. 278-82.

Should the U.S. Immediately Build a Ballistic Missile Defense System?

- *Issue 15: Donald Rumsfeld vs. Lisbeth Grolund and David Wright in Rourke, pp. 290-317

Topic 6: The U.S. and Global Environmental Issues (1 class)

- *Issue 13: Should the Kyoto Treaty on Global Warming Be Supported? Bill Clinton vs. J. Kenneth Blackwell in Rourke, pp. 248-64.

Topic 7: The U.S. Military Budget: Is There a Peace Dividend? (1 class)

- *Issue 14: Do Serious Threats to U.S. Security Exist? George Tenet vs. Carl Conetta and Charles Knight in Rourke, pp. 265-89.

November 29: Final Examination