

Political Science 245
The United States in World Politics
Autumn 2005
Tuesday and Thursday 330-518
Smith Laboratory 1048

Instructor: Ms. Amanda Rosen
Office: Derby 2002
Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm and by appointment
Email: rosen.81@osu.edu

Why does the United States have a foreign policy? Why should its leaders and citizens care about what happens outside our borders? What areas and issues do groups within the United States (elites, citizens, interest groups, the media, etc) care about? How exactly is foreign policy made? These are just a few of the questions this course will address.

There are three main goals for this course:

1. This course is designed to give you a basic but broad understanding of US foreign policy: how it is made, why it exists, and where in the world it is most important. At the conclusion of the course you will have a greater understanding of major world issues and events, and will be able to impress friends and strangers with your knowledge at future cocktail parties.
2. The development of your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills is just as important as the subject material. The assignments in the course are designed to help develop these skills and others, which can be used in other courses as well as in the “real world”.
3. Finally, this class will introduce you to some of the main theories and their applications within the field of international relations, thus serving as an introduction to the IR major.

The course also meets two GEC requirements:

#5. Diversity: International Issues

Goals/ Rationale:

Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

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.

#7. Social Science

Goals/Rationale:

Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the

structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

To meet all these goals, the course is divided into two parts. In part one, we will focus on the theories and apparatus of foreign policy making within the United States. We will consider why the United States should bother having a foreign policy at all, what issues drive US foreign policy in general, how foreign policy is made, and the domestic and international constraints under which it operates.

In part two, we will turn our attention to contemporary US foreign policy in different world regions. We will examine major US commitments in each of the regions of the world, and analyze why the US acted (or did not act) as it did in recent history. We will apply the theories and discussions from the first part of the course to gain a better understanding of real world current events both big and small.

Required Materials:

- Jentleson, Bruce W. American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century. 2nd Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004.
- Rossi, M. L. What Every American Should Know About the Rest of the World. New York: Plume, 2003.
- Additional Readings Online or Distributed by Instructor

The books are available at SBX and online (half.com, bn.com, amazon.com); the Rossi book can also be found in regular bookstores around town (Barnes and Noble, Borders, etc). Other materials will either be online (the web address is already listed) or distributed in class.

Requirements and Grading:

Your grade will be broken down as follows:

Attendance and Participation	100 points
Weekly Reading Quizzes	100 points
Memo 1	100 points
Memo 2	100 points
Memo 3	100 points
Memo 4	100 points
Midterm Exam	200 points
Final Exam	200 points
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Total	1000 points

Final Grade Scale:

A	930-1000 points	C	730-769 points
A-	900-929 points	C-	700-729 points
B+	870-899 points	D+	670-699 points
B	830-869 points	D	630-669 points
B-	800-829	D-	600-629 points
C+	770-799 points	E	Below 600 points

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is vital to succeed in this class. Lectures and discussion will complement, not substitute for the readings, and thus it is very important that you attend regularly. Likewise, class discussion will be rather boring if no one participates. I will therefore take attendance at the beginning of every class. Your grade will depend on the quality of your participation as well as your actual presence in class.

Current Events

Knowledge of current events is essential to the study of international relations and foreign policy. I therefore expect each of you to keep up with current world events by reading the international/world/appropriate section of the New York Times, Washington Post, BBC, International Herald Tribune, and/or other mainstream **printed** news source (including magazines such as Newsweek and the Economist). These are all available for free through the internet, though sometimes registration is required. I strongly recommend you look at multiple sources whenever possible, as it is always useful to get multiple angles on the same issue/event.

In Class Weekly Reading/Current Events Quizzes

To encourage active participation in class, I will give a short five or six question quiz at the beginning of every Thursday class session based on both the required reading due for that week and major world news. These will be multiple choice and fill-in and will cover the main ideas and points in the readings. As long as you do the readings and read the daily international headlines/abstracts, these quizzes should pose no problem. Please note that while you may read any of the major sources, I will draw the quiz questions from the NY Times and BBC. There will be 9 of these (No quiz Week 5), and each is worth 10-11 points (100 points, or 10% of final grade). I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Memos

There are FOUR memos due during the quarter. The goal of these memos is to learn about and analyze a particular American foreign policy issue, using the guidelines outlined below. Each is worth 100 points, or 10% of your final grade.

At the beginning of the quarter, you should choose a country or region of interest for the United States, and a particular current policy issue of concern relating to that country or region. A list of topics will be provided, though you may choose an appropriate topic not on the list.

During the quarter, you should track your country/region and issue in the news, read up on political commentaries, analysis, articles and other academic and fact-based discussions in the appropriate sources (e.g. print media, news magazines like the Economist, journals like Foreign Affairs, etc). You should start by looking at country/issue background notes at www.economist.com, www.state.gov, www.cia.gov, and www.bbc.co.uk

You will write four memos. Memos 1-3 should be 3-5 pages, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins. They are due at the beginning of weeks 3, 5, and 7.

Memo 1- Due Thursday October 13th. In this memo, you should outline a brief history of the issue you are covering, focusing particularly on the history of US involvement in the region. The main focus of this memo should be explaining 1: why the United States cares about this issue/region (its **motivations**) and 2: what **goals** the United States (and/or particular individuals or groups within the United States) has on this issue.

Memo 2- Due Tuesday October 25th. In this memo you should identify the major actors on this issue. Who in the US cares about this issue/region? What other states/international organizations/groups are involved? Have these actors changed over time? How, and why? What are these actors' particular motivations and goals on this issue? Do these come into conflict with the goals and motivations of the US? You may also discuss the role of political culture, models of foreign policy making and/or grand strategy as it relates to your issue/country/region.

Memo 3- Due Tuesday November 15th. In this memo you should analyze the role of the domestic and international constraints that affect the US's ability to achieve its goals on this issue. Have these constraints prevented the US from achieving its goals? What options is the US employing as it tries to meet its goals on this issue? Is the current policy effective? What alternative policy options exist to meet US goals? What constraints exist that affect the likelihood of these options being adopted?

Memo 4- Due Tuesday November 29th. This memo is different. It should be **NO MORE THAN 2 SINGLE-SPACED PAGES**. It is a policy memo addressed to the President or another major US foreign policy decision maker and will focus on your recommendations for solving the foreign policy issue. You should make an argument advocating a course of action for addressing your policy issue, taking into account the possible constraints and costs as well as anticipating possible objections. You should also explain why alternative policies (including, potentially, the current policy) are inadequate. This should be written in the policy memo style, and guidelines for this will be passed out later in the quarter.

Exams

There will be two closed book in-class exams. These will be a combination of multiple choice, identifications, short answers and/or essays. The midterm will be held in class on Tuesday, November 1st. The final will be held during the University scheduled time: Tuesday, December 6th at 330pm in Smith Laboratory 1048. Each exam is worth 200 points, or 20% of the grade.

Other Policies:**Email:**

Occasionally I may need to communicate with the class outside of our normal meeting time (to make announcements or distribute assignments/readings). It is therefore essential that you provide me with a working email address that you regularly check. YOU are responsible for regularly checking your email and ensuring that you receive these communications. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for a missed deadline or reading. I expect you to use all of your other available options (such as attending my office hours, finding another computer and emailing me, or getting help from a classmate) to receive these materials should you have technical problems. Also, please make sure my email address is removed from any spam filters you have.

Absences:

Occasionally students need to be absent from class for legitimate reasons (e.g. personal or family illness). To be excused from class (in terms of attendance and quiz requirements), I need to be informed before the class session and provided with some form of documentation. Exceptional circumstances will be accommodated as long as students meet these criteria. An excessive number of excused absences could indicate an abuse of this system, however, and may require a case-by-case judgment from me regarding the appropriate course of action.

Respect:

This is a course about politics, and I anticipate that there will be many differing views brought out in discussion. Every viewpoint is welcome, as long as everyone treats each other with respect. I encourage all students to openly discuss their views, as long as you also listen to the views of others respectfully and with an open mind. Fairness is more important than objectivity when it comes to politics. Anyone who shows disrespect to either the instructor or a fellow student will be asked to leave the class, along with any other action as I find appropriate.

Assignments:

Weekly quizzes and exams can not be made up without a documented excused absence. I will accept late memos for up to three days following the due-date, but will deduct 1/3 a letter grade for each day late (Thus, a B+ becomes a B, a B becomes a B-, etc).

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class session at which they are due. They must be typed, double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins and a reasonable character spacing. Headings (title, name, etc) should be single spaced and take up no more than 5 lines.

Please run spell check on all assignments and check them for grammatical errors. Also consult the guidelines I will hand out on style, citing, and organizational tips.

Disabilities:

Any student who requires special accommodations as the result of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your needs. I rely on the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307, room 150 Pomerene Hall) to document and coordinate the appropriate accommodations for these students.

Academic Misconduct:

I expect that all of the work that you do in this course to be your own, including but not limited to all quizzes, exams, memos and papers. When you do use ideas from another source in your papers, they should be properly credited and cited. If anyone is caught cheating, plagiarizing material, or in any other way violating the university's rules on this subject, I will forward the case as per University policy to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Right to Revise Syllabus:

This syllabus outlines my goals for the course and my expectations for the students. Minor changes may need to be made along the way, particularly to the following schedule, and I reserve the right to revise the syllabus accordingly.

Schedule:

All readings are to be completed for the date they are listed under. Quizzes cover required material only.

- **Thursday September 22- Introduction to the Course**

Week 1: Motivations and Goals

- **Tuesday September 27-Why Foreign Policy?**
-Thucydides. "The Melian Dialogue". From The History of the Peloponnesian War. Book 5, Chapter 17. Available online at <http://www.wellesley.edu/ClassicalStudies/CLCV102/Thucydides--MelianDialogue.html>
-Jentleson 2-12; 200-203
- **Thursday September 29-Motivations and Goals**
-Jentleson 12-27

Week 2: The Decision Making Process

- **Tuesday October 4-Actors in the Decision Making Process**
-Jentleson 29-48; 218-223
- **Thursday October 6-Political Culture and Models of Foreign Policy Making**
-Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations" in Jentleson 679-685
-Rossi, chapter on Iraq (3-13)

Week 3: Options and Strategies

- **Tuesday October 11- Grand Strategies**
-Jentleson 242-249; 608-619

Recommended: Posen, Barry R. and Andrew L. Ross. "Competing Visions for US Grand Strategy." *International Security* Vol. 21 (3). Winter 1996: 5-53. Available through J-STOR (go to library.osu.edu, Research Databases, J-STOR and search. Use off-campus sign-in if not on campus).

- **Thursday October 13- Foreign Policy Options and Instruments**
MEMO 1 DUE
-Rossi on Cuba (254-258)
--Jentleson 574-579
--Zakaria, Fareed. “How to Change Ugly Regimes” *The Economist* 27 June 2005.
Available through Lexis-Nexus Academic (Go to library.osu.edu, Research Databases,
Lexis-Nexus Academic. Search in General News, Magazines and Journals. Remember
to use off campus sign in if you are not on campus).

Week 4: Constraints on Foreign Policy Making

- **Tuesday October 18-Domestic Constraints on policy making**
-Jentleson 49-68; 137-142; 224-231; 333-344; 620-628
- **Thursday October 20-International Constraints on policy making**
-Jentleson 427-443; 665-673

Recommended: Rubin, James P. “Stumbling into War.” *Foreign Affairs*
September/October 2003. Available at www.foreignaffairs.org

Week 5: Power

- **Tuesday October 25- Controlling Resources**
MEMO 2 DUE
-Jentleson 200-203; 451-461
-Rossi on Saudi Arabia (83-92); Iran (102-110); Israel and Palestine (14-26)

Recommended: Khan, Muqtedar. “Saudi-US Relations in Crisis Again.” Available at
www.glocaleye.org/SaudiArabia.htm

- **Thursday October 27- Nuclear Deterrence and Preemptive War**
-Jentleson 258-268; 633-639; 647-652
-Rossi on North Korea (53-60); China (111-119); Taiwan (120-125)

Week 6

- **Tuesday November 1-MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**
-Covers Material through the end of Week 4
- **Thursday November 3-NO CLASS**

Week 7: Prosperity

- **Tuesday November 8 Free Trade, Capitalism, and Globalization**
-Jentleson 209-212; 493-516; 537-543; 653-664
-Review “WTO at a glance” at www.wto.org
- **Thursday November 10- Foreign Aid, Debt, and North-South relations**
-Jentleson 171-174; 516-534
-Review IMF and World Bank “at a glance” at www.imf.org and www.wb.org

Week 8: Peace

- **Tuesday November 15-The Use of Force**
MEMO 3 DUE
-Jentleson 204-208; 674-678; 469-477
-Rossi on Western Europe 228-234
- **Thursday November 17-Democratic Peace Theory and Illiberal Democracies**
-Jentleson 547-568; 686-693
-Rossi on Russia (73-82); Turkey (157-162)

Recommended: Rossi on India/Pakistan/Kashmir (36-52)

Week 9: Principles

- **Tuesday November 22-Humanitarian Action**
-Jentleson 213-217; 461-469; 483-487
-Rossi on Rwanda (235-240); Sudan (126-132)

Recommended: Rossi on Somalia (141-147)

- Thursday November 24- No class

Week 10: Principles, continued.

- **Tuesday November 29- Superpower Responsibilities**
MEMO 4 DUE
-Jentleson 516-534; 640-646
- **Thursday December 1-LAST DAY/REVIEW**

Final Exam- Tuesday, December 6th at 330pm in Smith Laboratory 1048.