

**Political Science 245N**  
**The United States in Global Politics**  
**Spring Quarter, 2006**

**Monday & Wednesday 5:30 PM – 7:18 PM**

Room: 0080 Derby Hall (DB)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: Wed. 3:30pm–5:30pm  
*or by appointment*

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**Course Description**

The United States in Global Politics is an introductory-level course in International Relations (IR) with an emphasis on American foreign policy. The class will emphasize the significant changes the international system has experienced since the end of the Second World War and the pivotal role that has been, and continues to be, played by the United States in this constantly-evolving world order.

This course proceeds in three parts. In the first section of the class, we will discuss basic theoretical concepts in the study of international relations such as anarchy, power, nations, states, and interdependence. In the middle portion of the course, we will consider the United States itself in more detail. We will trace how U.S. foreign policy, and the government that administers it, have evolved over the last 250 years. In the final section, we will consider some important issues facing the United States in the contemporary world such as terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the globalization of the world economy.

The end purpose of this class will be to provide students with the necessary tools to understand and interpret international political events and problems. The course, while crucial for Political Science majors, has been designed with non-Political Scientists in mind as well. The ultimate intention is to provide practical information and analysis to assist students in forming their own perspective on what America's role in the world should be in the coming century.

**Readings**

There is one required book for this course. The book should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long's, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the book online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Hastedt, Glenn P. *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006. **ISBN: 0-13-193069-9**

In addition, there will be **eight** additional readings that you will be asked to access at your own convenience via the OSU electronic reserve system. You can access, download, or print the included readings (in .pdf form) on any on-campus or off-campus computer with Internet access. To access these files, employ the following steps:

1. Go to the Ohio State Libraries website ([www.lib.ohio-state.edu](http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu)).
2. Click on “Reserves by Course” entry in the Quicklinks list
3. On the next screen, enter “Political Science 245” into the dialog box.
4. On the next screen, select “Political Science 245 E Reserves”
5. On the next screen, select “Reese, Michael”
6. On the next screen, select the underlined “Electronic Reserves for PS 245” in the Title box.
7. Finally, click on the desired reading to access the corresponding .pdf file.

Also, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) or *Newsweek* ([www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course, while not strictly required, is the surest way to achieve high grades in exams.

### **The Determination of Grades**

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in four areas:

<b>1. Quizzes (Best 2 scores out of 3)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>2. Midterm Exam I</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>3. Midterm Exam II</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>4. Final Exam</b>	<b><u>35%</u></b>
<b>FINAL GRADE</b>	<b>100%</b>

My grading scale for the quizzes, exams, and final course grades is as follows:

<b>A</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100% - 92%</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>80% - 78%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>92% - 90%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>78% - 72%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>90% - 88%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>72% - 70%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>88% - 82%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>70% - 68%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>82% - 80%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>68% - 60%</b>
			<b>E (also known as “F”)</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Less than 60%</b>

### **GEC-Mandated Goals & Objectives for this Course**

#### **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:**

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.

**Student Responsibilities****Attendance:**

This is primarily a lecture course. Lecture courses will do you no good if you are not around to hear the lectures. As a result, you are expected to attend every class session. I will not, however, take attendance after the first day. If you do happen to miss a lecture, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate. ***This is important because we sometimes cover material in lecture not contained in the assigned reading.*** You may therefore miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do not make the necessary arrangements. However, it is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days that quizzes and tests are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up quiz or exam only if you present me with ***a documented excuse*** for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center. I will *not* allow for make-up quizzes or exams to accommodate travel plans so schedule your trips accordingly.

**Reading:**

You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Ideally, you are to complete this reading *before* each class begins. It is important to keep up with this reading. Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly on quizzes and exams. ***I cannot emphasize enough that although we do not discuss everything in lecture covered in your readings you will be expected to answer quiz and exam questions that may involve these reading-only points and issues*** (i.e. merely showing up for lecture will *not* be enough to do well in this course).

**Quizzes:**

The quizzes will be held at random (except for the class immediately before each exam) and will not be announced ahead of time. There will be three of these *closed book* “pop quizzes” held during the quarter. Each quiz will be held ***at the start of class***. You will not be allowed to take the quiz if you arrive after the quizzes have been collected. These quizzes will focus upon recent lectures and your reading assignment for the day they are administered. Each quiz will consist of five multiple-choice questions. At the end of the course, I will “throw out” the worst of your three quiz scores. The quiz component of your final grade (10%) will then be calculated by averaging your other two quiz scores.

**Exams:**

There will be three *closed book* exams held during this course: two midterms and a final exam. Each exam will be structured similarly with an “identification of terms” section and an “essay” section. One week before each exam, I will hand out a study guide to assist you in your

preparations. *Each exam will be composed solely of items found on these study guides.* Therefore, if you know the guide well, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

### **Communication with Your Instructor:**

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. I am easiest to contact via e-mail ([reese.150@osu.edu](mailto:reese.150@osu.edu)) which I do check with religious regularity. I will make myself available every week for regular office hours (Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm...in essence, the two hours before class time) and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment if you have other obligations during these regular hours. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give me at least 24 hours notice to make sure I can accommodate you.

My goal is *not* to fail you. However, it is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact me about their performance. If you run into problems with the course material, or are not achieving the grades you believe yourself capable of, please contact me sooner rather than later. If you wait too long, you may have little or no opportunity to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

### **Academic Honesty:**

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

### **Disability:**

If you need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than April 7<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office For Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

## **Course Schedule**

**March**      27      **Introduction**

### ***SECTION I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM***

29      **Basic Concepts in International Relations**

Read: - Goldstein, Joshua S and Jon C. Pevehouse.  
“Understanding International Relations” in  
*International Relations (7th Edition)*. New York,  
NY: Pearson & Longman Publishers, 2006 (**On  
Electronic Reserve**)

**April**      3      **Realism and Power Politics**

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Power Politics” (**On  
Electronic Reserve**)

5      **Alternatives to the Realist Perspective**

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Alternatives to Power  
Politics” (**On Electronic Reserve**)

10      **The Study of Foreign Policy**

Read: - Hastedt, “Chapter 11: Models of Policy Making”  
- Hastedt, “Chapter 5: Learning from the Past”

12      **Catch-Up Day & Exam Review**

17      **MIDTERM I**

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

**SECTION II: HISTORICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**

19 **Early American Foreign Policy: 1776-1941**

Read: - Pastor, Robert. "The United States" in *A Century's Journey: How The Great Powers Shape the World*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1999. (On Electronic Reserve)

- Hastedt, "Chapter 3: The American National Style"

24 **U.S. Foreign Policy from December 7<sup>th</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup>: 1941-2001**

Read: - Hastedt, "Chapter 16: Military Power"

- Hastedt, "Chapter 4: The Search for Grand Strategy"

26 **The President & Congress in American Foreign Policy**

Read: - Hastedt, "Chapter 7: The Constitution and Foreign Affairs"

- Hastedt, "Chapter 8: The Presidency"

- Hastedt, "Chapter 9: Congress and Foreign Policy"

May

1 **The American Foreign Policy Bureaucracy**

Read: - Hastedt, "Chapter 10: The Foreign Affairs Bureaucracy"

- Hastedt, "Chapter 12: Decision Making Case Studies"

3 **The American Public's Role in Foreign Policy**

Read: - Hastedt "Chapter 6: The Domestic Context of American Foreign Policy"

8 **Catch-Up Day & Exam Review**

10 **MIDTERM II**

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

***SECTION III: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY***

15 **American Hegemony in the Modern World: How Long Can It Last?**

Read: - Hastedt “Chapter 1: The Global Setting of American Foreign Policy”

- Wohforth, William “U.S. Strategy in a Unipolar World” in *America Unrivaled* (ed. By J. Ikenberry). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002 (**On Electronic Reserve**)

- Risse, Thomas. “U.S. Power in a Liberal Security Community” in *America Unrivaled* (ed. By J. Ikenberry). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002 (**On Electronic Reserve**)

17 **The War on Terror: The Challenge of Political Islam**

Read: - Hastedt, “Chapter 2: The Emerging Foreign Policy Agenda”

- Hastedt, “Chapter 14: Covert Action”

- Zakaria, Fareed. “Why Do They Hate Us?” in *America and the World*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2002 (**On Electronic Reserve**)

22 **The “Axis of Evil”: Diplomacy and the Proliferation of WMD**

Read: - Hastedt, “Chapter 13: Diplomacy”

- Hastedt, “Chapter 17: Arms Control and Missile Defense”

24 **Globalization & Its Discontents: Economics in American Policy**

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, "Trade" (**On Electronic Reserve**)

- Hastedt, "Chapter 15: The Economic Instruments"

29 **\*\*\*MEMORIAL DAY\*\*\* (No Class)**

31 **Course Wrap-up & Final Exam Review**

Read: - Hastedt, "Chapter 18: Alternative Futures"

**June**

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**\*\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM\*\*\*\*\*  
THE FINAL WILL BE HELD FROM 5:30 PM – 7:18  
PM AT THE REGULAR CLASS LOCATION**