

Political Science 245
The United States in World Politics
Spring 2006
Tuesday and Thursday 230-418
MacQuigg 0160

Instructor: Ms. Amanda Rosen
Office: Derby 2002
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2pm and by appointment
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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, and which of these issues dominate America's foreign agenda? 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:

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

Recommended: Council on Foreign Relations. America and the World: Debating the New Shape of International Politics. New York: WW Norton and Company, 2002.

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). Additional readings are available online; many of these are collected in the recommended America and the World book. You can either purchase the book or get the materials online.

Requirements and Grading:

Your grade will be broken down as follows:

Attendance and Participation	100 points
Weekly Reading Quizzes	100 points
Midterm Exam	200 points
Analytical Paper	400 points
~Topic Statement and Bibliography-	50 points
~Paper	-350 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>200 points</u>
Total	1000 points

Final Grade Scale:

A	930-1000 points	C	730-769 points
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A-	900-929 points	C-	700-729 points
B+	870-899 points	D+	670-699 points
B	830-869 points	D	600-669 points
B-	800-829 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 news 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 quiz at the beginning of every Thursday class session (except the day of the midterm) 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.

Analytical Paper

You will work throughout the quarter to apply the course material to an American foreign policy issue of your choice and produce a 8-10 page analytical paper. 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. I will provide a list of topics, though you may choose an appropriate topic not on the list. The paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, June 1st.

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, books, 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

Topic Statement and Bibliography:

By week 4 you will need to have chosen a topic and found sources that will be useful as you begin to analyze your subject. On Tuesday, April 18th you will need to turn in a 1-2 page document that indicates your chosen issue area and very briefly outlines the following:

~past and current US policy on this issue;

~why this issue is important for the United States;

~and what you believe the ideal goal of either the US or several of its chief policymakers is on this issue.

You will also need to list 5 or 6 sources (newspaper or news magazine articles, journal articles and/or books) that you have/will use as you investigate this issue in more detail.

Paper

The goal of the paper is to show that you understand the course material and can apply it to a current US foreign policy issue. Although you will need to conduct research to thoroughly understand your topic, this paper is **analytical** in its focus--the research is only supplementary to your own thoughts and opinions on the issue. In doing so you will want to answer the following questions, bringing in the course material as needed:

- ~Why does the United States care about this region and issue? What is the US national interest on this issue?
- ~What is current US policy on this issue? Has it changed over time?
- ~Why and how was this particular policy chosen? Why/how did it change?
- ~Is the current policy the ideal choice of policymakers? Have they been constrained by domestic or international forces in the choice of this policy? How/why?
- ~What recommendations would **you** make to policymakers in order to meet US goals on this issue? Why will your plan work? What are some of the costs/difficulties/negative consequences of pursuing your plan of action?

The paper should be about 8-10 pages, though the length requirements are not strict. The paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, June 1st.

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 Thursday, May 4th. The final will be held during the University scheduled time: Thursday, June 8th at 130-318pm in MacQuigg 160.

Extra Credit:

You can earn up to 20 points of extra credit in this class. There are two ways:

1. Participate in the Political Science Department Subject Pool. Researchers in the department will run experiments (usually just surveys); you can earn 10 points per experiment. I will give out more info on this in class.
2. You can attend a talk at the university on issues of American foreign policy or national security. After the talk, write up a page summarizing the talk and reacting to it. Each talk attended and written up is worth 10 points. The Mershon Center for National Security Studies (www.mershon.ohio-state.edu) has a number of excellent talks throughout the year.

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 are not 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 remove my email address 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. I will accommodate exceptional circumstances 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:

You cannot make up weekly quizzes and exams without a documented excused absence. Late paper assignments will be accepted until the third day after they are due, but will be subjected to a 1/3 grade per day penalty (Thus, a B+ becomes a B, a B becomes a B-, etc).

All assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class session for which they are assigned. They must be typed, double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins and a reasonable character spacing.

Please run spell check on all assignments and check them for grammatical errors.

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. I may need to make minor changes along the way, particularly to the following schedule, and I reserve the right to revise the syllabus accordingly.

Schedule:

- Complete all readings for the date they are listed under. Quizzes cover required material only.
- **denotes an online reading; see end of schedule for information on how to access them.
- AatW indicates the America and the World text

Week 1:

Tuesday March 28th- Introduction to the Course

PART I: THE FOREIGN POLICY MAKING PROCESS

Thursday March 30th-Motivations and Goals

-Jentleson 2-27

-Rossi 313-321

Week 2:

Tuesday April 4th-Motivations and Goals in the Recent Past

-Jentleson chapter 5 (146-193)

Thursday April 6th-Actors in the Decision Making Process

-Jentleson 29-41; 218-223

Week 3:

Tuesday April 11th- Making Foreign Policy in the US

-Jentleson 41-48

Thursday April 13th- Grand Strategies in a Unipolar World

-Jentleson 76-80; 608-619

-**Kupchan, Charles A. "Life After Pax Americana." *World Policy Journal*, Fall 1999, Vol. 16, Issue 3, p.20-28. (AatW 199-210)

-**Brooks, Stephen G. and William C. Wohlforth. "American Primacy in Perspective." *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2002. Pg. 20 (AatW: 245-259)

Recommended: **Posen, Barry R. and Andrew L. Ross. "Competing Visions for US Grand Strategy." *International Security* Vol. 21 (3). Winter 1996: 5-53.

Week 4:

Tuesday April 18th- Tools of Foreign Policy

Topic Statement and Bibliography Due!!

--Jentleson 574-579; 598-601

--**Zakaria, Fareed. "How to Change Ugly Regimes" *Newsweek* 27 June 2005.

-Rossi on Cuba (254-258)

Thursday April 20th- NO CLASS!!

Week 5:

Tuesday April 25th-Domestic Constraints on policy making

-Jentleson 49-68; 137-142; 333-344

Thursday April 27th-International Constraints on policy making

-Jentleson 427-443; 665-673

Week 6:

Tuesday May 2nd- Catch Up/Review

Thursday May 4th- Midterm Exam in Class

-covers material through Part 1 of the class

PART II: ISSUES IN US FOREIGN POLICY

Week 7:

Tuesday May 9th- Controlling Resources: Oil and the Middle East

-Rossi on Saudi Arabia (83-92); Israel and Palestine (14-26)

-**Zakaria, Fareed. "How to Escape the Oil Trap." *Newsweek* 29 August 2005. p. 41.

Recommended:-**Khan, Muqtedar. "The Empire and the Kingdom: Saudi-US Relations in Crisis Again." Available at www.glocaleyeye.org/SaudiArabia.htm

Thursday May 11th- Nuclear Proliferation, Deterrence, and Weapons of Mass Destruction

-Jentleson 389-395; 451-461. Skim 114-123.

-Rossi on North Korea (53-60)

Week 8:

Tuesday May 16th- Spreading Democracy: Democratic Peace Theory and Illiberal Democracies

-Jentleson 547-568; 579-598; 686-693

-Rossi on Russia (73-82)

-**Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* Vol 76, No 3. (AatW: 132-153)

Thursday May 18th- Preventive War: First Iraq, next China?

-Jentleson 633-639.

-Rossi on Iraq (3-13); China (111-119); Taiwan (120-125)

-**Ikenberry, G. John. "America's Imperial Ambition." *Foreign Affairs* September/October 2002. (AatW: 372-389)

Week 9:

Tuesday May 23rd- Free Trade and Globalization: NAFTA, CAFTA, and the European Union

-Jentleson 493-516; 534-543; 653-664

Recommended:

** Rodrik, Dani. "Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate." *Foreign Policy* Summer 1997, Issue 107. p.19-38. (AatW: 168-183)

** Dollar, David and Aart Kraay. "Spreading the Wealth." *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2002. (AatW: 184-198)

Thursday May 25th- Dealing with the Global South: Humanitarian Action

-Jentleson 171-4; 483-7; 516-534.

-Rossi on Rwanda (235-240); Somalia (141-147); Africa (299-301)

Recommended: Rossi on Sudan (126-132), African Assortment (280-4)

Week 10:

Tuesday May 30th - NO CLASS

**Thursday June 1st -Superpower Responsibilities in a World of Terrorism
Papers Due!!**

-Jentleson 398-408

-Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations." In Jentleson 679-685. (*Recommended:* full version found online or in AatW: 43-70).

-**Zakaria, Fareed. "Why do they hate us?" *Newsweek* October 15, 2001. (AatW: 260-277)

Recommended:

**Doran, Michael Scott. "Somebody Else's Civil War." *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2002. (AatW: 278-298)

**Walt, Stephen M. "Beyond bin Laden; Reshaping US Foreign Policy." *International Security* Winter 2001/2002. (AatW:320-347)

Final Exam- Thursday, June 8th at 130pm in MacQuigg 160

****Accessing online readings**

Go to library.osu.edu. Under quicklinks, click "E-Journals." IF YOU ARE NOT ON CAMPUS, YOU MUST CLICK OFF-CAMPUS SIGN-IN AND ENTER YOUR OSU ID AND PASSWORD. Under "find e-journals", type in the name of the appropriate journal for the article you need--newsweek, foreign affairs, foreign policy, international security, etc. Choose a link for that journal appropriate to the date of the article (eg, if Lexus Nexus Academic only has coverage from 2001-present and the article you need is dated 1997, this is not the link you should use). LexusNexus, EBSCO, and J-STOR are generally the best links to use. Once you have followed the appropriate link, enter the additional search material needed--the author, title, and/or publication date, and you should have no trouble finding the full text of the article. I have checked each of the links and they all work.

Available through J-STOR (go to library.osu.edu, Research Databases, J-STOR and search. Use off-campus sign-in if not on campus).

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).