

Political Science H367.01  
M-W 11:30-1:18  
Office Hrs.: Tues. 3pm

Professor Randall Schweller  
schweller.2@osu.edu  
614.447.0788

### Contemporary Issues in American Politics

*Course Description:* Readings and critical writing on controversies in American foreign policy after the Cold War. The course consists of two parts: (1) Globalization and Its Consequences, and (2) American Strategic Choices in the Post-Cold War Era. The primary aim of the course is to teach students how to polish and sharpen their writing skills.

***Course Requirements:***

- (1) 4 thinkpiece papers, 3-4 pp. in length; one paper due every 2-3 weeks (80%)
- (2) class attendance and participation (20%)

***Required Texts:***

- Joseph M. Williams, *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, 6th ed. ~reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Longman, 2000).
- Patrick O'Meara et al., eds., *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century: A Reader* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2000) Michael Brown et al., eds., *America '5 Strategic Choices: Revised Edition* (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2000)

***Class Schedule:***

*Wed Sept. 20:*

Introduction

*Part 1: Globalization and Its Consequences*

*Mon~ Sept. 25: Global Order and Disorder: Speculations* Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations" in O'Meara et al., pp.3-22. Williams, *Style*, Lesson One

*Wed Sept. 27: Continued*

Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," in O'Meara et al., pp.23-33. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," in O'Meara et al., pp.34-60.

*Mon. Oct 2: Global Order and Disorder: Rejoinders*

Ajarni, "The Surnmoning," in O'Meara et al., pp.63-70. Sakakibara, "The End of Progressivism," in O'Meara et al., pp.71-78.

*Wed Oct. 4. Continued*

Bowen, "The Myth of Global Ethnic Conflict," in O'Meara et al., pp.79-89. Williams, *Style*, Lessons Two and Three

*Mon. Oct. 9: The New Nature of National Borders?*

Ohmae, "The Rise of the Region State," in O'Meara et al., pp.93-100.

Ceglowski, "Has Globalization Created a Borderless World," in *ibid.*, pp. 101-li.

Slaughter, "The Real New World Order," in O'Meara et al., pp 112-22.

*Wed Oct.11.. The Triumph of Democracy*

Fukuyama, "The End of History," in O'Meara et al., pp.161-80. Williams, *Style*, Lesson Four

*Mon. Oct. 16: The Myth of Liberal-Democratic Triumphalism* Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," in O'Meara et al., pp.181-95. Kaplan, "Was Democracy Just a Moment?" in O'Meara et al., pp.196-214.

*Wed. Oct. 18: No class*

*Mon. Oct.23: The New Global Economy*

Sachs, "International *Economics*," in O'Meara et al, pp.217-26. Rodrik, "Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate," in *ibid.*, pp.227-39.

*Wed. Oct.25: Forecasting the Future*

Paul Kennedy, "Preparing for the 21st Century," in O'Meara et al., pp.323-54. Williams, *Style*, Lesson Five

*Part2: American Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era*

*Mon. Oct.30: A Framework for Analyzing US. Strategic Choices*

Posen and Ross, "Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy," in Brown et al., *America '5 Strategic Choices*.

*Wed Nov.1: Neo-Isolationism*

Gholz et al., "Come Home America: The Strategy of Restraint in the Face of Temptation," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*. Williams, *Style*, Lesson Six

*Mon. Nov. 6: The US. as an Offshore Balancer*

Layne, "From Preponderance to Offshore Balancing," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*. Williams, *Style*, Lesson Seven

*Wed Nov. 8: Selective Engagement*

Art, "Geopolitics Updated: The Strategy of Selective Engagement," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*.

*Mon. Nov.13: Cooperative Security*

Kupchan and Kupchan, "Concerts, Collective Security, and the Future of Europe," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*. Williams, *Style*, Lesson Eight

*Wed Nov.15: Cooperative Security Continued*

Nolan, "Cooperative Security in the United States," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*.

*Mon. Nov.20: Primacy*

Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*.

Williams, *Style*, Lesson Nine

*Wed Nov.22: Primacy Continued*

Mastanduno, "Preserving the Unipolar Moment," in Brown et al., *America's Strategic Choices*.

*Mon. Nov.27.*

Williams, *Style*, Lesson Ten

*Wed Nov.29: Conclusions*