

**Political Science 245**  
**The United States in World Politics**  
**Winter 2006**  
**Monday and Wednesday 1030-1218**  
**Aviation Building 0110**

**Instructor: Ms. Amanda Rosen**

**Office: Derby 2002**

**Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 130-3pm 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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
Midterm Exam	200 points
Analytical Paper	400 points
~Topic Statement and Bibliography-	50 points
~Part 1-	250 points
~Part 2-	100 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>200 points</u>
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  
B 830-869 points  
B- 800-829 points  
C+ 770-799 points

D+ 670-699 points  
D 600-669 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 quiz at the beginning of every Wednesday 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. 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. Both parts of the paper are due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, March 8th.

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](http://www.economist.com), [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov), [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov), and [www.bbc.co.uk](http://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 Wednesday, February 1st you will need to turn in a 1-2 page document that indicates your chosen issue area and very briefly outlines 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, Part I:**

The goal of part I of the paper is to show that you understand the course material and can apply it to a current US foreign policy issue. Although some research will be needed for you 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 your paper, you will want to address all of the concepts from the first part of the course. What action has the US taken on this issue? Why does the United States care about this issue? What are the ideal goals or solutions for this issue? Have these changed over time, or stayed consistent? Who are the major players on this issue, both inside the US and outside? What has prevented these actors from achieving their ideal goals or solutions on this issue? More detailed guidelines on this part of the paper will be handed out separately. This part of the paper should be roughly 10-12 pages.

### **Paper, Part II:**

Part II 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 need to do five things in this memo: first, you must convince your reader that your issue is worth their attention. Second, you need to explain why previous action on this issue has been insufficient to solve the problem. Third, you must make an argument for your particular recommendations that will solve the issue. Fourth, you need to explain what costs and/or difficulties might arise in selection and/or implementation of your ideas. And finally, you should also explain why alternative policies (including, potentially, the current policy) are inadequate. This should be written in the policy memo style, and more specific guidelines for this part of the paper will be passed out later in the quarter. It should be **NO MORE THAN 2 SINGLE-SPACED PAGES**.

### 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 Wednesday, February 15th. The final will be held during the University scheduled time: Monday, March 13th from 930-1118 in Aviation Building 0110.

### **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. 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. 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.

**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.

\*\*denotes an online reading; see end of schedule for information on how to access them.

Week 1:

**Wednesday January 4th- Introduction to the Course**

PART I: THE FOREIGN POLICY MAKING PROCESS

Week 2:

**Monday January 9th-Motivations and Goals**

-Jentleson 2-27

-Rossi 313-321

**Wednesday January 11th-Motivations and Goals in the Recent Past**

-Jentleson chapter 5 (146-193)

Week 3:

**Monday January 16th- No class, Martin Luther King Jr Day**

**Wednesday January 18th -Actors in the Decision Making Process**

-Jentleson 29-41; 218-223

Week 4:

**Monday January 23rd- Making Foreign Policy in the US**

-Jentleson 41-48

**Wednesday January 25th- 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.

-\*\*Brooks, Stephen G. and William C. Wohlforth. "American Primacy in Perspective." *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2002. Pg. 20

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

Week 5:

**Monday January 30th- Tools of Foreign Policy**

--Jentleson 574-579; 598-601

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

-Rossi on Cuba (254-258)

**Wednesday February 1st-Domestic Constraints on policy making**

**Topic Statement and Bibliography Due!!**

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

Week 6:

**Monday February 6th-International Constraints on policy making**

-Jentleson 427-443; 665-673

PART II: ISSUES IN US FOREIGN POLICY

**Wednesday February 8th- 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.

--\*\*Khan, Muqtadar. "The Empire and the Kingdom: Saudi-US Relations in Crisis Again." Available at [www.glocaleye.org/SaudiArabia.htm](http://www.glocaleye.org/SaudiArabia.htm)

Week 7:

**Monday February 13th- Nuclear Proliferation, Deterrence, and Weapons of Mass Destruction**

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

-Rossi on North Korea (53-60)

**Wednesday February 15th- MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

-Covers material through Part I of the class

Week 8:

**Monday February 20th- 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.

**Wednesday February 22nd- Preventive War: first Iraq, then 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.

Week 9:

**Monday February 27th -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.

\*\* Dollar, David and Aart Kraay. "Spreading the Wealth." *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2002.

**Wednesday March 1st- 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:

**Monday March 6th-Superpower Responsibilities in a World of Terrorism**

-Jentleson 398-408

-Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations." In Jentleson 679-685.

(*Recommended:* full version found online).

-\*\*Zakaria, Fareed. "Why do they hate us?" *Newsweek* October 15, 2001.

*Recommended:* \*\* Doran, Michael Scott. "Somebody Else's Civil War." *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2002.

\*\*Walt, Stephen M. "Beyond bin Laden; Reshaping US Foreign Policy." *International Security* Winter 2001/2002.

**Wednesday March 8th-Last Day/Catch up  
Analytical Papers Due!**

**Final Exam- Monday, March 13th at 930-1118 in Aviation Building 0110**

**\*\*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](http://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](http://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).