

The United States in World Politics
Political Science 245
Spring 2004
TTh 10:30 a.m. – 12:18 p.m.
Bolz Hall 412
<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/coggins/>

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to foreign policy decision-making as an alternative to dominant unitary actor approaches in international relations. We begin by exploring systemic models of international relations and continue on through state-based and individual-based theories of foreign policy. Although American foreign policy dominates our course content, we will periodically look to other states' leaders, governmental systems and geostrategic positionings for contrast and a deeper understanding of interdependence. The final segment of the class is dedicated to contemporary American foreign policy. In particular, we will consider alternative strategies for American foreign policy in an era of unparalleled military and economic dominance.

Class Participation and Quizzes:	15% (best 3 scores out of 4)
Response Papers:	20% (2 papers, 10% each)
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	35%
Extra Credit:	2.5% (details to follow)

Required Readings:

All listed readings are required readings. If a particular topic sparks your interest, however, do feel free to ask me for additional readings.

All of the required course books are available at SBX on High Street. Both books are popular however, and may be found *much* cheaper on-line. Both books are also on 2 hour reserve in the Main Library and available at the Columbus Public Library.

The New York Times (The paper version or the on-line version will suffice. Hard copies of the paper are available at a significant discount to students. On-line copies of the paper are free of charge.) Students are expected to read the *NYT* Monday through Friday each week. Students should focus their reading on the international section and come to class prepared to discuss current events with reference to our coursework. Quizzes may also cover *NYT* article content.

Ikenberry, G. John (Ed.) (2002) *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays, 4th Edition* New York, NY: Longman Press **ISBN:** 0321084721. (Before running out to buy this at SBX, make sure to look for used copies on-line. There were at least 10 copies of the book for under \$50 the last time I was at Amazon and Half.com.)

Ikenberry, G. John (2004) *America Unrivaled: The Future of the Balance of Power* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press **ISBN:** 0801488028.

****Additional links to readings for the course are available on the course Web site. Click on the "Classes" button and then look under 245.**

Student Responsibilities:

Assigned readings should be completed *before* Tuesday's lecture each week. This insures that any problems or questions that students might have about the readings will be addressed (and hopefully clarified) during class. The reading load is usually around seventy-five pages per week. Reading assignments become shorter as the quarter progresses in order to allow students to focus upon exams and their response papers.

I prefer not to lecture at you for an hour and forty eight minutes each session. If you have questions or comments about the lecture or readings, please don't be shy. I will also provide a number of opportunities for discussion, small group and interactive demonstrations. Strong participation and feedback are essential to your learning more and my teaching better. It also just makes things more interesting.

Attendance at each lecture is not mandatory, but it will greatly increase your chances of success in this class. If you do miss a lecture, please contact your classmates for their notes first and then attend office hours if you have additional questions or need clarification. You will know that you have missed too many lectures when your grade begins to slip and your classmates refuse to share their notes with you. While students with legitimate absences will be accommodated, I will not rehash entire lectures for those who can not find the time to attend class.

Additional guidelines for papers and information on the structure and content of the midterm and final exam will be provided during lectures. I am also happy to address questions or review rough drafts of papers during my office hours.

Please note that I do not have a late paper policy outlined in the syllabus. Except in extreme and unavoidable circumstances, I will not accept late papers. You know when the course papers are due as of today so plan accordingly. The same holds for make-up exams. If you are ill or have a family emergency, a written excuse detailing the reason for your absence or tardiness is required (though this alone is not always sufficient to warrant a make-up, e.g. *Here's my plane ticket from Barbados. Can I take the final two weeks late?*). If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to attend an exam, make arrangements before, rather than after the absence.

Finally, if you begin to have difficulties with the coursework, please contact me so we can work together to remedy the problem. Don't wait until the 9th week of the quarter to ask for help if you need it.

Quizzes and Participation: There will be four short quizzes throughout the quarter. Your three highest scores out of four will constitute your participation grade. I will drop the low score. The quizzes are designed to measure student participation and engagement with the coursework. Quizzes will include (but will not be limited to) lecture topics, reading assignments, and *New York Times* article content. They will be multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. Quizzes will be *easy* if you read the assigned materials and attend class regularly.

Response Papers: (paper #1 due by 4/29) (paper #2 due by 6/1) Response papers provide an opportunity for students to react and respond to the ideas presented in the readings. These short papers (about two pages single-spaced) are somewhat informal, but they should clearly convey the author's arguments as well as the student's own take on the subject. *Please Note:* The informal structure of the response paper does not imply a lower standard for your written work. Improper grammar, spelling and punctuation will adversely affect your grade.

Midterm Exam: (5/6) The midterm exam will cover all of the material through week 6 of the course (PART 1 and 2). The midterm is often a multiple-choice exam, but it may also include short answer questions.

Final Exam: (6/3 or during regularly scheduled final exam time) The final exam is cumulative and will include multiple choice, identification, short answer and essay questions.

Extra Credit: 2.5% extra credit (added to your final course grade) is available to those students willing to participate in experiments conducted by the political science department. 2.5% may seem like too little reward, but it is often the difference between a B+ and an A-. Helping other students and professors of politics is also good karma. Details for those wanting to participate will follow in class.

Additional Course Notes:

Disability: Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, by the end of the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung in the Political Science Department if you require assistance at 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Academic Honesty: All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes either of these offenses, please see official OSU policy or ask me during office hours. If you have questions about how to appropriately cite sources in your research papers, please see the "Links" page on my Web site. Proper citation formats can be found toward the bottom of the page. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Course Schedule:

**Lecture topics may vary slightly based upon class interests and discussion time.

PART 1

An Introduction to the Discipline

Week 1:

Introduction to Foreign Policy

(AFP - Read Intro, Holsti, and Reisman for Thursday's class pp.1-58)

Tuesday (3/30)

Course Introduction

Thursday (4/1)

What is Foreign Policy? And How do we Study It?

Week 2:

The International System and Foreign Policy

(AFP - Read Waltz, Leffler and Ikenberry pp 59-135)

Tuesday (4/6)

The Third Image and Neo-Realist Explanations of Behavior

Thursday (4/8)

External Causes of (and Opportunities for)
American Foreign Policy

PART 2

Second Image Explanations of Foreign Policy

Week 3:

Domestic Economic Causes of Foreign Policy

(AFP - Read Frieden, Block and Cumings pp.137-201)

Tuesday (4/13)

The Second Image

Domestic Economic Causes of American Foreign Policy

Thursday (4/15)

CLASS CANCELLED

Week 4:

Domestic Institutions, Culture and Ideals

(AFP - Read Huntington, Mastanduno and Smith pp203-274)

Tuesday (4/20)

American Institutions and Foreign Policy

Thursday (4/22)

American Liberalism and Foreign Policy

Week 5:

The Domestic Populace and Foreign Policy

(AFP - Read Roskin, George, Holsti and Trubowitz pp.297-393)

Tuesday (4/27)

Public Opinion and Mechanisms of Influence

Thursday (4/29)

Public Opinion and the Content of Influence (**Response Paper #1 Due**)

Week 6:

Sub-state Organizations and Foreign Policy

(AFP - Read Allison, Krasner and Thompson pp.395-463)

Tuesday (5/4)

Organizational Process and Bureaucratic Politics

Thursday (5/6)

Bureaucratic Politics in the Bush Whitehouse?

Midterm Exam

PART 3

First Image Explanations of Foreign Policy

Week 7:

Perception, Cognition and Personality

(AFP - Read Jervis, Tetlock and Winter pp.465-506 & 516-544)

Tuesday (5/11)

Perception, Misperception and Cognition

Thursday (5/13)

Personality and Leadership

Week 8:

Important Cases of the Importance of Individuals

(AFP - Read Khong and Janis pp.506-516 & 544-572)

Tuesday (5/18)

Decision-Making and the Vietnam War

Thursday (5/20)

“Lessons” of the Past and Why Learning is Hard

PART 4

American Foreign Policy in the 21st Century
(America Unrivaled – Readings TBA)

Week 9:

America Unrivaled: Normative Arguments

Tuesday (5/25)

Contemporary Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities

Thursday (5/27)

Post-9/11 Amendments: How Should the U.S. Behave?

Week 10:

Concluding Thoughts

Tuesday (6/1)

Course Conclusion (**Response Paper #2 Due**)

Thursday (6/3)

Final Exam or Final Review Session

