

The United States in World Politics

Political Science 245

Winter 2004

TTh 12:30-2:18

ML 199

<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/coggins/>

Bridget Coggins

Office Hours: F 10-12 a.m.

(Or by appointment)

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to United States foreign policy from the end of WWII through the present day. We begin with a brief survey of great power domestic politics and international behavior during the 20th Century in order to provide a global political and economic context. Next, we look to theoretical explanations of foreign policy. Beginning with systemic explanations, we proceed down through ever-smaller levels of aggregation until we reach individual psychology. The course closes with an inquiry into the contemporary political issues facing the United States.

Class Participation and Quizzes:	15% (best 3 scores out of 4)
Short Paper:	25%
Midterm:	25%
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.

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.

Pastor, Robert (Ed.) (2000). *A Century's Journey: How the Great Powers Shape the World* New York, NY: Basic Books. **ISBN: 0465054765**

Waltz, Kenneth (1959). *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis* New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Any edition of the book will do.) **ISBN: 0231125372**

****Additional links to required and supplemental 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. The reading load is about seventy-five pages per week. Reading assignments become shorter as the quarter progresses in order to allow students to focus upon their research 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. 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 final exam will be provided during lectures. I am also happy to address questions or review rough drafts of papers during my office hours.

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 or fill-in-the-blank. Quizzes will be *easy* if you read the assigned materials and attend class regularly. Make-up quizzes will only be granted in extreme circumstances.

Short Paper: (Due 2/12) The short paper will be a descriptive paper (5-7 pages) about a single instance of foreign policy decision-making. The paper should be presented from the perspective of one state and the relevant decision-makers within that state.

Midterm Exam: (TBA) The midterm exam will cover around one half of the course material and will be scheduled according to our progress throughout the quarter. The exam will likely consist of multiple choice, identification, short answer and essay questions.

Final Exam: (TBA – Final Day of Classes or Scheduled Final Exam Time) The final exam is cumulative and will include multiple choice, identification, and short answer 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.

Week 1

Course Introduction (no reading)

(1/6) Tuesday Syllabus Review and Course Introduction

(1/8) Thursday What is foreign policy and how do we study it?

Week 2

The First Image
(read Waltz *Introduction, First Image and Implications*)

(1/13) Tuesday The First Image – Introduction and Explanation

(1/15) Thursday The First Image Demonstrated

Week 3

The Second Image (read Waltz *Second Image and Implications*)

(1/20) Tuesday The Second Image – Introduction and Explanation

(1/22) Thursday The Second Image Demonstrated

Week 4

The Third Image
(read Waltz *Third Image, Implications and Conclusion*)

(1/27) Tuesday The Third Image – Introduction, Explanation and Demonstration
**Discussion about short paper requirements in lecture*

(1/29) Thursday Conclusion – Foreign Policy and Images in International Relations

Week 5

Britain, France, Germany and Russia in the 20th Century
(read Pastor *Introduction and One Country Chapter*)

(2/3) Tuesday Book Discussion

(2/5) Thursday Book Discussion

Week 6

The United States, Japan and China in the 20th Century
(read Pastor Two Country Chapters and Conclusion)

(2/10) Tuesday

Book Discussion

(2/12) Thursday

Book Discussion

**Short papers due at the beginning of class*

Week 7

Second Image Theories of Foreign Policy (readings on Web site)

(2/17) Tuesday

Democratic Peace

(2/19) Thursday

Clash of Civilizations and Cultural Theories

Week 8

Second and First Image Theories of Foreign Policy
(readings on Web site)

(2/24) Tuesday

The Rational Actor Model

(2/26) Thursday

Allison's Models and Groupthink

Week 9

First Image Theories of Foreign Policy (readings on Web site)

(3/2) Tuesday

Perception, Psychology and Personality

(3/4) Thursday

Perception, Psychology and Personality Continued

Week 10

Course Conclusion and Final Review (readings on Web site)

(3/9) Tuesday

Course Conclusion

(3/11) Thursday

Final Review

Come to class armed with questions about the final exam.