

Political Science 245  
Winter 2012 quarter  
Ramseyer Hall 0100  
Tues & Thurs, 2:30-4:18 p.m.

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Office hrs: Tues, 1:30-2:30 a.m.  
(and by appointment)

## **Political Science 245: The United States in World Politics**

This course is an introduction to the history, theory and practice of U.S. foreign policy. Today, the U.S. enjoys unrivaled power and influence in the world, yet recent developments, from the global financial crisis to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, have increasingly called into question the appropriate use of that power, both domestically and abroad. What is the proper role of American power in the post-9/11 world? How should the U.S. respond to recent developments such as economic globalization, international terrorism and the rise of China? Through an exploration of contemporary US foreign policy, this course is designed to provide students with the critical analytic skills needed to understand and evaluate the role that American power plays in shaping world politics. In the first half of the course, we will examine some of the major theories of foreign policy behavior, discuss the traditions of foreign policy that emerge out of U.S. history, and provide an overview of the American foreign policy process. The second half of the course will critically examine contemporary US grand strategy and explore a number of issues that pose a challenge to the pursuit of the U.S. national interest, including the rise of China, the politics of oil and the environment, terrorism, and the promotion of democracy and human rights. The emphasis throughout the course will be on developing a critical perspective on contemporary U.S. foreign policy and its consequences for the future of world politics.

### **Requirements**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded. Students may miss up to two unexcused classes without penalty, and excused absences (i.e., those that are excused due to medical reasons or family emergencies and accompanied by the appropriate documentation) do not count against those two. For every class session missed beyond the two allotted, the student will lose **1 point** off of their **final** grade. This can mean the difference between an A- and a B+, and multiple unexcused absences can severely lower your grade for the course.

**Readings:** Students are responsible for the readings listed on the syllabus. All the readings are either drawn from the textbook or are available online through CARMEN. Students are expected to have read and digested them *before* coming to class.

There is one required textbook for this course. It is available through SBX, Amazon and other online booksellers. Please ensure that you purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the book.

**Bruce W. Jentleson. 2010 *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Fourth Edition. W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-93357-4**

Reading Quizzes: There will be five reading quizzes throughout the quarter administered through the Carmen website that will be short tests of your knowledge of the assigned readings. These quizzes will be announced a few days in advance via email and you must complete them before coming to class.

Exams: There will be one mid-term exam and one final exam. The exams will consist of a list of concepts that students must define and discuss the significance of in light of the themes of the course. The final exam will only cover the course material after the first mid-term, and I will hand out study guides prior to each exam. The mid-term exam will take place in class on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, and the final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. All exams will be closed book.

Paper Assignment: Students will be required to write a 5 to 7 page paper that critically examines a contemporary issue in US foreign policy. More information on the particulars of the paper assignment and suggested topics will be provided several weeks into the course. If the student wishes, I am willing to review drafts of these papers and provide suggestions for improvements, but those drafts must be submitted to me no later than November 17<sup>th</sup>. The final draft of the paper assignment is due on the last day of class, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Grading: Students will be evaluated according to their grasp of the different theories and concepts discussed in class and their ability to use this knowledge to think critically about US foreign policy. The relevant weight of each exam and the quizzes are as follows:

Reading Quizzes: 10%  
Mid-term Exam: 25%  
Paper Assignment: 30%  
Final Exam: 35%

Participation: Student participation is strongly encouraged, either by participating constructively in class discussion or by meeting with me to discuss ideas during office hours. Though there is no formal grade associated with class participation, active participation will be looked upon favorably when calculating final grades.

Quiz and Exam Make-up Policy: You will be allowed to make up a quiz or an exam only with a valid excuse (a missed quiz or exam due to illness requires a doctor's note). If you miss an exam, you must make arrangements to make it up within **ONE WEEK** from the date of the scheduled exam. If you do not make up the exam within that time, you will receive a zero as a grade. You must contact me to schedule a day and time for the make-up exam.

## Required Statements

**Academic Honesty:** I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. No dishonest practices on the examinations or in the course will be acceptable, and any suspected cases of dishonesty will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

**Disability:** Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the [Office for Disability Services](#) at 614-292-3307 in 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

This course fulfills the following GEC categories:

### **2. Breadth: B. Social Science**

Goals: Students learn about the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; of the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and of the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Expected learning outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in the contexts of human existence (e.g. psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political), and the processes by which groups, organizations, and societies function.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

### **(2) Organization and Politics Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

### **4. Diversity. (2) International Issues (contains two subcategories: “Non-Western or Global,” and “Western (Non-United States)”**

Goals: International Issues coursework help students become educated, productive and principled citizens of their nation in an increasingly globalized world.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- 1.** Students exhibit an understanding of some combination of political, economic, cultural, physical, social and philosophical differences in or among the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the US.
- 2.** Students are able to describe, analyze and critically evaluate the roles of categories such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, national origin and religion as they relate to international/global institutions, issues, cultures and citizenship.
- 3.** Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

# Calendar

## Tuesday, January 3rd:

1. Introduction: We will review the syllabus and have a brief discussion about why the U.S. needs a foreign policy.

## I. The Sources of US Foreign Policy

### Thursday, January 5th

2. An Introduction to IR Theory: This session introduces some of the basic approaches to explaining state behavior in the international system that are found in international relations theory.

#### **Readings:**

1. Carmen: Jack Snyder. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy* 145, pp 52-62.
2. Carmen: Reimers, Fernando. 2009. "Global Competency is Imperative for Global Success." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 55(21).

### Tuesday, January 10th

3. Power and the National Interest: This session introduces the concept of the national interest and considers the variety of forms of power that the US employs to realize those interests.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 2-26.
2. Morgenthau, Hans J. "The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy." In Jentleson, pp. 198-201.

### Thursday, January 12th

4. Traditions of US Foreign Policy: The session will provide an introduction to the different traditions of foreign policy that emerge out of US history.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 72-113.

2. Carmen: Walter Russell Mead. 2001. *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World*. Pages 77-96.

### **Tuesday, January 17th**

6. US Foreign Policy Process: the President and Congress: This session introduces the process of US foreign policy with a particular focus on the roles of the President and Congress.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 27-49.

2. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. "The President and Congress." *What the Founding Fathers Intended*. In Jentleson, pp. 216-220.

### **Thursday, January 19th**

7. US Foreign Policy Process: The Bureaucracy: This session discusses the important role that bureaucratic actors play in making and implementing US foreign policy with a particular focus on the US State Department and US Department of Defense.

#### **Readings:**

1. Carmen: Dwight D. Eisenhower Farewell Address, July 17, 1961 and NPR Podcast "Ike's Warning of Military Expansion, 50 Years Later." (7 mins).

2. Graham T. Allison. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." In Jentleson, pp. 221-22.

3. Carmen: Ross, Christopher. 2002. "Public Diplomacy Comes of Age." *Washington Quarterly*, 25(2), pp. 75-83.

### **Tuesday, January 24th**

8. Media and Public Opinion: This session discusses the role that the media and public opinion play in forming US foreign policy.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 58-67.

2. Carmen: Robinson, Piers. 1999. "The CNN Effect: Can the News Media Drive Foreign Policy?" *Review of International Studies*, 25, pp. 301-309.

### **Thursday, January 26th**

9. Interest Groups and Non-state Actors in US Foreign Policy: This session will evaluate the influence that interest groups and other non-state actors have on US foreign policy.

**Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 49-58.
2. Carmen: Mearsheimer, John and Stephen Walt. 2006. "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy." *Middle East Politics*, 13(3), pp. 29-87.

**Tuesday, January 31st**

**\*\*\* Mid-term Exam \*\*\***

**II. Challenges and Opportunities for Contemporary US Foreign Policy**

**Thursday, February 2nd**

1. US Grand Strategy: This session discusses the debates surrounding contemporary US Grand Strategy, with a particular focus on the current grand strategy of the Obama administration.

**Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 322-335.
2. Carmen: *The National Security Strategy of the United States*. May 2010.
3. Carmen: John Mearsheimer. 2011. "Imperial by Design." *The National Interest*, 111, pp. 16-34.

Recommended: Carmen: Fareed Zakaria. "Stop Searching for an Obama Doctrine." *Washington Post*, Op-Ed, July 8, 2011.

**Tuesday, February 7th**

2. US Hegemony and the Rise of the Rest: This session explores the debates surrounding the relative decline of US hegemony and its implications for US foreign policy.

**Readings:**

1. Carmen: Brooks, Stephen and William Wohlforth. 2002. "American Primacy in Perspective." *Foreign Affairs*, 81(4), pp. 20-33.
2. Carmen: Zakaria, Fareed. 2011. *The Post-American World*. W.W. Norton, chapters 1 and 2.

3. Visit <http://www.pewglobal.org/database/?topic=1> and explore some of the attitudes towards the US expressed by other countries.

### **Thursday, February 9th:**

3. Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism: This session will evaluate how severe the threat of terrorism is, how the US has responded to that threat, and what the appropriate response to that threat should be.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 409-418.
2. Carmen: Mueller, John. 2006. *Overblown*. Simon & Schuster. "Introduction."
3. Carmen: Dana Priest and William Arkin. "'Top Secret America': A look at the military's Joint Special Operations Command." *Washington Post*, September 2, 2011
4. Carmen: *National Security Strategy for Counter-Terrorism*, especially pages 1-10.

Recommended: *Frontline* documentary "Top Secret America." 53 minutes. Available (free!) for viewing online at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/topsecretamerica/>

### **Tuesday, February 14th**

3. The Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq: This session will explore the origins and strategies of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan within the context of bureaucratic politics and public opinion on the one hand, and counter-insurgency warfare on the other.

1. Jentleson, pp. 419-435.
2. Carmen: Greenhill, Kelly and Paul Staniland. 2007. "Ten Ways to Lose at Counterinsurgency." *Civil Wars*, 9(4) (19 pages).
3. Carmen: Cavanaugh, Jeffrey. 2007. "From the 'Red Juggernaut' to Iraqi WMD: Threat Inflation and How it Succeeds in the US." *Political Science Quarterly*, 122(4), pp. 555-84.

### **Thursday, February 16th**

4. Energy, the Environment and the Politics of Oil: This session will examine US energy policy and its relationship to foreign policy. We will also discuss the environmental implications of US energy policy, with a particular focus on the politics of global warming.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 568-577.

2. Carmen: Michael A. Levi. 2007 “Copenhagen’s Inconvenient Truth.” *Foreign Affairs* , 88(5) (10 pages).

3. Carmen: Vaitheeswaran, Vija. 2007. “Oil.” *Foreign Policy*, pp. 24-30 (with pictures!)

4. Carmen: Deutch, Philip J. 2005. “Energy Independence.” *Foreign Policy*, pp. 20-25.

### **Tuesday, February 21st**

5. The Rise of China: This session examines the rise of China and the potential challenge it poses to US foreign policy, particularly in East Asia.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 368-376.

2. Carmen: Zakaria, Fareed. 2011. *The Post-American World*. Chapter 4.

### **Thursday, February 23rd**

6. International Trade, Finance and Globalization: This session will examine US foreign economic policy and the controversies over free trade.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 528-550.

2. Carmen: NPR Planet Money Podcast “The Cotton Wars” (32 minutes).

### **Tuesday, February 28th:**

#### **Paper DRAFTS Due (optional)**

7. Human Rights and Democracy Promotion: This session will ask whether the promotion of human rights and democracy have been and should be key components of US foreign policy and the variety of instruments available for the pursuit of that goal.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 590-637.

2. Carmen: Falk, Richard. 2004. “Human Rights: Think Again.” *Foreign Policy*, 141 (March/April), pp. 18-28.

Recommended: Carmen: Lizza, Ryan. “The Consequentialist: How the Arab Spring remade Obama’s foreign policy.” *New Yorker*. May 2, 2011 (17 pages).

### **Thursday, March 1st:**

## 8. Uncertainty, Security and the Vietnam War

Movie *The Fog of War* to watch in class

### **Tuesday, March 6th**

9. Humanitarian Intervention: This session will explore the question of humanitarian intervention in the context of the recent intervention in Libya.

#### **Readings:**

1. Jentleson, pp. 480-522.
2. “International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty: The Responsibility to Protect.” In Jentleson, pp. 672-674.
3. *Preventing Genocide: A Blueprint for US Policymakers*. 2008. Genocide Prevention Task Force. In Jentleson, pp. 675-676.

### **Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

## **Paper Assignments Due**

10. The Future of US Foreign Policy: In this session, we will discuss what challenges will confront US foreign policy in the future and how the US should respond.

#### **Readings:**

1. *Global Trends 2025: A World Transformed*. 2008. Published by the National Intelligence Council. Especially the executive summary (pages 1-6) and Chapter 7 (pages 92-99).

**Final Exam: Tuesday, March 13, 1:30 - 3:18.**