

Syllabus Political Science 2300: The US in the World

Contact and Course Information

Instructor: Mr. John Raines
Email: Raines.71@osu.edu
Office hours: Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. by Skype and by appointment.
Class Time: Online

Course Objectives

This course will provide students with an introduction into the realm of US foreign policy and the role the United States plays in the world. Accordingly, central tenants of the course include exploring the varying theories, actors, and historical events that are critical in understanding foreign policy construction. The course ends by asking students to delve into specific regional US foreign policy strategies and issues, thereby providing students with an opportunity to conduct in-depth analysis of contemporary foreign policy debates.

Category: Social Science: Organizations and Politics

Goals:

Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and 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 apply to the study of organizations and polities.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and polities and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Category: Global Studies

Goals:

Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.
2. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
3. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are expected to both read the assigned class materials (textbook and various articles), and watch the related lectures and assigned videos. The amount of study time devoted to the class should be roughly equitable to attending a face-to-face political science class on campus.
2. Students will be responsible for taking weekly online open book multiple-choice quizzes on Carmen. The quizzes will take approximately 15 - 20 minutes and will cover all the assigned materials for the week.
3. Students will take both a mid-term and final examination to test their general knowledge of the material presented in the textbook, articles and videos. The format of the exams will be multiple-choice.
4. Students will write a 4-page memo (not in excess of 1000 words) detailing their policy prescription for a current US foreign policy problem. Students will choose amongst three different topics listed below. More details on the paper, including how to use the Turnitin system when submitting the paper, will be forthcoming.

Paper

You will have three options for the paper (printed below). All will be due on November 15, 2013 at 11:59PM. All late papers will receive a one-letter grade reduction for each day they are late.

Paper options:

1. Should the US label China a currency manipulator? Please detail (in brief terms) how this process occurs. What are the benefits/disadvantages of doing so? What are the possible consequences?

2. Russia has been impeding US efforts on issues like Syria, the Arctic, North Korea, and Iran, acting without much regard to Western positions. However, the Russians have been helpful in some more minor issue areas like terrorist information collection and providing supply routes to Afghanistan. Does the US need to begin to take a more hostile stance towards Russia, like during the Cold War? Will this work? It is counter productive? What issues present areas where we could push the Russians to do better?

3. What needs to be the next step on the War on Terror? Many relay that the US needs to expand its assistance (both militarily and financially) for states that are dealing with Islamic fundamentalism, such as in North Africa (Mali, Libya and elsewhere) and the Middle East (Yemen, Iraq)? While some argue we cannot afford another war, others contend we must increase our security presence overseas to counter this growing threat (and military budgets, while high, still remain low compared to Cold War levels).

Evaluation:

Students in the course will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Weekly Quizzes:	30%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Paper:	15%
Final Exam:	30%

Required Text:

The following text is available at the University bookstore (along at Amazon and Barnes & Noble).

- Bruce W. Jentleson, *American Foreign Policy*, Fifth Edition (Norton, 2013). (This book is not cheap. I realize that. Accordingly, feel free to get the electronic version, which is 1/3 the price.)

Other weekly readings will be available on-line through Carmen or the Ohio State Library system.

OTHER DETAILS

Missed Exams/Emergencies

From time to time emergencies occur that prevent you from taking an exam at the regularly scheduled time (e.g., severe injury, illness, or death in the immediate family). Accommodations are possible, but only with advance notice and only if the reason represents a circumstance that could neither be anticipated nor is under the control of the student. Potential problems should be brought to the attention to me as soon as you know about them (and in advance of the exam in question). Obviously, prior notification is not required in the case of emergency medical conditions that occur immediately prior to the exam, though documentation may be required after the fact. Do not hesitate to email me if you have a special circumstance that makes it impossible for you to take an exam at the normal time or place. This paragraph does not apply to students who are eligible for alternative procedures by the Office of Disability Services.

PLEASE NOTE: These practices do not apply to weekly quizzes. Unfortunately, due to the number of quizzes (for an online course) and the number of students in the class, I am unable to offer extensions or retakes if a student misses one due to illness or other emergency, as this would necessitate constant modifications in quiz deadlines and questions, and cause considerable delays in the handing back of student quiz scores.

Academic Honesty: I expect all of the work you submit for this course to be your own. Cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will not be tolerated. All cases of cheating and plagiarism will be reported to the University committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to University policy. If you have any question about the University's Code of Student Conduct, please see the web site: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_7-13-06.pdf.

Disability: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Weekly Assignment and Class Schedule

Week 1: August 21 – First Day of Classes – Welcome to the Class

Simply an introductory video. No reading.

Practice Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 2: August 26 – September 1 – IR Concepts

Jentleson – American Foreign Policy, Chapter 1 – The Strategic Context: Foreign Policy Strategy and the Essence of Choice (pp. 2-23)

John Mearsheimer pp. 216 – 219

Robert Keohane pp. 220– 224

Gabriel Kolko pp. 225 – 228

Tony Smith pp. 229 – 233

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 3: September 3 – September 8: Executive and Legislative

Jentleson – Chapter 2 – The Domestic Context: The Three Branches and the Process of Choice. (pp. 27 – 53)

Arthur Schlesinger Jr., pp. 234-236.

Graham Allison, pp. 237-238.

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 4: September 9 – September 15: Interest Groups, Media and Public Opinion

Jentleson – Chapter 3 – The Domestic Context: Interest Groups, Media and Public Opinion. (pp. 56 –84)

John Cook pp. 239–241

Ole Holsti, pp. 242–248

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 5 – September 16 – September 22: History I

SKIM (OPTIONAL) – Jentleson – Chapter 4 – The Historical Context 1789 – 1945. (pp. 89 – 127)

REQUIRED: Jentleson – Chapter 5 – The Cold War Context (pp. 131 – 161)

Mr X pp. 271–274

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 6 – September 23 – September 29: History II

Jentleson – Chapter 6 – CW: Lessons and Legacies (pp. 167 – 210)

Gelb – pp. 275 – 278

Gaddis – pp. 279 – 281

Gorbachev – pp. 282 – 284

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 7 – September 30 – October 6 – Grand Strategy I

Jentleson – Chapter 7 – Grand Strategy for a New Era: Power and Peace (pp. 286 – 326)

Lieber, Robert. Pp. 596–97

John Ikenberry pp. 598–600
Charles Kupchan pp. 601–602

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 8 – October 7 – October 13 – Grand Strategy II

Jentleson – Chapter 8 – Grand Strategy for a New Era: Prosperity and Principles (pp. 332 – 353 (top))

AND

Jentleson – Chapter 9 – Post CW: Politics beyond the Water’s Edge (pp. 385 – 413)

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 9 – October 14 – October 20 – Internal Balancing? Today’s Debate.

LECTURE/SLIDES THIS WEEK WITH THREE SHORT ARTICLES TO WRAP UP FIRST HALF OF COURSE. NO QUIZ. PREPARE FOR MIDTERM.

Zenko, Micah and Michael Cohen. Clear and Present Safety. Foreign Affairs. April 201

Miller, Paul. National Insecurity. Foreign Affairs. August 2012

Posen, Barry. Pull Back. Foreign Affairs. February 2013.

MIDTERM EXAM Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 10 – October 21 – October 27 – China and Asia (Lots of Reading)

Jentleson – Chapter 10 – Asia’s Rising Strategic Importance. China (pp. 419 – 451)

Nathan and Scobell. How China Sees America. Foreign Affairs. October 2012.

Ross, Robert. The Problem with the Pivot. Foreign Affairs. December 2012.

Rudd, Kevin. Beyond the Pivot. Foreign Affairs. April 2013.

Shirky, Clay. The Top 10 Unicorns of China Policy. Foreign Policy. 3 October 2011. (3 Pages)

Lind, Lieber, and Press. Pyongyang's Nuclear Logic. Foreign Affairs. February 2013. (2 Pages)

Lieber and Press. The Next Korean War. Foreign Affairs. April 2013. (2 Pages)

Quiz Online - Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 11 - October 28 - November 3 - The Wars of the Middle East and South Asia

Jentleson - Chapter 11 - War and Peace...Middle East. (pp. 455 - 498)

Haqqani, Hussain. Breaking Up is Not Hard to Do. Foreign Affairs. April 2013.

Farrall, Leah. How al Qaeda Works. Foreign Affairs. April 2011.

Nasr, Vali. The Insides Story of How the White House Let Diplomacy Fail in Afghanistan. Foreign Policy. April 2013.

NO QUIZ THIS WEEK. MIDDLE EAST QUIZ NEXT WEEK WILL COVER BOTH SECTIONS.

Week 12 - November 4 - November 10 Iran and Syria

Jentleson - Chapter 11 - War and Peace...Middle East. (pp. 455 - 498)

Hill, Fiona. The Real Reason Putin Supports Assad. Foreign Affairs. March 2013.

Broning, Michael. Time to Back the Syrian National Coalition. Foreign Affairs. December 2012.

Kroenig, Matthew. Time to Attack Iran. Foreign Affairs. February 2013.

Kahl, Colin. Not Time to Attack Iran. Foreign Affairs. April 2012.

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 13 – November 11 – November 17 Europe and Russia

Jentleson – Chapter 12 – Old Friends, Old Enemies...Europe. (pp. 503 – 537)

Matlock Interview. Repairing US–Russia Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. April 2013.

Shleifer, Andrei and Treisman, Daniel. Why Russia Says No – A Question of Russian Interests, Not Psychology. Foreign Affairs. January/February 2011.

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

Week 14 – November 18 – November 24 The Americas

Jentleson – Chapter 13 – The Americas (pp. 541 – 564)

Lowenthal, Abraham. Obama and the Americas. Foreign Affairs. August 2010.

Crandall, Russell. The Post–American Hemisphere. Foreign Affairs. June 2011.

PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 11:59PM

NO QUIZ THIS WEEK. QUIZ NEXT WEEK WILL COVER BOTH AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICAN SECTIONS.

Week 15 – November 25 – December 3: Africa

Jentleson – Chapter 14 – Africa (pp. 567 –591)

Moss, Todd. Missing in Africa. Foreign Affairs. October 2012.

Atwood, J. Brian, Peter McPherson and Andrew Natsios. Arrested Development. Foreign Affairs. December 2008.

Quiz Online – Opens Saturday 12:00 pm and Ends Monday 11:59 pm.

FINAL EXAM: OPEN FROM Saturday, December 7 at 12:00pm to Monday, December 9 at 11:59pm.