

POLI 4043 American Foreign Policy

Course Syllabus
Spring 2021

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Classroom: On-line
Class Hours: On-line
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Course description

This seminar is designed to introduce students to the historical and contemporary issues related to U.S. foreign policy. We will first review the history of American foreign policy in the 20th century with an emphasis on national security issues. Then the course will proceed with an in-depth coverage of major groups and institutions involved in formulating American foreign policy. The particular focus will be on the roles of the presidency, Congress, executive branch (e.g., State Department), interest groups, mass media, and public opinion.

Required readings

There is no required textbook for this course. The required readings are articles and book chapters that are available as PDF files available on Moodle.

Course requirements

The final grade in this course will be based on three main components: (1) two online examinations, (2) four online quizzes, and (3) class participation.

Summary of the grade components:

70% Two online exams (1st exam: 35%; 2nd exam: 35%)
20% Four pop quizzes
10% Seminar participation

1. *Two online examinations* (70% total; 35% each)

The exams will mainly consist of essay questions though there will be a brief section of multiple-choice questions as well. Each exam will be worth a total of 35% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures. There will be **no makeup exams** **except** in documented cases of serious medical emergency, military obligation, or jury duty.

2. *Four online quizzes* (20%):

The quizzes will be multiple choice and the questions will be based on the class readings and lectures.

3. *Class participation* (10%)

Class participation is based on active participation on the Moodle forum. A forum for each topic in the course will be available for you to engage one another in discussion. The students are expected to have read the required material, watch the lectures, and engage in informed discussion on the class forums. This can only be done if you conduct yourselves in a professional manner and are tolerant of other students' ideas, even if they directly contradict your own personal views.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

97-100% (A+);	93-96.9% (A);	90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+);	83-86.9% (B);	80-82.9% (B-);
77-79.9% (C+);	73-76.9% (C);	70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+);	63-66.9% (D);	60-62.9% (D-);
< 60% (F)		

Summary of important dates:

March 16 – First Exam

April 27 – Final Exam

Project Deadline Extensions and Make-Up Exams

Deadline extensions and make-up exams will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness or major family emergency. The request needs to be made in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed deadline or exam. Otherwise, the extension/make-up will not be granted. This course does not qualify for granting an Incomplete Grade; therefore, there is NO Incomplete Grade in this course.

Electronic Communication

I encourage students to visit me during my office hours for any questions and inquiries. If the circumstances necessitate it, you can also e-mail me on weekdays. The project assignments must also be submitted initially through e-mail. Please adhere to the following courtesy policy for this course when e-mailing me: (1) use only your LSU e-mail address; (2) do address me properly in the message and sign it with your full name; (3) keep your message brief and, when submitting the project, provide the information about the project's topic and the files you are attaching; (4) do not forget to attach the project files and make sure to wait for my confirmation (see "Project" file on Moodle for further details). To protect the privacy of each student, please note that I do not provide any grade or similar personal information through e-mail or by phone, regardless of who is requesting it.

Plagiarism Statement

"Academic Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information

in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct: <http://saa.lsu.edu/code-student-conduct>. If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

Copyright Statement

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Students with Disabilities Policy

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty Handbook.

Equal Opportunity Statement

LSU’s PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. *This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.*

Practical Advice on Reading and Taking Notes

For your own benefit and not just for this course, I strongly encourage you to read about research, repeatedly showing that taking notes with a laptop or tablet and having an instructor posting lecture notes do NOT benefit a student’s cognitive and learning process. By contrast, “students who used longhand remembered more and had a deeper understanding of the material.” “A Learning Secret: Don’t Take Notes with a Laptop” (*The Scientific American*)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

Also, while there is an obvious financial advantage to have the readings available in electronic form as it saves you money, it is strongly advisable to have them printed and read them in the print version. I encourage students to discuss the course materials with me outside the classroom as well (see the office hours), but I will require you to bring print copies of all readings with you on these occasions. This is why (and do print this article before reading it):

“The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens” (*The Scientific American*)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>

SCHEDULE

January 12

COURSE OVERVIEW

January 14-19

DIPLOMACY BEFORE WORLD WAR II

Mead, Walter Russell. 2001. "The American Foreign Policy Tradition." In Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Chapter 1 (pp. 3-29)

LaFeber, Walter. 2008. "The US Rise to World Power, 1776-1945." In M. Cox & D. Stokes (eds.) *US Foreign Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3 (pp. 45-60).

Kissinger, Henry. 1994. "The Hinge: Theodore Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson." In H. Kissinger, *Diplomacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, Chapter 2 (pp. 29-55).

January 21-26

WORLD WAR II DIPLOMACY

Document: [Atlantic Charter \(1941\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/atlantic.asp) <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/atlantic.asp>

Document: [Yalta Conference \(1945\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/yalta.asp) <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/yalta.asp>

LaFeber, Walter. 2008. Chapter 1. "Open Doors, Iron Curtains (1941-1945)". In Walter LaFeber *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2006*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill.

February 28-February 2

COLD WAR BEGINNINGS AND KOREA

Document: [Truman Doctrine \(1947\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp) (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp)

Herring, George C. 2008. "'A Novel Burden Far from Our Shores': Truman, the Cold War, and the Revolution in U.S. Foreign Policy, 1945-1953." In *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 595-650 (Ch. 14).

February 4-9

EISENHOWER, THE NEW LOOK, AND THE 1950S

Jones, Howard. 2009. "Containment Continued: The Eisenhower Years, 1953-1961." In *Crucible of Power: A history of American foreign relations from 1945*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 63-102 (Ch. 3).

February 11-18

FROM CUBA TO VIETNAM

Document: [Tonkin Gulf Incident \(1964\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/tonkin-g.asp) (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/tonkin-g.asp)

Herring, George C. 1991. "America and Vietnam: The Unending War." *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 70, No. 5 (Winter), pp. 104-119.

Note: No lecture posted on February 16: Mardi Gras break.

February 23-25

THE END OF VIETNAM AND THE DETENTE ERA

Hook, Steven W., and John Spanier. 2016. "Détente and World-Order Politics." In *American Foreign Policy Since World War II, 20th ed.* Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, pp. 102-125 (Ch. 5).

March 2-4

THE END OF THE COLD WAR & THE POST-COLD WAR CHALLENGES

Paterson, Thomas, et al. 2010. "A New World Order? Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, 1981-2001." In *American Foreign Relations: Volume 2: Since 1895.* Boston: Wadsworth, pp. 421-471 (Ch. 11).

March 9

THE 21st CENTURY

Leffler, Melvyn P. 2011. "9/11 in Retrospect: George W. Bush's Grand Strategy, Reconsidered." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 5 (Sept/Oct), pp. 33-44.

Rose, Gideon. 2015. "What Obama Gets Right: Keep Calm and Carry the Liberal Order On." *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 94 No. 5 (Sept/Oct), pp. 2-12.

Stephens, Bret. 2015. "What Obama Gets Wrong: No Retreat, No Surrender." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 94 No. 5 (Sept/Oct), pp. 13-16.

March 11

ONLINE Q&A SESSION

Since we do not have scheduled live sessions, post on the forum on the 8th and 9th of March if you have any questions and I will answer them in a recorded session that will be posted on this date. Please note that if you post any questions after the 9th I will not be able to answer since I will record my answers on the 10th.

EXAM #1

Tuesday, March 16

The exam will open on Moodle at 8am and close at midnight

March 18-23

DOCUMENTARY TBA

March 25

NO LECTURE POSTED: MARCH BREAK

March 30

POLITICAL TRADITION, NATIONAL CULTURE AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mead, Walter Russell. 1999/2000. "The Jacksonian Tradition." *The National Interest* No. 58.

Mead, Walter Russell. 1996. "Hamilton's Way." *World Policy Journal*, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 89-106.

Note: If you have not read the U.S. Constitution in its complete form, it is required that you do it before this second part of our class—get a hard copy or read it online [United States Constitution \(http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html\)](http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html).

April 1

SOCIETAL INFLUENCES I: PUBLIC OPINION & MEDIA

Rielly, John E. 1999. "Americans and the World: A Survey at Century's End." *Foreign Policy*, No. 114 (Spring), pp. 97-114.

Murray, Shoon Kathleen, and Christopher Spinoza. 2004. "The Post-9/11 Shift in Public Opinion: How Long Will It Last?" In Eugene R. Wittkopf and James M. McCormick, eds. *Domestic Sources of American Foreign Politics*, 4th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 97-115.

Graber, Doris A. 2006. "Foreign Affairs Coverage." In Doris A. Graber, *Mass Media and American Politics*, 7th ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, Chapter 11 (pp. 318-359).

(Recommended: Page, Benjamin I., and Jason Barabas. 2000. "Foreign Policy Gaps between Citizens and Leaders." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 339-364.

April 6-8

SOCIETAL INFLUENCES II: INTEREST GROUPS

Smith, Tony. 2000. "Three. Historical Stages of Ethnic Group Influence" In Tony Smith, *Foreign Attachments: The Power of Ethnic Groups in the Making of American Foreign Policy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 47-84).

Kegley, Charles W., Jr., and Eugene R. Wittkopf. 2007. "A Military-Industrial Complex?" In *American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process*, 7th ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 291-298.

April 13-15

CONGRESS AND LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE RELATIONS

Document: [War Powers Act \(1973\)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp) http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp

Lindsay, James M. 2003. "Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3, pp. 530-546.

Fisher, Louis, and David Gray Adler. 1998. "The War Powers Resolution: Time to Say Goodbye." *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 113, No. 1, pp. 1-20. *posted on Moodle
(Recommended: Henkin, Louis. 1987. "Foreign Affairs and the Constitution." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 284-310.

April 20

EXECUTIVE BRANCH I: PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE

Rosati, Jerel A., and James M. Scott. 2007. "Presidential Power and Leadership: Constitutional Roles and Strengths," In *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 68-72.

Aranson, Peter H. 1981. "Presidential Personality and Presidential Decision Making." In Peter H. Aranson, *American Government: Strategy and Choice*. Cambridge, MA: Winthrop, pp. 434-438.

US Congressional Research Service. 2009. *The National Security Council: An Organizational Assessment*. CRS Report for Congress (RL30840; June 8, 2009), by Richard A. Best, Jr., pp. 1-36.

April 22

ONLINE Q&A SESSION

Since we do not have scheduled live sessions, post on the forum on the 19th and 20th of April if you have any questions and I will answer them in a recorded session that will be posted on this date. Please note that if you post any questions after the 20th I will not be able to answer since I will record my answers on the 21st.

EXAM #2

Tuesday, April 27

The final exam will open on Moodle at 8am and close at midnight

~ Have a Good Summer Break ~