

PLS 422
American Foreign Policy
Spring 2010

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I. COURSE MEETINGS

Mon & Wed: 2:00-3:15 p.m. (Leutze Hall 143)

II. OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Wed: 3:30-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes how foreign policy is constructed and changed in American political system. Four major elements will be covered throughout the semester: a study of evolution of American foreign policy since 1789, an analysis of institutional dimension of foreign policymaking processes, a discussion of the causes of American foreign policy such as the international system, public opinion, and the media; and an examination of policy areas including national security, global economy, immigration, climate change, and energy independence.

IV. COURSE MATERIALS AND TEXTBOOK

The following textbook is **REQUIRED** and available at the university book store.

● **Steven W. Hook. 2008. *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*. 2nd edition. (Washington D.C.: CQ Press)**

● **# Readings** are also **REQUIRED** to read and downloadable from the Seaport Course Homepage (<http://seaport.uncw.edu>)

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Response Papers (10%)**
- **Midterm Exam (Feb 24, W) (20%)**
- **Final Exam (Apr 28 W) (20%)**
- **Debate Presentation (10%) and Participation (10%)**
- **Research Paper**
 - **First Draft (research question & design) = due Mar 17 W (10%)**
 - **Presentation = starting on Apr 12 M (5%)**
 - **Final Draft = due May 5 W (15%)**

1) Six Response Papers (10%)

Readings are critical for this PLS 422 class. Submit **one-page long, single-spaced** response papers of the course readings (except for textbook chapters) and submit at the end of the designated class dates such as **Jan 20, Feb 3, Feb 17, Mar 3, Mar 24, Apr 7, Apr 21**. You can skip one response paper of your choice so that **the total number of response papers is six**.

2) Two In-Class Exams (40%)

There will be midterm (20%) and final Exam (20%). Format is a combination of multiple choice, short identification, and short essay. All readings materials and lectures notes will be a fair game on the exams (50-50!).

3) Discussion Presentation (10%) and Debate Participation (10%)

Sign up onto one issue from the syllabus and inform the instructor of your choice **AFTER Jan 13th W (add/drop final day)**. Your job is to present your analyses and positions on your choice of topic and manage class discussion by suggesting questions and handling debates. In the debate sessions when you do not present, you are expected to participate in class discussion.

4) Research Paper (30%)

First draft (5-page long, double-spaced) including your research question and design is due **Mar 17 W**. Then, starting on **Apr 12 M**, you will present your research paper progress. Finally, final draft (20-page long, double spaced) is due **May 5 W, 5 pm**. Late papers will be penalized and course total grade will drop 3 points. More details will be discussed in class.

* Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point totals:

A=92.5 or more	A-=89.5-92.49	B+=87.5-89.49	B=82.5-87.49	B-=79.5-82.49
C+=77.5-79.49	C=69.5-77.49	D = 59.5-69.49	F= less than 59.5	

IV. READINGS BY CLASS SESSION

Jan 6 W **Course Introduction:** Analyzing American Foreign Policy: *American Politics or International Relations?*

James D. Fearon, 1998. "Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Theories of International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol 1:289-313

Part I. The Setting of U.S. Foreign Policy: History and Theory

Jan 11 M **The United States in a Turbulent World**

Hook 2008. Ch 1

American Political Science Association Task Force Report, 2009 "US Standing in the World: Causes, Consequences, and the Future"

Jan 13 W **The Expansion of U.S. Power I**

Hook 2008, Ch 2.

Peter Trubowitz. 1998. "Regional Conflict and Coalitions of American Foreign Policy" in *Defining the National Interest: Conflict and Change in American Foreign Policy*. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press):1-30

Jan 18 M **Martin Luther King State Holiday**

Jan 20 W **The Expansion of U.S. Power II**

Martin Shefter, 2002. "War, Trade, and U.S. Party Politics" in Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter ed. *Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development* (Princeton University Press):113-33

Fareed Zakaria. 1998. *From Wealth to Power: The Unusual Origins of America's World Role*. (Princeton University Press):13-43

● **Jan 20 W = Debate Question #1: "Is American Hegemony Good for the United States and the World?"**

Jan 25 M 27 W Dynamics of Decision Making

Hook 2008, Ch 3

Peter Gourevitch 1978. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics" *International Organization*. Vol. 32, No. 4 (Autumn 1978):881-912

Walter Russell Mead. 2002. *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*. (New York: Routledge):3-29, 86-98

● **Jan 25 M = Debate Question #2: "Should the United States Have an Official Strategy of Preemption Against Potential Weapon of Mass Destruction Threats?"**

● **Jan 27 W = Debate Question #3: Should Promoting Democracy Abroad Be a Top U.S. Priority?**

Part II. Inside-Out: Government Sources of Foreign Policy

Feb 1 M Feb 3 W Presidential Power

Hook 2008. Ch 4

Richard Fleisher et al. 2000. "The Demise of the Two Presidencies" *American Politics Research*. Vol. 28, No. 1, (January 2000): 3-25

Glen S. Krutz and Jeffrey S. Peake. 2006. "The Changing Nature of Presidential Policy Making on International Agreements" *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 36 (3):391-409

● **Feb 1 M = Debate Question #4: Was the War in Iraq Justified?**

● **Feb 3 W = Debate Question #5: Is Pakistan an Asset in the War on Terror?**

Feb 8 M 10 W Congress beyond the "Water's Edge"

Hook 2008. Ch 5

Broz J. Lawrence. 2005. "Congressional Politics of International Financial Rescues" *American Journal of Political Science*, 49(3):479-496

Patrick Cronin and Benjamin O. Fordham. 1999. "Timeless Principles or Today's Fashion? Testing the Stability of the Linkage Between Ideology and Foreign Policy in the Senate" *Journal of Politics*, 61 (4): 967-98

● **Feb 8 M = Debate Question #6: Should the United States Preemptively Attack Iranian Nuclear Facilities?**

● **Feb 10 W = Debate Question #7: Should the United States Send Peacekeeping Troops to Darfur?**

Feb 15 M Feb 17 W The Foreign Policy Bureaucracy and Party Politics of Foreign Policy I

Hook 2008. Ch 6

Graham T. Allison. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis" *American Political Science Review* 63(3):689-718

Charles A. Kupchan and Peter L. Trubowitz. 2007. "Dead Center: The Demise of Liberal Internationalism in the United States" *International Security* Vol. 32, No.2 (Fall 2007):7-44

● **Feb 15 M = Debate Question #8: Is China's Rise threatening to the United States?**

● **Feb 17 W = Debate Question #9: Should the United States Seek Negotiations and Engagement with North Korea?**

Feb 22 M Party Politics of Foreign Policy II

Peter Beinart. 2008. "When Politics No Longer Stops at the Water's Edge: Partisan Polarization and Foreign Policy" in Pietro S. Nivola and David W. Brady ed. *Red and Blue Nation? Consequences and Correction of America's Polarized Politics*. (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press), pp. 151-167

Hannah Goble and Peter M. Holm. 2009. "Breaking Bonds? The Iraq War and the Loss of Republican Dominance in National Security," *Political Research Quarterly*, 62 (2):215-29

Feb 24 W Midterm Exam (Ch 1 -6 and course readings)

Part III. Outside-In: External Sources of Foreign Policy

Mar 1 M Mar 3 W Public Opinion at Home and Abroad/Research Paper Discussion

Hook 2008. Ch 7

Lawrence R. Jacobs and Benjamin I. Page. 2005. "Who Influences U.S. Foreign Policy?" *American Political Science Review*, Vol.99, No.1:107-23

Larry M. Bartels. 1991. "Constituency Opinion and Congressional Policy Making: The Reagan Defense Buildup" *American Political Science Review* 85(2):457-474

- **Mar 1 M = Debate Question #10: Is U.S. Support for Israel a Key Factor in America's Difficulties in the Middle East?**
- **Mar 3 W = Debate Question #11: Has the Department of Homeland Security Been a Success?**

Mar 8 M 10 W Spring Break!!!

Mar 15 M 17 W The Impact of Mass Communications

Hook 2008. Ch 8

Jody Baumgartner and Jonathan S. Morris. 2006, "The Daily Show Effect," *American Politics Research*, 34 (3): 341-67

Jonathan Mermin, 1997, "Television News and American Intervention in Somalia: The Myth of a Media-driven Foreign Policy," *Political Science Quarterly*, 112 (3):385-403

- **Mar 15 M = Debate Question #12: Does Domestic Spying Help the United States?**
- **Mar 17 W = Debate Question #13: Is Loosening Immigration Regulations Good for the United States?**

Mar 22 M Mar 24 W Social Movements and Interest Groups

Hook 2008. Ch 9

David J. Jackson and Steven T. Engel. 2003. "Friends Don't Let Friends Vote For Free Trade: The Dynamics of the Labor PAC Punishment Strategy over PNTR" *Political Research Quarterly*, 56(4):441-48

Patrick J. Haney and Walt Vanderbush, 1999, "The Role of Ethnic Interest Groups in U.S. Foreign Policy: The Case of the Cuban American National Foundation," *International Studies Quarterly*, 43(2):341-61

● **Mar 22 M = Debate Question #14: Is Economic Globalization Good for the United States?**

● **Mar 24 W = Debate Question #15: Is Outsourcing Good for the United States?**

Part IV. Policy Domains

Mar 29 M 31 W National Security and Defense Policy

Hook 2008, Ch 10

Benjamin O. Fordham. 2007. "The Evolution of Republican and Democratic Positions on Cold War Military Spending: A Historical Puzzle" *Social Science History*, 31:4 (Winter 2007):603-636

David Brule. 2006. "Congressional Opposition, the Economy, and U.S. Dispute Initiation, 1946-2000" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol.50, No.4, (August 2006): 463-483

● **Mar 29 M = Debate Question #16: Should the United States Fight Climate Change?**

● **Mar 31 W = Debate Question #17: Is It Realistic for the United States to Move toward Greater Energy Independence?**

Apr 5 M Apr 7 W Economic Statecraft

Hook 2008, Ch 11.

Douglas A. Irwin. 2006. "Historical Aspects of U.S. Trade Policy" *NBER Reporter*, Summer 2006

Peter Trubowitz. 1998. "The Rise of the Sunbelt: America Resurgent in the 1980s" in *Defining the National Interest: Conflict and Change in American Foreign Policy* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press), pp. 169-234

● *Apr 5 M = Debate Question #18: Is It Justifiable to Put Suspected Terrorists under Great Physical Duress?*

● *Apr 7 W = Debate Questions #19: Can Humanitarian Intervention Be Justified?*

Apr 12 M 14 W Transnational Policy Problems

Hook 2008, Ch 12

Daniel Tichenor. 2002. "The Politics of Immigration Control: Understanding the Rise and Fall of Policy Regimes" in *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America*. (Princeton University Press), pp 16-45.

Josh Busby. 2008. "Who Cares about the Weather? Climate Change and U.S. National Security" *Security Studies*, July 2008

● **Research Paper Presentation I**

Apr 19 M Apr 21 W Geopolitics, Globalization, and American Foreign Policy

Peter Trubowitz and Jungkun Seo. 2010. "Partisan Ambition and Scapegoat Theory: U.S.-China Relations in Political Perspective," *A Paper Presented at the 2009 American Political Science Association Conference, Toronto, Canada*

Barry Eichengreen. 2002. "The Globalization Wars," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2002

● **Research Paper Presentation II**

Apr 26 M Last Day of Classes

Apr 28 W Final Exam (Ch 7-12 and course readings; 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

May 5 W Research Paper Due 5 pm