

American Foreign Policy  
Professor Susan H. Allen  
Texas Tech University  
Political Science 3360  
Spring 2008

## Contact Information

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## Course Description

In this course, we will examine American foreign policy and the decision-making processes that have shaped our foreign policy in the past. Our discussion will cover the major theoretical approaches as well as important historical events. Knowing the history of American foreign policy provides insight into the current issues and controversies governing how policy is made today.

Because of the preeminent position of the United States in the international system, its foreign policy decisions have important implications for Americans as well as individuals in other states. What role should the United States play on the world stage militarily? What role should the U.S. play diplomatically? What is the interplay between those two roles?

## Course Objectives

- Contrast Realist and Liberal views of foreign policy. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm Examination)*
- Trace the growth of the United States as a world power. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm and Final Examination)*
- Explain the Constitutional division of powers in foreign policy and compare that to the practice of foreign policy. *(To be evaluated on the Final Examination)*
- Describe the historic tensions between the executive and legislature in foreign policy. *(To be evaluated on the Final Examination)*

- Identify and apply the three theoretical decision-making models presented in Allison's account of the Cuban Missile Crisis. (*To be evaluated on the Final Examination*)
- Discuss how the Vietnam War affected and continues to affect foreign policy decision-making in the United States. (*To be evaluated on the Final Examination*)
- Evaluate the impact that the end of the Cold War and the War on Terrorism have had on US Foreign Policy. (*To be evaluated on the Final Examination*)

## Expectations

- Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all class sessions. To do so, all of the readings must be completed in a timely fashion. This course will largely be driven by discussion and your insights on the readings. Be prepared to participate and engage the material. Participation is a portion of your final grade.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good world citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with international events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), the Washington Post ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), CNN ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)) or the International Herald Tribune ([www.ihf.com](http://www.ihf.com)). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.
- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones and pagers before entering classroom. Failure to do so may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session.

## Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. Two books are required for the class and are available at the bookstore:

- Ikenberry, G. John. *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays* (5th edition) New York: Longman.
- Jentleson, Bruce. *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*. W.W. Norton.

Other materials will be handed out in class or will be made available online.

## Course Requirements

The requirements for this course include two exams, a research paper, an in-class presentation and solid class participation. These elements are weighted as follows:

- Midterm 25%
- Final 30%
- Research Paper 25%
- Presentation 10%
- Participation 10%

**Exams** The midterm will be given in class on February 26th. This exam will cover material from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussion. The final exam will be a cumulative exam, but greater weight will be placed on material covered in the second half of the course.

**Research Papers** An 5-8 page paper is due on April 1st. This paper should address a well-defined question concerning US foreign policy. A one page statement of that question and your primary hypothesis concerning that question is due March 6th. Students may wish to set up a meeting with the professor to discuss topics prior to March 6th in order to define a clear research question. After that date, any topic changes must be cleared with the instructor via email. Further guidance about the paper will be provided in class.

**Policy Presentations** At the end of the semester, students will make small group presentations on US foreign policy toward a given region. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for topics. In the presentations, students should provide a brief history of the relationship of the United States and the region of interest, the current state of affairs, as well as predictions for the future. Grades will be assigned on the basis of quality of information, creative of presentation, and full participation from the group. Attendance for these sessions is mandatory.

**Late assignments** All work for the course must be handed in on time. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day past the deadline. If papers will be unavoidably late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please alert me as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion. No makeup exams will be offered, unless unusual circumstances such as serious illness, university sanctioned events, or extreme family crisis arise. A letter from the college office will go a long way toward convincing me that you truly need a make up exam.

**Academic Integrity** Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do some will result in a failing grade in the course.

**ADA:** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructors office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

**Religious Observances:** A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

## Course Outline

### January 10: Course Introduction

### January 15: Getting Started

- Jentleson, 1-24.
- Ikenberry, "Introduction," pp. 1-12.

### January 17: US Foreign Policy – Early History

- Jentleson, 61-66, 73-80.
- Washington's Farewell Address
- Monroe Doctrine
- Meade, Walter Russell. 2002. "The American Foreign Policy Legacy." *Foreign Affairs* 81(1): 163-176.

### January 22: Thinking about Foreign Policy: Realism

- Holsti, "Models of International Relations and Foreign Policy" in Ikenberry.
- Waltz, "Anarchic Order and Balances of Power," in Ikenberry.

### January 24: Thinking about Foreign Policy: Liberalism

- Huntington, "American Ideals versus American Institutions," in Ikenberry.
- Jentleson, 519-525, 609-612.

### **January 29: Two World Wars**

- Wilson's Fourteen Points
- Schulzinger, Robert. "America in the Great War, 1917-1918," in *American Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century*.
- Schulzinger, Robert. "The Politics of Coalition Warfare, 1939-1945," in *American Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century*.

### **January 31: Containment and Deterrence**

- Jentleson, 92-108, 231-240
- Leffler, "The American Conception of National Security and the Beginning of the Cold War, 1945-1948," in Ikenberry.
- The Truman Doctrine

### **February 5: Making Foreign Policy**

- Jentleson, 25-39, 194-198.

### **February 7: The Executive and Executive Agencies**

- Jentleson, 387-294.
- Wolfensberger, "The Return of the Imperial Presidency?" *The Wilson Quarterly* 26(2).

### **February 12: Civil-Military Relations**

- Excerpt from Feaver, *Armed Servants: Agency, Oversight, and Civil-Military Relations*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Desch, Michael 2007. "Bush and the Generals." *Foreign Affairs* 86(3): 97-108.

### **February 14: Congress**

- Jentleson 40-49, 280-287.

### **February 19: Media and Public Opinion**

- Jentleson, 49-58, 201-207, 585-592.

## **February 21: Midterm Exam**

### **February 26 and 28: Foreign Policy Simulation**

- Handout in Class
- **Attendance Required**

### **March 4: The US in the World**

- Jentleson, 305-315, 608-619.
- Kupchan, Charles and Peter Trubowitz. "Grand Strategy for a Divided America." *Foreign Affairs* 86(4): 71-83.
- Hemmer, Christopher. 2007. "Grand Strategy for the Next Administration." *Orbis* 51(3): 447-60.
- Reisman, "The United States and International Institutions," in Ikenberry.

### **March 6: Security Threats & Nuclear Weapons**

- Jentleson, 339-347.
- Ikenberry, "America's Imperial Ambition," in Ikenberry.
- Panofsky, Wolfgang. 2007. "Nuclear Insecurity" *Foreign Affairs* 86(5):109-118.

### **\*\*\*Paper Topics Due\*\*\***

### **March 11: Terrorism**

- Jentleson, 359-389, 397-415.
- Gause III, F. Gregory. 2005. "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" *Foreign Affairs* 84(5):62-76.

### **March 13: Presidential Candidates and their Approaches to Foreign Policy**

- Reading TBA

### **March 15 - 21: \*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\***

### **March 25: Foreign Policy Decision-Making – The Cuban Missile Crisis**

- Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," in Ikenberry.

### **March 27: The Cuban Missile Crisis**

- Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” in Ikenberry.
- Krasner, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland),” in Ikenberry.

### **March 30: Vietnam and the Legacy of Vietnam**

- Jentleson, 128-138, 241-244. (
- Excerpt from Feaver, Peter and Christopher Gelpi. 2004. *Choosing Your Battles: American Civil-Military Relations and the Use of Force*.

### **April 1: The End of the Cold War**

- Jentleson, 138-172, 251-256.

### **\*\*\*Papers Due\*\*\***

### **April 3: Post-Cold War Chaos?**

- Jentleson, 308-339.

### **April 8 – Future Challenges – Globalization and Development**

- Garrett, Laurie. 2007. “The Challenge of Global Health.” *Foreign Affairs* 86(1): 14-38.
- Chollet, Derek and James M. Goldgeier. 2005-6. “The Faulty Premises of the Next Marshall Plan.” *The Washington Quarterly* 29(1): 7-19.

### **April 10 - Future Challenges – The Environment**

- Jentleson, 491-495, 597-599.
- Bell, Ruth Greenspan. 2006. “What to Do About Climate Change. *Foreign Affairs* 85(3): 105-113.
- Sheehan, Jim. 1998. “The Case Against Kyoto.” *SAIS Review* 18(2): 121-33.

### **April 15: Policy Presentations – Middle East**

- Iraq
- Israel-Palestine

**April 17: Policy Presentation – Africa**

- Conflict
- Development

**April 22: Policy Presentation – Our Neighbors**

- Mexico
- Latin America

**April 24: Policy Presentation – Other Powers**

- Russia
- China

**April 29: Exam Review**

**Final Exam – Thursday, May 1st, 1:30-4PM**