

Course Syllabus: PSCI 3163

American Foreign Policy

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: US Foreign Policy

Course Prefix/Number: PSCI 3163

Credits: 3

Semester/Year: Fall 2022

Meeting Days/Time and Location: Tues/Thurs, 2:00-3:15pm, Hellems Arts & Sciences Bldg. 201

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Grant Cohen

E-mail: grant.cohen@colorado.edu

Office Location: Ketchum 224

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:15am – 12:00pm; Zoom meetings by appointment on MWF

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to gain a better understanding of U.S. foreign policy. We have multiple goals in this course: first, we will read in detail and discuss the implications of the foreign policy bureaucracy. Second, we will read about and discuss who and/or which institutions control foreign policymaking (and how the process works). Third, we read about and debate the impact of elites (and their rhetoric) and the media in causing certain public opinion outcomes, as well as if/when public opinion about foreign policy matters. And finally, we will end by looking at a few current issues, such as the war in Ukraine, the rise of China, as well as the demise of traditional war and rise of asymmetric (and cyber) warfare.

Required Course Materials

James Scott & Jerel Rosati. *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*. 7th Edition. 2021. Sage. ISBN: 9781544374550

All other readings are available on Canvas (journal articles, book chapters, etc.)

Additional readings may be assigned occasionally throughout the semester, such as news reports, podcasts or videos.

You will be given notice if there are any changes to the assigned readings.

Class Specific Rules

Grading Scale

A: 95+; A-: 94-90
B+: 89-88; B: 87-85; B-: 84-80
C+: 79-78; C: 77-75; C-: 74-70
D+: 69-68; D: 67-65; D-: 64-60
F: <60

Assignment Weight

Midterm – 20%
Final Exam – 20%
Group Papers & Debates (2) – 20% Quizzes
(5) – 15%
News Assignments (5) – 15%
Attendance & Participation – 10%

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is necessary.

Note that 10% of your overall grade will be based on attendance and participation. Students receive **4 “freebie” days**. Since you have 4 freebies, religious holidays, illness, family emergencies, and other issues DO COUNT against your absences. You are advised to use your freebies for these purposes.

Because all students receive 4 freebies, **please DO NOT email excuses for absences with the instructor**. Students with 7 or more absences will have to drop the class or may receive an “F”.

There is an attendance sheet. You MUST sign in at each class. If you do get the sheet as it is passed around during class, it is your responsibility to sign in after class.

Merely attending class is not considered participation. Coming prepared, partaking in class discussion and making meaningful contributions to the class are requirements to earn full credit for participation.

Late or Missed Exam Policy

Exams will be based on any material covered during class and in the readings. Makeup opportunities are available with prior faculty approval. Without said approval, students may **NOT** make up exams.

News Assignments

You must submit a news article and analysis of how the story applies to the topic(s) we’re discussing in class. *Must be 3–4 pages, double-spaced, 11 or 12-point font (standard 1-inch margins).*

There are 5 news assignments. Check the course calendar for due dates. Late news assignment submissions will be accepted up to 24 hours after the due date, but will be docked 3 points.

You may be asked to informally present your news topic and thoughts about it in class.

Quizzes

Quizzes are given at the start of class on the day indicated in the course calendar. There are no makeup quizzes except for highly-extenuating circumstances that make it impossible for you to attend on the designated day (must be documented). You must contact the instructor **BEFORE** the quiz if you need to request a makeup. Quizzes are closed-note/closed-book. Makeup quizzes are not allowed (see below for more information).

Group Papers & Debate Projects

You will see 2 scheduled debates in the calendar. For each debate, you will be randomly assigned to a group and given a position to take. The group must turn in a response paper by the designated deadline. The paper must state the group's position regarding the debate question and support it with as much evidence as possible.

Group papers must be 4-5 pages (excluding bibliography and cover page), 12-point font (or 11) and 1-inch margins.

Each group will select a speaker to make an opening statement at the debate. After each group makes its opening statement, the floor is open to all to share thoughts, relevant facts, and arguments.

Each student receives a grade based on A) the group response paper and B) each individual's level of participation. Participation is essential (debate participation constitutes the vast majority of your participation grade).

Exams

Each exam is given at the start of class and you have the full period to complete it. They are all closed-note/closed-book and no electronics are allowed. Please **BRING A BLUE BOOK** to each exam (available at the CU bookstore, Amazon, etc.).

The midterm exam covers the first portion of class. The final exam is cumulative.

Makeup exams are only allowed under extreme circumstances. See below for more info.

Missed Quizzes/Exams/News Assignments

Makeup exams are only allowed under extreme circumstances. Quizzes cannot be made up, so please do not ask.

You **MUST** inform the instructor and make an alternative plan **BEFORE the exam date.**

If the instructor is not notified until during or after the exam period, you will not be permitted to make it up.

If you're making up a quiz or exam, you **MUST** be available the Tuesday or Thursday that immediately follows the exam date. If granted, your makeup will only be offered at 9:15am the Tuesday or Thursday that follows the original in-class quiz/exam.

Late news assignments will be accepted if they are submitted to CANVAS within 24 hours of the deadline, but you will be docked 3 points. If the Canvas link is closed (it closes 24 hours after the deadline), do not email me your news assignment. It will not be accepted.

Grading Standards & Rubric

| Grading Standards | |
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| A | Exceptional work. Demonstrates superb understanding of the course material <i>and</i> outstanding critical thinking and analytic rigor. Goes beyond simply answering the prompt to craft a creative and insightful analysis. Communicates information in a clear, concise, and mechanically correct manner. <i>An A grade will only be given if work is exceptional.</i> |
| B | Good work. Demonstrates a strong grasp of course material and good analytic rigor, but with some errors (e.g. faulty assumptions in logic or some incorrect descriptions of an author's argument). May have some problems with structure or mechanics but overall easy to understand the main gist. Solid work, but not the most original or insightful analysis. |
| C | Mediocre work. Applies some course material and themes, but demonstrates considerable misunderstanding of material. Difficult to discern the student's argument and the logic supporting this argument. A number of serious problems with structure and mechanics. |
| D | Poor work. May attempt to apply some course materials and themes, but demonstrates very serious errors or misunderstanding of course material. The student doesn't appear to have any argument, and the assignment lacks structure entirely and has extensive problems with mechanics. Shows little effort. |
| F | Very poor work. Assignment is unrelated to course material and fails to address the prompt and guidelines. Reflects a lack of effort. |

Communication

All communication will be through Canvas and university email. You must check Canvas and university email frequently (daily) to keep up with important announcements. I am available on email and aim to reply to all messages within 24 hours maximum. If you have not heard back after 49 hours, please resend your inquiry.

Readings

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings by the day listed on the syllabus.

The reading load is heavy. This is necessary, as one cannot properly study US foreign policy without reading. **If reading about 100 pages per week is not something you can handle, you should drop the course.**

Reading is also crucial for there to be meaningful participation. NOTE: *If it appears most students are not reading, the instructor reserves the right to implement 5 additional reading quizzes.*

CALENDAR / ASSIGNMENTS

| DATE | TOPIC | ASSIGNED READINGS | ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ/EXAM |
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| 8/23 | Course Overview & Syllabus | Read: Syllabus | |
| 8/25 | Introduction to Foreign Policymaking & US Foreign Policy | Read: Chapter 1, <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati | |
| 8/30 | Introduction to Foreign Policymaking & US Foreign Policy | Read: Chapter 2, <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati | |
| 9/1 | Theories of IR and their application to US Foreign Policy: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism (idealism) | Read: Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin. "The Promise of Institutional Theory." Read: John Mearsheimer. "The False Promise of International Institutions." | |
| 9/6 | Theories of IR and their application to US Foreign Policy: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism (idealism) | Read: John Gerard Ruggie. "The False Promise of Realism." Read: Andrew Moravcsik and Jeffrey Legro. "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" in <i>International Security</i> . Vol 24, No. 2 (October 1999) | Quiz 1 at start of class |
| 9/8 | US Foreign Policy & Theories of IR: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism (idealism) | Read: Liam Hunt. "The Anchor of the System: The Iran Deal and the Decline of Realism in US Foreign Policy," in <i>International Journal</i> . Vol 73, No. 3 (2017) Read: Rajesh Basrur & Frederick Kliem. "Covid-19 and international cooperation: IR paradigms at odd," in <i>SN Social Sciences</i> (2021) | News assignment 1 due by 11:59pm the night before class |

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| 9/13 | US Foreign Policy & Theories of IR: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism (idealism) | Read: Steven David. "Obama, the Reluctant Realist: US Foreign Policy in the 21 st Century." | |
| 9/15 | Debate Preparation | Work with your group on your position paper and opening statements. | Group paper due by 9/18 at 11:59pm |

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| 9/20 | Debate Day | Debate: Is realism dying in US foreign policy? | |
| 9/22 | The President, Executive Branch & Congress | Read: Chapter 3. "The President and White House Leadership," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati, ONLY PAGE 4976 | |
| 9/27 | The President, Executive Branch & Congress | Read: Chapter 3. "The President and White House Leadership," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati, PAGE 76-89 (end of chapter) Read: Louis Fisher. "Foreign Policy Powers of the President and Congress" (1988) | Quiz 2 at start of class |
| 9/29 | The President, Executive Branch & Congress | Read: Chapter 9. Congress and Interbranch Politics in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati | News assignment 2 due by 11:59pm the night before class |

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| 10/4 | Bureaucratic Politics Model Bureaucracy in US Foreign Policymaking Department of State | Read: Chapter 4. "Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The Department of State," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati | |
| 10/6 | Bureaucracy in US Foreign Policymaking Department of Defense Intelligence Community | Read: Chapter 5. "Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The Department of Defense," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati | Quiz 3 at start of class |
| 10/11 | Bureaucracy in US Foreign Policymaking Natl. Security Council System Natl. Economic Council | Read: Chapter 6. "Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: The Intelligence Community," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati Read: Chapter 7. "Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: National Security Council," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati. | |
| 10/13 | National Economic Council Midterm Preparation & Catch-up Class | Read: Chapter 8. "Understanding the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: National Economic Council," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati. We will catch up if we have fallen behind and we'll review for the midterm exam. Come prepared to ask substantive questions about any course material that requires further explanation or clarification. | |

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| 10/18 | Midterm Exam | Exam is in class. Bring a blue book. Closed-notes, closed-book, and no electronics (subject to change only if the instructor specifies otherwise) | |
| 10/20 | Public Opinion & Foreign Policy Interest Groups | Chapter 11. "The Public and Foreign Policy," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati John Dietrich. "Interest Groups and Foreign Policy: Clinton and the China Most Favored Nation Debates," in <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> . Vol. 29, No. 2 (1999) | |
| 10/25 | The Media, Elites and Public Opinion about Foreign Policy | Chapter 13. "The Media and Foreign Policy," in <i>The Politics of United States Foreign Policy</i> , James Scott and Jerel Rosati | News assignment 3 due by 11:59pm the night before class |
| 10/27 | The Media, Elites and Public Opinion about Foreign Policy | Read: Sharifullah Dorani. "The Role of Public Opinion in Foreign Policy." <i>Political Reflection Magazine</i> (Centre for Strategic Research and Analysis, 2018) https://cesran.org/the-role-of-public-opinion-inforeign-policy.html Recommended reading: Thomas Knecht and M.S. Weatherford. "Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: The Stages of Presidential Decision Making." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> (September, 2006) | Quiz 4 at start of class |
| 11/1 | The Media, Elites and Public Opinion about Foreign Policy | Read: Matthew Baum and Philip Potter. "The Relationship between Mass Media, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis," in the <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> (2008) Read: Matthew Baum and Philip Potter. "Media, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy in the Age of Social Media." <i>Journal of Politics</i> (2019) | |

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| 11/3 | Contemporary Issues: The Rise of China | <p>Robert Art. "The United States and the Rise of China: Implications for the Long Haul," in <i>Political Science Quarterly</i>. Vol 125, No. 3 (September 2010)</p> <p>Read: M. Taylor Fravel. "International Relations Theory and China's Rise: Assessing China's Potential for Territorial Expansion," in <i>International Studies Review</i>. Vol 12, No. 4 (December 2010)</p> <p>Read: Stacie Patty John & Becca Wasser. "A Fight Over Taiwan Could Go Nuclear: Wargaming Reveals How a U.S. - Chinese Conflict Might Escalate," in <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (May 20, 2022) https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2022-05-20/fight-over-taiwan-could-go-nuclear</p> | |
| 11/8 | Contemporary Issues: The Rise of China | <p>Read: Kevin Rudd. "How to Stop China and the US from going to War," in the <i>Guardian</i> (April 7, 2022) https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/07/how-to-stop-china-and-the-us-going-to-war</p> <p>Read: Michael Beckley and Hal Brands. "What Will Drive China to War?" in the <i>Atlantic</i> (November 1, 2021) https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/11/us-china-war/620571/</p> <p>Read: China Military Power: Modernizing a Force to Fight and Win (2019) ONLY PAGES 1-15 (Intro to People's Liberation Army Structure) PAGES 52-53 (Outlook: Developing a Robust Force)</p> | News assignment 4 due by 11:59pm the night before class |

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| 11/10 | Debate Preparation | Work with your group on your position paper and opening statements. | Group paper due by 11/13 at 11:59pm |
| 11/15 | Debate | Debate: Will the US and China go to War? | |
| 11/17 | TBD | TBD | |
| 11/29 | Contemporary Issues: US – Russia Relations and The War in Ukraine | Read: David Parker. Chapter 2. "NATO Enlargement in the 1990s," in <i>US Foreign Policy Towards Russia in the Post-Cold War Era: Ideational Legacies and Institutionalized Conflict and Cooperation</i> (University of Oxford, 2019) | |

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| 12/1 | Contemporary Issues: US – Russia Relations and The War in Ukraine | <p>Watch: “Why is Ukraine the West’s Fault?” John Mearsheimer. YouTube. September 25, 2015. Take notes! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrMiSQAGOS4&t=177s</p> <p>Read: Jon Schwarz. “No, Russia Didn’t Get Its Propaganda from John Mearsheimer,” in <i>The Intercept</i>. March 6, 2022. https://theintercept.com/2022/03/06/russia-johnmearsheimer-propaganda/</p> | Quiz 5 at start of class |
| 12/6 | Contemporary Issues: Asymmetric War and Cyberwar | <p>Read: Benjamin Friedman. “Perception and Power in Counterterrorism: Assessing the American Response to Al Qaeda before 9/11.”</p> <p>Read: Thomas Rid. “What is Cyber War?” in <i>Cyber War Will Not Take Place</i> (Oxford University Press, 2013)</p> | News article assignment 5 due by 11:59pm the night before class |
| 12/8 | Contemporary Issues: Asymmetric War and Cyberwar [LAST DAY OF CLASS] | <p>Read: John Stone. “Cyberwar will take place!” in <i>Journal of Strategic Studies</i></p> <p>Read: Gary McGraw. “Cyberwar is Inevitable” in <i>Journal of Strategic Studies</i></p> | |
| TBD | FINAL EXAM DATE TBD: Exam period: December 10-14 | FINAL EXAM DATE: TBD | |