

**PSCI 3163-581,
AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
January 23 to May 3, 2012
On Line Course**

*Kanner
On-line*

Course Description

The course examines the foundations, assumptions, objectives, dynamics, and methods of U.S. foreign policy since WWII. It gives special attention to domestic and external problems of adapting U.S. policy to the changing world environment.

Prerequisite: PSCI 2223

Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: United States

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Explain the effect of history on current policy decisions.
2. Discuss how policy is result of divided government
 - a. Explain presidential dominance
 - b. Understand Congress' capabilities
 - c. Describe the effect of specific bureaucracies on policy
3. Identify how public(s) influence the policy process
4. Explain the unique aspects of foreign versus domestic policy

Grades

Grades are based on a scale of 100 points. Your final grade will be a function of the number of points that you achieve.

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Points are allocated based on the following:

Assessment 1	12 points
Assessment 2	24 points
Assessment 3	24 points
Assessment 4	20 points
Discussion/Participation	20 points
Total	100 points

Assessments

There is an assessment (exam) at the end of each Module. You will have only one opportunity to take these assessments. Make sure that you have a good internet connection and that you regularly save your work.

Each assessment consists of a mix of multiple choice and short paragraph questions. Multiple-choice questions usually involve definitions or key concepts from the text website. Short paragraph will usually be variants of discussion questions.

Syllabus quiz

In addition to these graded submissions, you must take and pass the syllabus quiz as well. The syllabus ensures that you understand key points. It is not for grade and you may take it as many times as necessary. The syllabus quiz must be done no later than 13 February 2011.

Discussion/Participation

Comments on the DISCUSSION board are in lieu of classroom discussions. You should post your thoughts on the questions and comments of other students. If I respond to your posting with a question, you should answer the question.

Just as you need to be on time for classes, you should participate in the discussions in a timely manner. That is why grades for each post will only be given full credit (2 points) if they are prior to the suggested completion date. They will be given partial credit (1 point) for a week after that. Postings after that week will not be given any credit.

Course Material

Unless otherwise indicated, all the readings are from – Rosati, Jerel A. and James M. Scott. 2011. *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, 5th edition. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

You may also be directed to view some on-line videos and articles that expand on each subject.

Course Conduct

How To Study.

CULEARN organizes classes by Modules. These correspond to parts of your textbook. Each module has a set of pages or lesson guides to help you study. A typical guide contains

- *Study questions* designed to direct your readings;
- *The Reading Assignment* from the textbook;
- *Additional Activities* which may be a video or outside readings;
- *The Discussion Question* which you are asked to comment on; and
- *Key Terms and Concepts* that you need to know.

Preparing and Taking exams

The best way to prepare for the exams is to review the key concepts (or definitions) at the course website (there is a section labeled “Key Concepts” under each chapter). Although I do not use the same questions, the chapter quizzes (found under the “Quizzes” section) are a good check and preparation.

My experience is that students that take all the assessments at the last moment tend to do poorly or miss the deadline entirely. You are also at danger in running out of time due to internet access

problems and unplanned shut downs of the CULEARN website.

Planning

Although the course is self-paced, you need to develop a routine and a discipline towards the course. I have included suggested completion times to help you. To stay on track, you should plan to spend between 50 to 60 minutes a day on the course.

Course Outline

Lessons

Study questions, readings, activities and key concepts are listed in the lesson guides for each lesson. These are found in the MODULE section of CULEARN.

Suggested Completion Date

This is provided in order to keep you on track for the semester. Plan to take two days per chapter and a day for the assessment (around 50-60 minutes a day). Although the course is self-paced, all work must be completed no later than 3 May 2012.

Lessons	Suggested completion date
MODULE I. INTRODUCTION	
1. The Politics of US Foreign Policy	January 27
2. The Historical Context and the Future of US Global Power	February 3
	Take Assessment 1
MODULE II. GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICYMAKING PROCESS	
3. Presidential Power and Leadership	February 10
4. The Bureaucracy, Presidential Management, and the National Security Council	February 17
5. Understanding Bureaucracy: The State Department at Home and Abroad	February 24
6. The Military Establishment	March 2
	Take Assessment 2
7. The Intelligence Community	March 9
8. Foreign Economics and the NEC	March 16
9. Decisionmaking Theory and Foreign Policymaking	March 23
10. Congress and Interbranch Politics	March 30
	Take Assessment 3

MODULE III. THE SOCIETY AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

11. The Public and Its Belief	April 13
12. Electoral Politics	April 20
13. Group Politics	April 27
14. The Media and the Communications Process	May 3
	Take Assessment 4

All work MUST be completed no later than 11:59 PM, May 3, 2012.

Policies

With the exception of the policy on incompletes, the University establishes these policies. The language here is that recommended by various parts of the University administration.

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 32 and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, notify me as soon as possible. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

On-line behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinion. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

In addition to participating in the conversations, I will be monitoring all postings for ad hominem attacks and cyber-bullying. First time violators will be warned about postings and on-line behavior. Second time by the same offender will result in removal of posting access. You will still be required to take the exams, but will be penalized by not being able to earn a score for participation. Any student that feels that on-line postings are offensive or feel that they are the victim of cyber-bullying through the course should contact Dr. Kanner (Michael.Kanner@colorado.edu).

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu, 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.htm> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Sexual Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Incompletes.

Incompletes are not a substitute for poor performance or the inability to schedule your own workload. Their purpose is to provide a means for students that have personal problems to complete the work without damaging their grade point average. I will consider incompletes on a case-by-case basis only. If you do not think you can handle the course load outlined in the syllabus, drop the course.

However, I also understand that conditions change. If changes do occur, see me as soon as possible. The earlier you inform me of your problems, the sooner we can come to a settlement. If at any time during the course, you think you are having problems, LET ME KNOW!

Contact Information

Office visits

Office – Ketchum 4 B

Hours – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 to 11 AM (or by appointment) (not on campus Tuesday or Thursday)

Discussion Board

General questions should be posted to CULEARN's Discussion section on the Questions board

E-mail within the course

Course e-mail lets me know that you are contacting me related to this course. It also means that if we agree that this is an issue for the entire course, it can be forwarded to the class.

E-mail to my University Account – michael.kanner@colorado.edu

Use this account if it is specific to you (e.g., problems) or you are not getting a response to the course e-mail. I generally answer any e-mails within 5-6 hours.

IM

You are also free to IM me if I am on-line by sending an invitation from the 'Who's Online' tab. Because I may be working on other projects/classes, I maintain the right to not answer (or to answer so only briefly).

