

Political Science 3163: American Foreign Policy:

University of Colorado at Boulder, Spring, 2011

Section 003: MWF: 3:00-3:50 p.m. HLMS 201

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Office Hours: MW 4:00-4:50 p.m.

I would like to welcome all of you to the 3163 US Foreign Policy class. This class is designed to introduce students to the tools of foreign policy making and teach them important issues, cases, and players within the context of US foreign policy.

The end of the Cold War brought with it a number of opportunities and challenges for the US. While it has become the world's single superpower, and its influence in the international arena has increased, this increased power and the choice of adopted policies abroad has created a significant degree of resentment in various parts of the world. This class will discuss these policies and try to understand why US policies are favored by some states and still resented by some others. Starting with the Second World War, we will look at major conflicts in which the US was involved and discuss issues that occupy the US foreign policy agenda such as the problem of rogue states, the question of rising powers, trade and economic sanctions, and potential and actual humanitarian interventions. While we will draw on historical cases, this is not going to be a history class.

Readings:

There is one textbook assigned for this class:

American Foreign Policy Since World War II by Steven Hook and John Spanier. (18th edition/CQ Press). The book is available at the UMC bookstore. In addition to the text book, there will also be scholarly articles and journal essays assigned for certain weeks, which you can find online.

* Please note that certain readings that are assigned now might be subject to change as we proceed.

Grading:

In this course, you will have two midterms, one presentation and one final exam, which all together comprise 85% of your final grade. The rest of your grade will be your in-class participation, which includes but is not limited to discussions and surprise pop quizzes. While I

will not take attendance, missing these quizzes and not fully participating in class activities will adversely affect your grade. Here is the breakdown of your grading:

2 midterms (15% each):

02/9 Wednesday: 1st Midterm

03/16 Wednesday: 2nd Midterm

1 group presentation (20%).

Participation(15%)

Final Exam (35%): TBA.

Presentations & Peer Grading:

Since this is an upper level class, you will have more responsibility, more workload and more chances to work as a team. Every Friday session, we will hear a group presentation (groups will comprise of 5 to 6 people depending on the final number of enrollment). They will pick a relevant article that is related to what we have done previously in that week, and they will present the argument, their critique of the argument, and ask questions to lead class discussion (feel free to be as creative as you can i.e.: show movies, videos, bring newspaper articles etc.). Not well prepared or boring presentations will not be tolerated.

Presenting group members will be asked to do a peer review for one another. More information regarding this will be given in class.

IMPORTANT: Every group will send their research articles to me on Wednesday at noon (of that particular week) so that I can send those articles to the rest of your classmates. Not doing this cost you HALF of your presentation grade.

This is going to be an interactive exercise. While groups present, the rest of the class will be grading them too, which first and foremost requires being present in class and listening carefully to the presentations. While I have the final say over what the final presentation grade will be, I will take into consideration the general public opinion. Democracy rocks!

The goal of the presentations is not to make your lives miserable, but to encourage you to go get your hands dirty; find a research article on your own given the topic and time restraints, read, and think critically, present your work in front of an educated audience and have the patience and capacity to work as a team. Doing this, you will also have the chance to get to know your classmates, communicate, exchange ideas with them, and last but not least, divide labor among yourselves so that nobody free-rides.

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Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

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Readings:

Week 1: January 10-January 16:

01/10: Monday: Introduction. No readings.

01/12: Wednesday:

- *What is the point of studying foreign policy?*
- Presentation dates.

01/14: Friday: US approach to foreign policy. Read Chapter 1(H&S).

Week 2: January 17-23: Chapter 2 (H&S).

01/17 Monday: Martin Luther Kind Jr. Day, No classes.

Week 3: January 24-30: Chapter 3&4 (H&S)

*Jacobs, Lawrence and Benjamin Page. 2005. Who influences US Foreign Policy? Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and Vietnam” .American Political Science Review. 65(2): 358-375.

Week 4: January 31st-February 6: Chapter 5&6 (H&S)

Week 5: February 7-13: **Review and Exam.**

Week 6: February 14-20: Chapter 7 & 8 (H&S)

Week 7: February 21-27: Strategies of Opposition and Accommodation –Lecture.

- NATO’s Final Frontier: Why Russia should join the Atlantic Alliance. Charles Kupchan, Foreign Affairs, May/June 2010.

Week 8: February 28-March 6: US approach to Failed States:

- Read Chapter 9 (H&S).
- Helping Others Defend Themselves: The Future of US Security Assistance, Robert Gates, Foreign Affairs, May/June 2010.
- Defining Success in Afghanistan: What can the US accept? Stephen Biddle, Fotini Christia, and Alexander Their, Foreign Affairs, July/August, 2010.

Week 9: March 7-13: When should US intervene?

- Read Chapter 10 (H&S).
- A Perfect Failure: NATO’s War against Yugoslavia, Michael Mandelbaum, Foreign Affairs, 1999.

- A perfect polemic: Blind to Reality in Kosovo, James B. Steinberg, Foreign Affairs, 1999.
- Shame: Rationalizing Western Apathy on Rwanda, Alison L. Des Forges and Alan Kuperman, Foreign Affairs, 2000.

Week 10: March 14-20: Review and 2nd Midterm.

Week 11: March 21-27- Spring Break

Week 12: March 28-April 3: Do economic sanctions work?

- Sanctioning Madness, Richard Haass, FA, December 1997.
- Is Trade Policy on Track? A Renaissance for US Trade Policy? Fred Bergsten, FA, November/December, 2002.
- What sanctions epidemic? Jesse Helms, FA, January/February, 1999.
- A High Risk Trade Policy, Bernard K. Gordon, FA, July/August 2003.

*04/01: MPSA conference. No class. This Friday presentation will be postponed.

Week 13: April 4-10: US approach to rogue states:

- Iraq and the Arab's future: Fouad Ajami, FA, January/February 2003.
- Suicide from Fear of Death, Richard Betts, FA, January/February 2003.
- Securing the Gulf: Kenneth Pollack, FA, July/August 2003.
- How to Deal with Korea: James and Jason Shaplen, FA, March/April 2003.

.Week 14: April 11-17: International Terrorism:

- Read Chapter 11 & 12 (H&S).

Week 15: April 18-24: Nuclear Proliferation

- Read Chapter 13 (H&S).
- Powell, Robert. 2003. "Nuclear Deterrence Theory, Nuclear Proliferation, and National Missile Defense." International Security 27.4:86-118.

Week 16: April 25-May1: Wrap up.

- Read Chapter 14.
- Review.

Week 17: Final Exam Week. TBA.

