

PSCI 3163: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
FALL 2017

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OFFICE: KETCHUM 214
HOURS: T,TH 10:30-12:20
or by appointment

TIME: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 12:30-1:45 PM

LOCATION: KETCHUM 1B87

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history, values, institutions, processes, and global challenges that influence how the United States conducts itself in the international arena. We seek to understand how and why foreign policy decisions are made. Thus, the course is not about whether foreign policy decisions were (are) right or wrong but is about how and why foreign policy decisions come about. By evaluating the normative implications of foreign policy decisions and their processes, we ultimately seek to answer what the role of the United States should in the world.

The course will have three sections. Within each section, we will apply theory and themes to understanding current and future policy issues faced by the United States.

1. Theoretical Perspectives

What do the main political science theories say about how and why foreign policy decisions are made?

2. Historical Context

How do historical events, such as the Cold War or the Iraq War, shape current foreign policy practices?

3. Decision-making Process, Institutions, and Actors

How do domestic political institutions and actors influence foreign policy processes and decisions?

The formal prerequisite for this course is PSCI 2223 Introduction to International Relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Increase knowledge of the history and practice of US foreign relations since WWII
- Gain a solid understanding of who the pertinent actors and institutions in US foreign policymaking are, how they have functioned historically, and also how those functions have evolved over time
- Develop practical knowledge and explain the historical and contemporary challenges faced by the US foreign policymaking community
- Be able to evaluate, as informed, sophisticated individuals, how the US should respond to the foreign policy challenges that it confronts with an acute awareness of the normative implications for global citizens and the environment

COMMUNICATION POLICY

I will communicate with you through your Colorado email account and D2L. Please be in a habit of checking these accounts on a daily basis. Students are responsible for any and all information sent via these mediums, including any changes made to the syllabus, schedule or assignments. Students should contact me via my email provided above and expect a response from me within 24 hours. Additionally, students may come to my scheduled office hours or make an appointment for another time.

COURSE READINGS

There is one required textbook for the class. It is available at the CU Bookstore and most online stores of your choice. You MUST use the 11th edition of this book.

Hastedt, Glenn P. 2017. *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future*. 11th Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. (ISBN: 9781442270053)

All other readings I will post on D2L. All assigned readings are to be read *prior* to the class date that they are assigned.

Students are expected to be well-informed on current events from around the world related to class topics. I recommend the following sources, although there are many others:

- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world>)
- The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/world>)
- The BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world>)
- National Public Radio (<http://www.npr.org/sections/world>)

ASSESSMENT

Attendance & Participation (20%): Attendance and punctuality are mandatory and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and lecture material. Each student will be allowed *three* absences. Use these three “freebies” days wisely! These should cover absences for ANY reason, including illness, injury, dead batteries, religious holidays, family obligations, etc. Because all students receive an ample allotment of freebies, please do not discuss, request excuses for, or argue about absences with the instructor! Note that religious holidays, sickness, and other reasons for absence that are “legitimate” DO COUNT against your freebie absences. You are strongly advised to use your freebies for these purposes. Each additional absence beyond the freebies will result in a 5% reduction in the attendance grade. I will take roll-call at the beginning of class. Those who arrive more than ten minutes late to class will be counted as absent. Excused absences beyond the freebies are only granted in extreme circumstances (i.e. death in the family, severe illness) and require written documentation *prior* to the anticipated absence. Documentation received after the absence is not accepted and the absence will be recorded as unexcused. Students with 10 or more absences will either have to drop the class or receive an “F.”

Student participation will be assessed on whether you ask questions and engage in class discussion. Note that this will be based on quality in addition to quantity of participation. You must demonstrate that you are prepared for class (understand the readings) and are making connections across class topics to receive a high grade for this assessment. I rarely spend an entire class lecturing; rather I lead class discussion. The purpose of our discussions is for students to demonstrate a mastery of the assigned readings by discussing and critiquing the ideas presented therein, to propose alternate questions, comments, or ideas about the topics raised, and to respond to comments and questions raised by others.

Reading Quizzes (20%): There will be ten reading quizzes throughout the semester. You must complete at least seven quizzes. If you complete more than seven, I will count your highest seven scores. Quizzes are intended to assess your comprehension of the readings and will include five to ten questions specific to factual information from the readings for the week. The quizzes will be composed of short answer, multiple-choice, true/false and fill-in-the-blank questions. Quizzes will be administered on D2L and must be completed by 12:00 pm on the date indicated. The quiz will be available on D2L starting 48 hours in advance and will close at 12:00 pm on the due date. Students are allowed to use the readings to complete the quiz but must work independently. Because I count the best seven out of ten quizzes, there are no make-up quizzes.

Exams (20% each): There will be a midterm exam that covers the first half of the course and a final exam that covers the second half of the course. Both exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, short answers, and short essays. It will cover all the material – including readings, lectures, discussions, and current events. The exams will be taken in-class on the date designated below. There will be no make-up exams. Missing the exam without prior notification will result in a grade of zero.

Foreign Policy Analysis Paper (20%): Toward the end of the semester, students will conduct a written analysis of a current foreign policy. The purpose is to explain *how and why* the policy decision was made. The paper will be about 10 pages and will entail significant outside research. It will be due November 30 and must be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L by 11:59 pm. Further details of the paper will be provided at a later date and will be available on D2L.

Grading and Plagiarism Policies:

- You must complete all course requirements laid out above to receive a non-failing grade in the course.
- Late assignments are penalized 10% per day that it is late (includes weekends).
- There are no extra credit assignments in the course. Your course grade will be calculated based solely on the assessments/assignments described above.
- If I suspect plagiarism on an assignment or an assessment, I will turn the matter over to the CU Honors Council. Should you be found to have plagiarized, you will receive a zero on that assignment or assessment, in addition to whatever penalty that the Honors Council imposes.
- Final course grades will be assigned based on the following scale:
 - A: 94-100%
 - A-: 90-93%
 - B+: 87-89%
 - B: 84-86%

- B-: 80-83%
- C+: 77-79%
- C: 74-76%
- C-: 70-73%
- D+: 67-69%
- D: 64-66%
- D-: 60-63%
- F: 59 and lower

CLASSROOM POLICIES

I reserve the right to make changes to this document. Any changes will be reflected on D2L. Except for special circumstances, course slides will not be made available. I will not discuss grades over email; you must see me during office hours or by appointment.

Electronic Policy:

- Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be turned off prior to the start of class. Laptops may be used for in-class activities only as the instructor dictates. I reserve the right to penalize your “participation” grade or ask you to leave the class (resulting in an absence) if I find your use of technology to be distracting to others or myself.
- Scientific studies show that taking notes by hand increases your retention of information and improves your test scores. I do not post class slides online, so your notes are important.

Classroom Conduct:

- I will take roll-call at the beginning of class. Those who arrive more than ten minutes late to class will be counted as absent. Students must remain in the classroom for the length of the class period. Leaving the classroom is not permitted once attendance has been taken and those that do so will lose attendance for that day.
- Be respectful. I absolutely promote difference of opinions and encourage you all to challenge each other in order to facilitate a productive and constructive discussion. It is absolutely critical, however, that we respect each other's opinions and backgrounds. When responding to each other's comments, I expect critical, thoughtful, and above all, respectful responses that advance the discussion and do not attack your colleagues on a personal basis or generalize about groups of people. If I deem any language to be inappropriate or intolerant of others' perspectives, I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class (resulting in an absence) and, in repeated circumstances, to remove you from the course.

Homework Policy:

- Students are responsible to obtain assignments or notes on days of absence.
- Homework will not be accepted after the designated date and time. Should you know in advance that you will miss a class on the day an assignment is due, you must still email it to me *prior* to the due date and time.
- Late assignments are penalized 10% per day that it is late (includes weekends). Same penalty applies to late electronic submissions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

- August 29 Introductions and review syllabus
- August 31 **NO CLASS** (American Political Science Conference)
- September 5 What is American Foreign Policy?

SECTION I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

- September 7 The Global Context
- September 12 Realism
- September 14 Liberalism
- September 19 Founding Ideas
- September 21 Current Ideas

SECTION II: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- September 26 Learning From the Past
- September 28 WWII and the UN
- October 3 Humanitarian Assistance?
- October 5 **NO CLASS**
- October 10 Cold War
- October 12 Cold War
- October 17 Vietnam? Korea?
- October 19 New World Order
- October 24 September 11
- October 26 Terrorism? Drones?

October 31 **MIDTERM EXAM**

SECTION III: DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, INSTITUTIONS, AND ACTORS

November 2 Decision-Making

November 7 Rational Choice

November 9 President

November 14 Congress

November 16 Media

November 21 & 23 **NO CLASS** (Fall Break)

November 28 Interest Groups

November 30 Society

December 3 **FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS PAPER DUE**

- Upload to D2L by 11:59pm

CONCLUSION: WHAT ARE FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

December 5 Future Challenges

December 7 Rise of China

December 12 Latin America

December 14 **FINAL EXAM**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. Disability Accommodations

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 may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

2. Campus Policy Regarding Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please follow the special accommodations procedure stated above. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

3. Campus “Classroom Behavior” Policy

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. The teaching staff will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise us of this preference early in the semester so that we may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#studentcode>

4. Discrimination and 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 the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>

5. Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the 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 nonacademic 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.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>