



Course Description

This course will broaden your understanding of American foreign policy by examining the range of elements that comprise foreign policy. We will engage with the diverse actors who help to determine foreign policy and examine various events to understand the different roles that the United States can play in its relations with the world. We will discuss both historic and current pressures on the United States to gain an understanding of changes in foreign policy.

To understand change we will also evaluate theories relating to the formulation and development of American foreign policy. Our course will examine theories from international relations, psychology, history and other areas to provide you with a survey of the scholarship relating to development of American foreign policy. We will confront works with alternative explanations for the outcomes we examine. Your job will be to think critically about the evidence presented and evaluate the validity of the claims set forward. Readings, class discussions, and assignments will all contribute to this process.

Course Objectives

- Identify and describe the key historical events and major ideational trends in U.S. foreign policy
- Identity and employ the major theories and concepts of international politics and foreign policy studies
- Engage with the key debates in contemporary U.S. foreign policy and international politics
- Analyze the process and practice of U.S. foreign policy formulation and implementation
- Demonstrate analytical skills (both written and oral) needed to assess and articulate contemporary foreign policy challenges facing the United States

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Develop policy recommendations on current foreign policy issues
- Identify key moments where the foreign policy of the United States changed
- Clearly understand the different actors who exert influence on policy formation and how this influence is expressed
- Synthesize historical events in American history into foreign policy lessons for decision makers

Course Requirements

Participation (30% of grade)

Our daily meetings will be built on discussions. As a result, it is necessary for each person in the class to be an active participant in our group discussions. I will learn your names and will call on you by name. This is an effort to keep you engaged in our class meetings, not an effort to embarrass you. Feel free to “pass” and I will come back to you later. You can also restate my question for clarification or ask a new and different question. I will track your participation each class. On days when we host a speaker in our class or visit an organization in DC, points will be worth double, so there is an incentive to be actively engaged on those days.

Response Papers (40% of grade)

You will write **four** brief two-page double-spaced response papers. The papers should focus on one (or two readings in some cases) that you find particularly interesting. You should *not* simply summarize the reading. You should “respond” to it; for example, by highlighting a point that you think is of particular interest, discussing an argument with which you agree or disagree, comparing readings, or linking the readings to discussions, films, or current events. Submit your response as a hard copy to me. **Response papers for a reading are due the day for which the reading is assigned and only one response is allowed per week. All responses must be submitted one week prior to the final class meeting on December 5, 2018.**

Policy Memo (25% of grade)

Producing a useful policy memo is a key skill for those involved in the U.S. foreign policy decision-making process. This assignment asks you to prepare a 5-page policy memo related to a foreign policy issue the United States is currently confronting. Detailed instructions and a rubric have been provided separately. This memo is due at our final class meeting on **December 15, 2018.**

Policy Memo Proposal/Outline/Draft (5% of grade)

This can be a proposal, outline or draft of your memo. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with feedback and advice to help you complete the memo. It also should provide you motivation to get an early start on the assignment. The proposal, outline or draft can be any length and will be graded 0% or 100% based on whether or not it is submitted by the start of class on **November 7, 2018.**

Extra Credit

Washington, DC has a variety of talks and events relevant to our course. I will do my best to inform you of these events, but feel free to alert me if you are aware of an event that you think would interest our class. Attending these events and producing a two-page response paper can earn as many as 5 extra credit points. These points will be awarded to your participation grade. You may submit a maximum of two extra credit assignments for a total of 10 additional points towards your participation grade for the semester. Extra credit assignments are due within a week of the event and must be completed before our last class meeting on April 25th. I encourage you to attend as many of these great events as you can without interfering with your internship and the completion of your academic work...even if you do cannot receive additional credit.

Grading Scale

A+	97-100	4.0	C+	77-79	2.3
A	93-96	4.0	C	73-76	2.0
A-	90-92	3.7	C-	70-72	1.7
B+	87-89	3.3	D+	67-69	1.3
B	83-86	3.0	D	65-66	1.0
B-	80-82	2.7	E/F	Below 65	0.0

Late Assignments

If you submit an assignment after the due date your grade will be lowered $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Late for each assignment is after 1:00 PM on the day the assignment is due. Any time after 1:00 PM will count as late and penalties will begin.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is expected. If you have to miss class for an emergency or medical problem, please provide documentation. If you miss class, I encourage you to meet with me to chat about the class you missed because exam questions might be drawn from the conversations that emerge during class. The Washington Internship Institute's official policy is as follows:

*The courses offered through the Washington Internship Institute are integral to the academic internship program we offer. Further, these courses often feature site visits or guest speakers--one-of-a-kind opportunities that benefit students enormously. Since course meetings occur only once a week, missing a course meeting has deleterious effects on the student's progress and access to these opportunities in the course. Therefore, attendance in class is mandatory. However, to accommodate the unexpected as well as the student's internship experience, **two excused absences are allowed**. Excused absences include an absence due to illness, an emergency, or a mandatory event connected to their internship. Absences will only be considered*

excused if the faculty member is notified in advance or by the end of the scheduled class meeting time.

As such, any unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade. If your internship or health require more than two excused absences we will discuss how to offset these missed classes.

Academic Honesty

All members of this academic community are expected to abide by ethical standards, both in their conduct and in their exercise of responsibilities toward other members of the community. I expect students to understand and adhere to basic standards of honesty and academic integrity. These standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. In projects and assignments prepared independently, students never represent the ideas or the language of others as their own.
2. Students do not destroy or alter either the work of other students or the educational resources and materials of the College.
3. Students neither give nor receive assistance with examinations.
4. Students do not represent work completed for one course as original work for another or deliberately disregard course rules and regulations.
5. In laboratory or research projects involving the collection of data, students accurately report data observed and do not alter these data for any reason.

If there is a dispute regarding an act of academic dishonesty, the Washington Internship Institute will convene a meeting, chaired by the President, to hear all sides of the matter and then make the final decision about action to be taken.

Cell Phone Policy

I know that your cell phone has become your best friend, but please make sure that your cell phone is turned off during our class meetings. If you are awaiting an important call please turn your phone to silent and exit the room quietly to take this call.

During exams, you are required to shut your phones off and leave them with me if you leave the room before you have completed your exam.

Computer Policy

The use of computers is not permitted when we host speakers or visit organizations. The use of computers is permitted during regular class discussions, but only for class related activities.

Students with Disabilities

If you need special accommodations to help you with this course or transportation to field visits I encourage you to come talk to me. I am dedicated to supporting all students in my course and making this course accessible for everyone.

Required Texts

Farrow, Ronan. 2018. *War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence*. New York: W.W. Norton

Haass, Richard. 2017. *A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order*. New York: Penguin Random House

McFaul, Michael. 2018. *From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin's Russia*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Sagan, Scott D. and Kenneth N. Waltz. 2013. *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons, 3rd Edition*, New York: W.W. Norton Company.

Sanger, David E. 2018. *The Perfect Weapon: War, Sabotage, and Fear in the Cyber Age*. New York: Crown.

Additional Articles will be linked in syllabus or sent to you at least one week prior class meeting for which they are assigned.

Course Schedule

Week 1, September 5: Introductions, Course Plan and Some Basics

Week 2, September 12: International Relations Theory

Readings:

- Slaughter, Anne-Marie. 2011. "International Relations, Principal Theories." Published in Wolfrum, R. Ed, *Max Plank Encyclopedia of Public International Law*. Oxford University Press. PDF emailed to you
- Walt, Stephen M. 2017. "Has Trump become a Realist?" *Foreign Policy*. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/04/17/has-trump-become-a-realist/>
- Zakheim, Dov S. 2017. "Is Donald Trump A Realist?" *The National Interest*. <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/donald-trump-realist-19810>
- Porter, Patrick. 2018. "A World Imagined: Nostalgia and Liberal Order." *Cato Institute Policy Analysis NO. 843*. <https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/world-imagined-nostalgia-liberal-order>
- Jervis, Robert. "President Trump and IR Theory." *ISSF POLICY Series America and the World - 2017 and Beyond*. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/policy/1-5B-Jervis>
- Barnett, Michael. 2017. "Policy Series: Trump and International Relations Theory: A Response to Robert Jervis's 'President Trump and IR Theory.'" *ISSF POLICY Series America and the World - 2017 and Beyond*. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/policy/1-5I-trump-ir>

Week 3, September 19: The Founders and Foreign Policy

Readings:

- The Federalist Papers: No. 3. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed03.asp
- The Federalist Papers: No. 4. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed04.asp
- The Federalist Papers No. 5. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed05.asp
- Washington's Farewell Address. 1796. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp

Guest Speaker: Megan Corrado, Advocacy Manager, [Women for Afghan Women](#)

Week 4, September 26: The Path of History

Readings:

- Haass, Richard. 2017. *A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order*. Introduction - Chapter 6

Site Visit: The Cato Institute, 2:00 PM

Week 5, October 3: A World in Disarray?

Readings:

- Haass, Richard. 2017. *A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order*. Chapter 7-Afterward

Site Visit: The Center for American Progress

Week 6, October 10: State Department

Readings:

- Farrow, Ronan. 2018. *War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence*. Chapters Prologue - Chapter 16

Guest Speaker: Christopher Marsh, Country Officer with Consular Affairs, in the American Citizen Services unit, State Department. Chris covers Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Saudi Arabia

Week 7, October 17: The Dismantling of the State Department

Readings:

- Farrow, Ronan. 2018. *War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence*. Chapters 17- Epilogue

Guest Speaker: Eugene (Gene) Schmiel, retired U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer

Week 8, October 24: Saudi Arabia and the United States

Readings:

- Council on Foreign Relations. 2017. "U.S.-Saudi Relations." <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-saudi-relations>
- Maza, Cristina. 2018. "Trump Touts Military Cooperation with Saudi Arabia as Congress Pushes to Halt U.S. Aid over War in Yemen." *Newsweek*. <http://www.newsweek.com/trump-touts-military-cooperation-saudi-arabia-congress-pushes-halt-us-aid-over-853841>
- Miller, Andrew and Richard Sokolsky. 2018. "What Has \$49 Billion in Foreign Military Aid Bought Us? Not Much." *American Conservative*. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/02/27/what-has-49-billion-in-foreign-military-aid-bought-us-not-much-pub-75657>

Watch:

- *Bitter Rivals: Iran and Saudi Arabia*. 2018. PBS Frontline. Parts 1 and 2.
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/bitter-rivals-iran-and-saudi-arabia/>

Site Visit: Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Week 9, October 31: Nuclear Weapons

Readings:

- Sagan, Scott D. and Kenneth N. Waltz. 2013. *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*, 3rd Edition. Chapters 1-4

Site Visit: The Heritage Foundation

Week 10, November 7: Case Studies in Nuclear Proliferation

Readings:

- Sagan, Scott D. and Kenneth N. Waltz. 2013. *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*, 3rd Edition. Chapters 5-7
- Beauchamp, Zack. 2018. "Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, explained." *Vox*. <https://www.vox.com/world/2018/5/8/17328520/iran-nuclear-deal-trump-withdraw>
- Gomez, Eric. 2018. "North Korea Revelations Should Neither Surprise the U.S. Nor Derail Talks." *Cato at Liberty*. <https://www.cato.org/blog/north-korea-revelations-should-neither-surprise-us-nor-derail-talks>

Assignment: Policy Memo Draft Due

Week 11, November 14: Economics

Reading:

- Brookings Blum Roundtable 2017, "U.S. Development Assistance Under Challenge." Post Conference Report, Brookings Institute.
https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/blum2017postconferencereport_web.pdf
- Haas, Ryan. 2018. "Principles for Managing U.S.-China Competition." *Brookings Policy Brief*. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FP_20180817_managing_competition.pdf
- Ikenson, Daniel J. 2018. "Trump's Trade Wars Are Incoherent, Angry and Misguided." *Global Asia*.
<https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/trumps-trade-wars-are-incoherent-angry-misguided>
- Scissors, Derek. 2018. "China's Global Investment: Neither US nor Belt Road." *Statement before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade On China's Predatory Trade and Investment Strategy*. <http://www.aei.org/publication/chinas-global-investment-neither-the-us-nor-belt-and-road-testimony/>

Week 12, November 21: Happy Thanksgiving—no class meeting

Week 13, November 28: Cyberwar

Readings:

- Sanger, David E. *The Perfect Weapon*

Week 14, December 5: Climate Change

Readings:

- Victor, David G. and Bruce D. Jones. 2018. "Undiplomatic Action: A practical guide to the new politics and geopolitics of climate change." Brookings Institute. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/esci_201802_undiplomatic_action.pdf
- Kaufman, Alexander. 2018. "Vietnam Is A Test For What Happens When The U.S. Abandons Climate Diplomacy." *Huffington Post*. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/vietnam-test-united-states-abandons-climate-diplomacy_us_5b030f8fe4b0a046186eab04
- Dayaratna, Kevin, Nicolas Loris, and David Kreutzer. 2016. "Consequences of Paris Protocol: Devastating Economic Costs, Essentially Zero Environmental Benefits." *The Heritage Foundation*. <https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/consequences-paris-protocol-devastating-economic-costs-essentially-zero>
- Taraska, Gwynne, Susan Biniiaz, Leonardo Martinez-Diaz, Niranjali Amersasinghe, Joe Thwaites, and Howard Marano. 2017. "How the United States Can Remain Engaged in International Climate Finance." *Center for American Progress*. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2017/09/06/438436/united-states-can-remain-engaged-international-climate-finance/>

Assignment: Final Day for Response Papers

Week 15, December 12: Fighting Terrorism and Stabilizing Fragile States

Readings:

- Culbertson, Shelly and Linda Robinson. 2017. *Making Victory Count After Defeating ISIS: Stabilization Challenges in Mosul and Beyond*. Rand Corporation. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2076.html
- Bergen, Peter, David Sterman, Albert Ford, and Alyssa Sims. 2017. "Jihadist Terrorism 16 Years after 9/11: A Threat Assessment." *New America* https://na-production.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Terrorism_9-11_2017.pdf
- Heydemann, Steven. 2018. *Beyond Fragility: Syria and the Challenges of Reconstruction in Fierce States*. Brookings. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FP_20180626_beyond_fragility.pdf

Guest Speaker: Douglas Brooks, Africa-Stability Operations-Corporate Ethics-Government Affairs, President Emeritus, International Stability Operations Association

Assignment: Policy Memo Due

I reserve the right to alter this syllabus at any time. Any changes will be announced during class and via email. If changes are made an updated syllabus will be sent to you via email