

International and Foreign Policy Studies
Washington Internship Institute
Spring 2017

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

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

Course Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students will:

1. Have the ability to develop policy recommendations on current foreign policy issues
2. Be able to identify key moments where the foreign policy of the United States changed
3. Clearly understand the different actors who exert influence on policy formation and how this influence is expressed
4. Be able to synthesize historical events in American history into foreign policy lessons for decision makers

Student Assessment

Attendance (5% of grade): 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. Additionally, the WII policy states that if students incur more than two unexcused absences, their grade will drop by one letter grade for each absence.

Participation (20% 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.

Presentation (20% of grade): You will make a presentation during our final class meeting as part of a simulation exercise. In this presentation you will discuss the interests of one actor (or set of actors) in the Syrian conflict. You will present this information with a focus on how this actor relates to U.S. interests and U.S. goals. Detailed instructions and a rubric will be distributed and actors will be selected during week 3 of our course.

Current Event Brief (15% of grade): This assignment seeks to link an event or situation in world politics to your internship experience. In this assignment you will identify a current event that is related to your internship. You will then prepare a 3-page brief that explains the current event and how it relates to your internship. This brief is due at the start of class on **February 21, 2017**.

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 the actor you represent in the simulation on the Syrian conflict in our final class meeting. This memo will draw upon theoretical discussions from our course and your independent research on the actor you represent in the simulation. Detailed instructions and a rubric will be provided during week 3. This memo is due at our final class meeting on **April 25, 2017**.

Midterm (15% of grade): This exam will occur on **March 7th**. The midterm exam will cover all material from the assigned readings and discussed in class prior to the exam. The exam will contain a combination of short answer and essay questions.

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 December 13th. 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 not receive additional credit.

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.

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

Hook, Steven W. 2014. *U.S. Foreign Policy, 4th Ed.* CQ Press.

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

Schedule

Week 1: Introductions, Course Plan and Some Basics

Tuesday, January 17

Readings:

- Bacevich, Andrew. 2011. "Cow Most Sacred: Why Military Spending Remains Untouchable." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-bacevich/cow-most-sacred-why-milit_b_814888.html
- Mearsheimer, John. 2011. "Imperial by Design," *The National Interest* (Jan/Feb). <http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0059.pdf>

Week 2: Thoughts of the Founders and History of U.S. Foreign Policy

Tuesday, January 24

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

Week 3: U.S. Position and Power

Tuesday, January 31

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 1, p 1-29

Guest Speaker

- Benjamin Freeman, Deputy Director for National Security, Third Way

Week 4: History of U.S. Power through Key Events

Tuesday, February 7

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 2, p 31-71

Week 5: Thinking and Decision Making in International Politics

Tuesday, February 14

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 3, p 73-101
- Drezner, Daniel. 2009. "Theory of International Politics and Zombies." *Foreign Policy*. 18 August. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2009/08/18/theory-of-international-politics-and-zombies/>

Week 6: Executive Power in Foreign Policy

Tuesday, February 21

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 4, 103-136

Assignment: Current Event Brief Due

Week 7: Congressional Influence on Foreign Policy

Tuesday, February 28

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 5, 137-170

*****Class is off site: Visit CATO Institute, Begins at 11:00 AM**

1000 Massachusetts Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20001-5403

Cato website: <http://www.cato.org/>

Week 8: Bureaucracy in Foreign Policy and its Influence on Decision Making

Tuesday, March 7

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 6, p 171-209

Midterm Exam

Week 9: Role of the Public in Foreign Policy

Tuesday, March 14

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 7, p 211-242

Week 10: Mass Communication and Propaganda in Foreign Policy

Tuesday, March 21

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 8, p 243-272

Week 11: Social Movements and Interest Groups

Tuesday, March 28

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 9, p 275-309

*****Class is off site: Visit: Chemonics International, 11:00 AM**

1717 H St. NW

Washington, DC 20006

<http://www.chemonics.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

Week 12: National Security and the Use of Drones as Foreign Policy

Tuesday, April 4

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 10, p 309-349

- Brooks, Rosa. 2015. "U.S. Counterterrorism Strategy Is the Definition of Insanity." *Foreign Policy*. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/06/24/u-s-counterterrorism-strategy-is-the-definition-of-insanity/>
- Kapur, Arjun. 2015. "Searching for Strategy: U.S. Foreign Policy in a Fragile World." *Harvard Political Review*. <http://harvardpolitics.com/united-states/searching-for-strategy>
- "The Drone Papers." *The Intercept*. <https://theintercept.com/drone-papers/> (Read Papers 1-8)

Week 13: Economic Statecraft and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Tuesday, April 11

Readings:

- Hook, Chapters 11 and 12, p 351-385
- "The Trans-Pacific Partnership, explained" *Vox*. <http://www.vox.com/cards/trans-pacific-partnership>
- Calmes, Jackie. "What Is Lost by Burying the Trans-Pacific Partnership?" *The New York Times*. November 11, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/12/business/economy/donald-trump-trade-tpp-trans-pacific-partnership.html?_r=0

Week 14: Transnational Policies

Tuesday, April 18

Readings:

- Hook, Chapter 12, p 387-419

Guest Speaker

- Eugene D. (Gene) Schmiel, retired U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer

Week 15: Syrian Simulation

Tuesday, April 25

Assignments: Syrian Memo Due and Presentations

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