Course description and objectives

This course examines the contemporary characteristics and theories, interests and dimensions, and patterns of decision and action of the foreign relations and international politics and policies of the United States. We study the main theories and ideological contours of American international relations, the rise of the U.S. to world power, the foreign policy decision processes in the contexts of American democracy, the pivotal environments of U.S. international interests and foreign policies, and the critical junctures America faces in a world political system under change.

The objectives of the course are to produce relevant, effective knowledge and understanding of the foreign relations and international policies of the U.S., with an aim at preparing for further specialization and study of American and comparative foreign policy and international relations, and to empower the student to use such knowledge and understanding for advancing academic and professional projects.

Main study units

1 Concepts and Theories of American Foreign Policy  week 1: Sep 30, Oct 2, 4
2 U.S. in the World: Historical Contexts  weeks 2, 3: Oct 7-18
   
   Rise to World Power
   The Cold War
   Post-Cold War First Interval
   Post-Cold War Second Interval

3 Institutions and Decision Processes  weeks 4, 5: Oct 21-Nov 1
   
   Constitutional Framework
   The EOP, NSC, and State
   Intelligence and Defense
   Agenda Setting, Policy Performance

4 U.S. in the World: Present Task Environments  weeks 6, 7, 8, 9: Nov 4-29
Middle East and Northern Africa
Europe, Atlantic Community
Russia, Central and South Asia
East Asia, Japan, China
Latin America
Sub-Saharan Africa
Democracy, Human Rights, Terror Crisis
International Security and Arms Control
World Economy, Global Environment

5 United States in a Changing International System  week 10: Dec 2-6

America at a Global Crossroads

Required texts

. Professor’s Lecture Notes
. Presentation Materials and Instructions

Main supplementary and consulting materials:

Course calendar

Course introduction and overview: Sept 27, 30, Oct 2, 4
Presentations round 1: Oct 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25
Presentations round 2: Oct 30, Nov 1, 6, 8, 13, 15
Presentations round 3: Nov 20, 22, 27, Dec 2, 4, 6
Term paper deadline: Dec 6
Final exam: Dec 13 11:30

Course requirements and evaluation
All course output, if subject to evaluation, is assessed in terms of these basic standards: format, informative, focus, rigorous, critical. These standards apply to the following categories of output for evaluation:

Attendance & participation 30% of grade point
Attendance and participation are essential individual assignments common to all; attendance, being present in class, accounts for 0.5 points per class session, and attending 15 class sessions is required to earn a grade in the course; participation in this context is mainly in-class writing, which consists of a meaningful, focused, statement to be written at the end of class on the question/s specified for this purpose by the professor; it accounts for the other 0.5 point of this task.

Presentations are group assignments; the grade, however, is individual. The sequence of presentations is organized into three rounds, in each of which all groups present. The first round of presentations and discussions are considered in training: every one gets an A grade for as long as the assignments are made as scheduled and they make generally sense in terms of the topic’s issues and subject matter.

Discussions are likewise group assignments, individually graded, which consist of questions the members of the discussant group field in to the members of the presenting group: discussants should be aware of what is going to be presented and listen attentively to the presenters to prepare their questions.

Reading notes are weekly individual assignments addressing specific questions, as indicated by the professor in the assignment, on the basis of the course textbook; reading notes are due in class every Friday, starting on September 28 – RN1– and ending on November 23, with RN9.

The term paper is an individual assignment, which consists of an original essay, 10 to 15 pages long, double-spaced, on any of the topics of the course. The choice of case is to be made by each student in consultation with the instructor from any of the topics indicated in the Syllabus for this purpose.

The final exam consists of original essays on a selected number of questions among the final exam questions file provided throughout the term and addressed in class lectures, presentations, and discussion, reading notes, text materials.

The evaluation criteria applied by the Instructor on all assignments consist of the following standards: 1) format [well organized, written, edited original] 2) rigor [sound, well grounded, consistent and coherent, it shows understanding] 3)
informative [knowledge of facts, events and processes, theories] and 4) critical/analytical [reasoning, contrasting viewpoints and examples].

Grading scale

A. 96 to 100 grade points
A- 89 to 95  “
B+ 79 to 88  “
B 72 to 78  “
B- 64 to 71  “
C+ 54 to 63  “
C 47 to 53  “

Academic standards

On written assignments, any material or textual reference –including web-based references– not original to the student must be cited in the format of the Modern Languages Association [MLA] author-date system* or the University of Chicago/ Turabian Notes System**. For reference to documentation standards for various fields you may refer to the University Library and or to the University Writing Center.

* http://www.lib.umd.edu/guides/citing_mla.html
** http://www.lib.umd.edu/guides/citing_chicnotes.html

Term Paper Topics

Rise to World Power
. Wars with Mexico and Spain
. Sea Power
. World War I
. World War II
. United Nations

The Cold War
. Containment
. Vietnam War
. Iran’s Revolution
. Covert War in Afghanistan

Post Cold War First Interval
. Balkans Wars 1: Bosnia and the Dayton Accords
. Balkans Wars 2: Kosovo Crisis
Post Cold War Second Interval
  . September 11, 2001
  . Iraq War Crisis

Policy Making Institutional Frameworks
  . The Constitution and Foreign Affairs
  . Separation of Powers and the Conduct of Foreign Policy
  . The State Department
  . The National Security Council
  . Roles of Strategic Intelligence
  . Defense Policy and Foreign Relations
  . Global Surveillance and Foreign Policy
  . Agenda Setting and Implementation in Foreign Policy
  . Performance Evaluation in Foreign Policy

Present Task Environments: Middle East
  . Iran
  . Israel
  . Iraq
  . Egypt
  . Saudi Arabia
  . Turkey

Present Task Environments: Europe, the Atlantic Community
  . The Western Alliance
  . End of the Cold War and Unification of Germany
  . NATO Out of Area: Balkans, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria?
  . The Transatlantic Free Trade Area
  . Global Surveillance and U.S.-E.U. Relations

Present Task Environments: Russia, Central and South Asia
  . Russia in Shared Eurasia
  . Central Asia: the Endgame of the Great Game in Afghanistan
  . Central Asia: the Endgame of the Great Game in Pakistan
  . India: A Strategic Partner?

Present Task Environments: East Asia, Japan, China
  . East Asia in American Pacific
  . Japan: Cracks, Risks, and Potentials of the Alliance
  . China’s Disputes and Force Projection Capabilities
  . China’s Global Economic Rise

Present Task Environments: Latin America
Managing the Sphere: LA in the American Hemisphere
From Intervention to Good Neighbor Policy and Back, and Beyond Past: Forward to Partnership?
Is Latin America Turning Away from the U.S.?
Global Surveillance and U.S.-Latin America Relations
Courses of Action: Key Issues in the Ways Forward

Present Task Environments: Africa
Geopolitical Mapping and Quantifying Africa in American foreign policy
Development and Trade; Peace, Security, and Democracy

Present Task Environments: Democracy, Human Rights, Terror Crisis
Democracy in American Foreign Policy
The Foreign Policy of Human Rights
Terror Crisis Foreign Policy Issues
The Use of Force in the Terror Crisis

Present Task Environments: International Security and Arms Control
International Security and Arms Control 1: Continuities and Changes in Task Environments
International Security and Arms Control 2: Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance
International Security and Arms Control 3: International Security and Non-Proliferation
International Security and Arms Control 4: Political-Military Affairs and Defense-Diplomacy Coordination
International Security and the Global Surveillance Crisis

Present Task Environments: World Economy, Global Environment
Economics, Energy, Environment 1: E3 Policies Overview
Energy Resources
Oceans and Environment
Information and Communication and Global Surveillance

Present Task Environments: America at a Global Crossroads
Conditions of World Order and Global Governance
Peace, War, and International Security
Pivots of Conflict
Global Surveillance and International Security
Influences, Control, Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness
Core Materials for Review
In Presentations and Papers

1. The U.S. Rise to World Power
   - American Empires: Past and Present, Michael Mann, 45 Canadian Review of Sociology 1 (February 2008)

2. American Foreign Policy in the Cold War
   - The Emerging Post-Revisionist Synthesis on the Origins of the Cold War, John Lewis Gaddis, 7 Diplomatic History 3 (1983)
   - Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?, Robert Jervis, 3 Journal of Cold War Studies 1 (Winter, 2001)

3. The U.S. in the World after the Cold War
   - Redefining the National Interest, Joseph S. Nye Jr., 78 Foreign Affairs 4 (Jul. - Aug., 1999) JSTOR

The Foreign Policy of the Obama Administration

4A. The Constitution and Foreign Affairs

The CIA and American Foreign Policy, Robert M. Gates, 66 Foreign Affairs 2 (1987)

Why the President (Almost) Always Wins in Foreign Affairs: Lessons of the Iran-Contra Affair, Harold Hongju Koh, 97 Yale Law Journal 7 (June, 1988) JSTOR


5. Foreign Policy Process and Decision Making

Causes of Change in National Security Processes: Carter, Reagan, and Bush Decision Making on Arms Control, William W. Newmann, 31 Presidential Studies Quarterly 1 (March 2001)

The National Security Council: An Organizational Assessment, Richard A. Best Jr., Congressional Research Service (December 2011) FAS

Foreign Policy Roles of the President and Congress, Richard F. Grimmett, Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division, U.S. Department of State (June 1, 1999) http://fpc.state.gov/6172.htm

Scoring Obama's Foreign Policy: A Progressive Pragmatist Tries to Bend History, Indyk, Martin S; Lieberthal, Kenneth G; O'Hanlon, Michael E., 91 Foreign Affairs 3 (May/Jun 2012) EBSCOhost
6. Defense, Military Power and Foreign Policy
     http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2010/12/defense%20budget%20ohanlon/12_defense_budget_ohanlon
   - Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798-2012, Richard F. Grimmett, CRS (Sept 19, 2012); ISN
     http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?groupot593=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=153712

7. Intelligence and Foreign Policy
   - Intelligence and Policy: The Evolving Relationship, Roundtable Report, CSI June 2004; CIA
   - Supporting U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post-9/11 World, Richard Haas, CSI, April 2007; CIA
   - Intelligence for a New Era in American Foreign Policy, Center for the Study of Intelligence, 2003; CIA
   - Intelligence and Policy Making: A Bibliography, G. E. Marlatt editor, 2007; Naval Postgraduate School
     http://edocs.nps.edu/npspubs/scholarly/biblio/Apr07-Intell_biblio.pdf

8. State, Diplomacy, and Foreign Policy
   - The Other Plumbers Unit: The Dissent Channel of the U.S. State Department, Hannah Gurman, 35 Diplomatic History 2 (April 2011) Wiley
9. The Middle East

[U.S. Foreign Policy and the Arab Spring: Balancing Values and Interests, Pierre M. Atlas, 21 Digest of Middle East Studies 2 (November 2012) Wiley]

10. Europe and the Atlantic Alliance

[U.S. Debate on NATO Nuclear Deterrence, David S. Yost, 87 International Affairs 6 (2011) W]

11. Russia and Central Asia

[U.S. Policy toward Russia, U.S. Embassy in Brussels, USDOS]


[Russia Joins the WTO Amid Continuing Tensions With the U.S., Charles Kupchan, CFR Aug 21 2012]

12. China and East Asia


13. Latin America

. The Monroe Doctrine: Meanings and Implications, Mark T. Gilderhus, 36 Presidential Studies Quarterly 1 (March, 2006) JSTOR
. The Roosevelt Corollary, Serge Ricard, 36 Presidential Studies Quarterly 1 (March,
2006) Wiley
. The Post-American Hemisphere Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America, Russell Crandall, 90 Foreign Affairs 3 () Davidson College

Google Books
http://0-search.proquest.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/docview/923214200?accountid=1035
7

* 14. Africa
[. Oil and U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Africa, Daniel Fikreyesus (Georgia State University, 2012)
http://digitalarchive.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=political_sci
ence_diss
http://0-onlinelibrary.wiley.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/doi/10.1111/j.1468-
2346.2011.01010.x/pdf
http://0-onlinelibrary.wiley.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/doi/10.1111/j.1467-
7709.2012.01067.x/full
. Bureau of African Affairs, USDOS
http://www.state.gov/p/af/index.htm
. U. S. Policy Toward Africa: A Dossier, U.S. Embassy in Brussels, USDOS
. U.S. Foreign Policy and the Arab Spring: Balancing Values and Interests, 21 Digest of Middle East Studies 2 (November 2012) Wiley
http://0-onlinelibrary.wiley.com.opac.library.csupomona.edu/doi/10.1111/j.1949-
3606.2012.00158.x/full
. Foreign Aid: An Introduction to U.S. Programs and Policy, CRS, February 10, 2011
http://assets.openers.com/rpts/R40213_20110210.pdf
. Straight Talk: Revealing the Real U.S.-Africa Policy, Gerald LeMelle, FPIF (July 6, 2009)
http://www.fpif.org/articles/straight_talk_revealing_the_real_us-africa_policy.
. Islam in Africa, CRS, May 9 2008
http://assets.openers.com/rpts/RS22873_20080509.pdf ]

* 15. Democracy, Human Rights, Terror Crisis
. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, USDOS
http://www.state.gov/j/drl/
. Fighting Terrorism Fairly and Effectively: Recommendations for President-Elect Barack Obama, Human Rights Watch (Nov 6, 2008)
*
16. International Security, Arms Control
. Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, USDOS
http://www.state.gov/t/
. Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance (AVC)
http://www.state.gov/t/avc/index.htm
---Treaties and Agreements
http://www.state.gov/t/avc/trty/index.htm
---World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers
---Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments
http://www.state.gov/t/avc/rls/rpt/c54051.htm
. Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN)
http://www.state.gov/t/isn/index.htm
*

17. World Economy, Global Environment
[. Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, USDOS
http://www.state.gov/e/eb/index.htm
. basic framework for energy policy, as identified by State [http://www.state.gov/e/enr/index.htm], b) Connecting the Americas 2022 [http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/2012/199772.htm], c) U.S. support for the sustainable energy for all global action agenda [http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ps/ps/2012/06/193500.htm], and d) President’s blueprint for a secure energy future [http://www.state.gov/s/ciea/c44264.htm]
*

18. U.S. Foreign Policy and International System Change
[. The Changing Balance of Influence, Bruce D. Jones, Foreign Policy Paper 25, March 2011; Brookings
The Obama Presidency and US Foreign Policy: Where’s the Multilateralism?,
David Skidmore, 13 International Studies Perspectives 1 (Feb 2012) WILEY
China, the United States, and Global Governance: Shifting Foundations of World Order
Workshop in Beijing, China March 2010, Stewart M. Patrick and Farah Faisal Thaler,
Council on Foreign Relations
http://www.cfr.org/content/thinktank/CFR_CICIR_MeetingNote.pdf]