

US Foreign Policy Political Science 363

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Course objectives:

Politics in the last decades has been acting in a very unexpected way, and the role of the USA in the global politics was the center of attention and a focus for a debate of scholars and politicians all over the world. Thus this course offers a broad overview of key issues of contemporary US foreign Policy. It includes various perspectives intended to provide students with an informed, critical understanding of political events in US foreign Policy and the importance of its decisions in forming the trend of politics around the globe.

Theoretical concepts and insights will be employed to enhance students understanding of the changing nature of US strategies around the globe. Students will be equipped with the required knowledge to help them understand, and analyze the evolution of the US foreign Policy. Hence, this course will cover multiple regions around the globe, such as the Middle East and Asia, which will allow the students to think out of the box when approaching the foreign, political events.

Upon completing this course, students will be better able to identify and describe the historical, cultural, ideological, economic, and military variables salient in the states.

Thus, they will be able to analyze contemporary political issues, articulate their complexity from multiple perspectives, understand the main theories in the field and criticize the role of US in issues such as Human Rights and social justices.

Required Texts:

- 1- Hook, Stephen. US Foreign Policy. 4th edition, CQ press

- 2- To keep up with IR-related current events you may read:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
<http://www.economist.com>
<http://www.nytimes.com>
<http://www.washingtonpost.com>
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>

Extra materials will be provided for The Arab Spring readings

Evaluation:

1- Attendance, Reading:

Attending the class is mandatory and missing more than three classes will affect your grades negatively to the extent failing the class.

Attending the class is mandatory and missing more than three classes will affect your grades negatively. Missing 25 % of the total number of the classes for this semester will result in getting an F.

Moreover, no cellphone or computer (using Internet) is allowed in the class. Please make sure to abide by this rule.

Students are required to read all assigned readings. The power point lectures, I will be providing, will serve as a guide to help student understand the topic under discussion. Yet, they are, by all means, not enough. Students are required to read all assigned readings in addition to comprehending all power points lectures. The power points lecture will not be posted on Black board. They will be only available in the class. Therefore, your attendance is essential and required for your success.

In addition to the Power points lectures, there will be short videos that will be showed in the class.

2- Participation:

All students are required to be prepared to participate in the class on the basis of the readings. The balance of your grade in the course will be determined by your contributions to class discussion and participation.

3- Weekly discussion questions + quizzes:

By Monday at 9 am of each week, every student is required to post on the blackboard's discussion section one to two discussion questions. The questions should be based on the assigned readings of that week. I will choose two questions for each class and devote the first 10 minutes to discuss them. I expect by the end of the semester to discuss at least question from each student. These questions are very important to help analyze historical events and compare it to contemporary ones.

Thus, there will be quizzes. Therefore, come always prepared by reading the required material.

4- Group presentation:

We will divide the class into groups (4-5 students for each group). Each team will be responsible of delivering a 25 minutes presentation about a recent topic or event in the US foreign policy, Discuss the US involvement in that issue and the pros and cons for that specific strategy (create an argument). Further information will be provided throughout the semester. This presentation will help you in your future carrier, whether it is in the academia or in private sector. It will help student to develop his/her presentation skills, public speaking skills, and to provide an informative, strong research about specific topic.

5- Research paper:

Every student should write, by the end of the semester, a research paper about a topic of interest to you in this field and create a comprehensive research about it. The paper should be around 12- 15 pages double spaced, Times News Roman font, and size 12. The paper should have 15 citations of books and professional journal articles (NO .com or .net articles are accepted).

The paper should include a clear research question.

An A paper should include:

- 1- A challenging, well articulated research question, its implications and concludes effectively.
- 2- The paper incorporate multiple sources of information, and interrelates materials coherently
- 3- The topic is fully developed in a logical manner with a clear structural development.
- 4- The paper shows excellent sustained use of Standard English and precise language.
- 5- The paper adheres to an assigned format, makes consistent use if documentation convention, and credit ideas to their sources.

The topics should be approved before doing the research. The fifth week is the deadline to present your topic.

6- The exams: Midterm and final:

There will be two exams: both exams will be in class exams, which will contain multiple choice questions and, a one or two long essay questions.

7-Reaction papers: The primary intellectual product that you will originate during this course will consist of three reaction papers, each consisting of no more than 2 pages (double spaced), dealing with the major texts under consideration. You have the choice of choosing the week that you prefer to present the paper at. However, I will not accept any paper after week 10. It is expected that you will provide a critical analysis of the materials.

Students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of his/her individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska- Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodations services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Academic Dishonesty:

Each student must present his/her own ideas. If you borrow ideas/thoughts from others, be sure that you cite or give credit to the appropriate author. Additionally, all work must be original. Instances of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade and reported to the Graduate Committee.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned as following:

Participation:	10 %
Weekly discussion questions + quizzes:	5%
Reaction papers:	10%
Group presentation:	10%

Midterm exam	20 %
Final exam	20 %
Research paper	25 %

Course schedule:

Week One: Monday : 8-26: Introduction to the class
W : 8-28: IR Theories: Realism
F : 8-30: NO CLASS : APSA meeting

Week Two: no readings for this week : M: 9-2: NO CLASS: Labor day
W: 9-4: Liberalism
F: 9-6: Constructivism

Week Three: Read Chapter 1: M: 9-9: The US in turbulent world
W: 9-11 continue chapter 1
Read Chapter 2 F: 9-13: the expansion of US power

Week Four: M: 9-16: Continue of chapter 2
Read Chapter 3 W: 9-18: Continue of chapter 2
F: 9-20: dynamics of decision making

Week Five: M: 9-23: Continue of chapter 3
Read Chapter 4 W: 9-25 : presidential power
F: 9-27: continue chapter 4

Week Six: Read chapter 5 M: 9-30: Congress beyond the water edge
W: 10-2: continue with chapter 5
Read chapter 6 F: 10- 4: the foreign policy bureaucracy

Week Seven: M: 10- 7: continue with chapter 6
Read chapter 7 W: 10- 9: public opinion at home and abroad
F: 10- 11: continue with chapter 7

Week Eight: Read chapter 8 M: 10- 14: the impact of mass communication
W: 10- 16: Presenting your paper topics
F: 10- 18: **Midterm exam**

Week Nine: M: 10- 21: NO CLASS: Fall Break
W: 10- 23 continue chapter 8
Read chapter 9 F: 10- 25 : social movements

Week Ten: M: 10- 28 continue with chapter 9
Read chapter 10 W: 10- 30: national security
F: 11- 1: continue with chapter 10

Week eleven: Read chapter 11 M: 11- 4: economic state craft
W: 11- 6: continue with chapter 11
Read chapter 12 F: 11- 8: transnational problems

Week Twelve: Read about the Arabic Spring (materials will be provided)

M: 11- 11: continue with chapter 12
W: 11- 13: Arabic Spring: Tunisia and the role of USA
F : 11- 15: Arabic Spring: Egypt and the role of the US

Week Thirteen: M: 11- 18: Arabic Spring Yemen and Bahrain
W: 11- 20: Arabic Spring Libya
F: 11-22: Arabic Spring Syria

Week Fourteen: M: 11- 25: writing a research paper
W: 11-27: NO Class: Thanksgiving Break
F: 11-29: NO Class

Week fifteen: M: 12- 2: Chapter seven (Kaufman): the future of US foreign policy (will be provided online)+ Daniel H. Nexon and Thomas Wright, “What’s at stake in the American empire debate?” APSR 101:2 (May 2007) + Parag Khanna “Waving Goodbye to Hegemony”, New York Times Magazine, January 7, 2008 at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/27/magazine/27worldt.html?ref=world&pagewanted=all>

W: 12- 4: Group presentation
F: 12- 6: Group presentation

Week Sixteen: M: 12- 9: Group Presentation: Submitting the research paper at 1,30 PM
W: 12- 11 Review for the final exam
F: 12- 13 NO CLASS

Final exam: MONDAY: 12- 16 at 1- 3 PM