

US Foreign Policy
Political Science 533
Spring 2007

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Shaw
Class: T/Th 2:00 - 3:15 LH 112
Office hours: M/W 11:00 - 12:30; Th 12:30 - 2:00; or by appt.
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* This course is a *further studies* course in general education. In order to receive general education credit as a further studies course, a political science *introductory* general education course (PS 121, PS 220, or PS 226) is a prerequisite.

Overview of the Course

This course is an introduction to American Foreign Policy. The course is divided broadly into two parts: the history and theory of American foreign policy, and the policy challenges the US faces in the new century. The first part of the course will cover the historical evolution and development of foreign policy focusing on the lessons of Cold War era. The actors involved in foreign policy decision making will also be examined, including governmental and non-governmental actors. The second part of the class will explore a variety of issues including the changing security environment, the globalizing economy, the growing number of 'transsovereign' issues such as environmental and human rights protection, and the international organizations evolving to handle these issues.

There are three primary objectives of this course. The first is to provide students with a basic understanding of the actors in and politics of American foreign policy. The second objective is to encourage analytical thinking so that students can understand the choices and trade offs being made in foreign policy decision making. The third objective is to introduce students to current foreign policy dilemmas regarding national and transnational issues.

Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken periodically throughout the semester. Four recorded absences are allowed before points will be deducted from the attendance grade. Students are encouraged, though not required, to participate in class by making comments and asking questions. There will be an opportunity at the beginning of most classes for students to discuss current foreign policy events, as well as numerous other chances to present and defend different points of view.

Thursdays will largely be reserved for class discussions. I encourage students to finish the weekly readings before class on Thursday in order to contribute to and benefit from these discussions.

Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings and to be able to answer questions about the readings on the exams.

Students will give a **short in class presentation** over one of the supplemental readings for the course. The details of this assignment are discussed below.

Students will **participate regularly in on-line discussion** using Blackboard. Details for this requirement are discussed below.

The **two mid-term exams** will include only the material covered in class and in the assigned readings since the previous exam. The tests will include several short essays.

There is **one writing project** for the course to encourage students to think critically about US foreign policy and to develop their writing skills. The details of this assignment are discussed below.

Required Reading

Jentleson, Bruce W. *American Foreign Policy*. Norton (2nd ed) (2004).

Supplemental Reading

The New York Times, *The Wall Street Journal*, or other daily newspaper

Grading

Exam 1	20%	(test score x .20 = total points out of 100)
Exam 2	30%	(test score x .30 = total points out of 100)
Research Project		
Annotated Biblio.	5%	(biblio grade x .05 = total points out of 100)
Paper	10%	(paper grade x .10 = total points out of 100)
Revisions	15%	(revision grade x .15 = total pts out of 100)
Discussion Board	10%	(grade x .10 = total points out of 100)
Class Presentation	5%	(grade x .05 = total points out of 100)
Attendance	5%	(full points for 0-4 absences one point off for each day missed after 4)

** Exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled. Make up exams will only be given when a student has a documented medical excuse or extreme emergency as determined by the instructor.

** Writing assignments are due on the day given in the syllabus. Points will be deducted from late papers

A =	90 - 100 points
B =	80 - 89 points
C =	70 - 79 points
D =	60 - 69 points
F =	59 or below

WSU Blackboard

This course is facilitated by Blackboard, an online web aid accessible to all WSU students. The Blackboard page for this course contains a copy of the syllabus, the writing assignment, study guide, current course grades, and web links to a variety of topics on US foreign policy. In order to access this site (www.blackboard.wichita.edu) you need your student id number and pin number.

In Class Presentation

Each member of the class will give a brief presentation (5 minutes) on one of the readings from the 'supplemental materials' in the text book. The presentation should include a summary of the main argument of the article, a reiteration of its supporting points, its connection to the related chapter in the text, and your own reaction to the article.

Discussion Board Participation

Discussion topics will be posted to Blackboard every week. These will be linked to the weekly topics and readings. Students are expected to access the discussion board at least twice a week to read posted comments, and to respond to them. This discussion is to be substantive, but subjective. In other words, you can post your own thoughts and responses to the readings and to other classmates' comments after taking time to reflect on them. In order to receive full credit for discussion board participation, you must post at least one comment each week, and respond to one classmate's comments each week. Responses to classmates can be candid, but should always be respectful [see Academic Freedom/Respect for Others below]. Postings will be monitored by the instructor and any inappropriate ones removed. Comments on questions due every Thursday before class. Responses to classmates due by Tues before class.

Research Project

For the research paper, each student will be able to choose a country to research in detail. The assignment will be an examination of US foreign policy relations with that specific country, including historic relations as well as recent US relations.

It is important to make sure your grammar and spelling are accurate. Papers should be typed, double spaced, and 12-15 pages in length. You should have at least 10 bibliographic sources. These should include academic journal articles, books, as well as journalistic and web based information. Grading will not be based on the opinion you express, but on how well you support it. Arguments should be clear and logical to support your conclusions.

Annotated Bibliography is due on Tuesday **March 6**

Papers are due on Thursday, **March 29**.

Revisions are due on Tuesday, **May 1**.

You must turn in your draft WITH your revisions, so hold on to your first paper!

* Points will be deducted from late papers. *

Your first draft is worth almost half of your total paper grade, so do NOT make it a "rough" draft. The purpose of requiring revisions is to help you polish and improve your writing, so your draft should be the best paper you can write, and your revisions should be even better. Writing is a life skill and the only way you improve is through practice.

I will schedule individual research appointments with students when the annotated bibliographies are due to discuss your progress on the project.

Study Tips for Reading for the Class

Before you begin reading, spend some time with the book and familiarize yourself with its content and structure. Before reading an assigned chapter, look at the table of contents and become familiar with what will be addressed in that chapter. (Reading the chapter summary and then reading the details of the chapter is also helpful.) Don't just read the chapter, study it. Take notes and/or highlight the important concepts, make an outline of the headings and subheadings, note the key terms when you find them.

Give yourself time to read, don't try to skim the chapter at the last minute. Stop reading from time to time and ask yourself what you have just read. If you can't answer, stop, refocus and look at the section again.

Academic Freedom / Respect for Others

Each student is encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any class that includes discussion of political ideas, there are bound to be many differing points of view. Students may not only disagree with each other, but may also have disparate views from the instructor on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or your assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Incompletes

An incomplete grade will only be given in the case of a documented medical or other emergency. To request an incomplete grade, a student must see me in my office and explain their need for an incomplete and fill out the necessary form. In most cases, it is in the student's best interest to complete the assigned course work on schedule.

I will not withdraw students from the class. It is the students responsibility to monitor their progress in the course and to initiate withdrawal procedures on their own if necessary. To withdraw from a class, students must do it officially through the Registrar, and the Tuition and Fees Office.

Scholastic Dishonesty

As described in the Student Catalog, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of college rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined in the Catalog. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion is defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. If a student commits any of these actions, I will seek disciplinary action in the form of an academic penalty, including a course grade of 'F'.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 16 (T)	Introduction	
Jan 18	Overview	Read handout PRIOR to class.
Jan 23 (T)	Strategic Context	Text Chapter 1
Jan 25	Strategic Context	Text pp. 200-217 Post Bb Comment
Jan 30 (T)	Domestic Influences	Chapter 2 Post Bb Response
Feb 1	Domestic Influences	Text pp. 218-232 Post Bb Comment
Feb 6 (T)	Historical Considerations	Chapter 3 Post Bb Response
Feb 8	Historical Considerations	pp. 233-249 Post Bb Comment
Feb 13 (T)	Cold War Lessons	Chapter 5 Post Bb Response
Feb 15	Cold War Lessons	pp. 269-285 Post Bb Comment
Feb 20 (T)	EXAM 1 (Chaps 1, 2, 3, 5)	Post Bb Response
Feb 22	NO CLASS	
Feb 27 (T)	TBA	
March 1	TBA	
March 6 (T)	A New Era? Annot. Biblio. Due	Chapter 6
March 8	A New Era?	pp. 608-629 Post Bb Comment
March 13 (T)	Globalization	Chapter 9 Post Bb Response
March 15	Globalization	pp. 653-673 Post Bb Comment
March 20 (T)	NO CLASS Spring Break	
March 22	NO CLASS Spring Break	
March 27 (T)	Power Politics	Chapter 7
March 29	Power Politics Research paper due	pp. 629-639
April 3 (T)	Peacebuilding	Chapter 8
April 5	Peacebuilding	pp. 640 - 652 Post Bb Comment
April 10 (T)	TBA	Post Bb Response

April 12	Democracy	Chapter 10
April 17 (T)	Democracy	pp. 674-693
April 19	Democracy	
April 24 (T)	Future	TBD
April 26	Future	TBD
May 1 (T)	Future Research Paper Revisions Due	
May 3 Last Day of Class	Review	
May 15 (T) 1:00 - 2:50	EXAM 2 (Chaps 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)	