Political Science 359  
Problems of American Foreign Policy  
Northwest Quadrant Building B Room 6590  
Spring 2014  

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm  
Office: Bolton 630  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-2:50 p.m. and by appointment  
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Final exam: Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
Optional final papers are due: Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.  

Course Description  
This course examines the development and problems of American Foreign Policy since World War II, with special attention to the Cold War and post-9/11 periods. This course will focus on U.S. National Security Policy, which is the coordination of diplomacy, military policy, information dissemination and propaganda, trade policy, and intelligence collection.  

We begin with a general introduction to the nature of U.S. National Security Policy (NSP) and examine the domestic environment, such as the constitutional limits, bureaucratic politics, and the media (Block I and II). We then examine several case studies of U.S. NSP, focusing upon the Cold War and early post-Cold War era. Here we examine the NSP of the Carter, Reagan, and Clinton Administrations (Block III). In the final section (Block IV) we examine the contemporary setting: U.S. National Security after 9/11, under George W. Bush and Barack Obama.  

The readings for this course are varied. We will read a number of “classics” in U.S. National Security Studies, including works by George Kennan, Hans Morgenthau, George Marshall, and Winston Churchill. We will also read a number of contemporary works by policy analysts (from both liberal and conservative think tanks), academics (political scientists and historians), government officials, as well as essays and speeches by U.S. Presidents (including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama).  

Having completed this course, students should be familiar with the development, central issues, and key debates concerning U.S. National Security Policy, past and present. Furthermore, students should enhance their critical and analytical skills in the process and apply such skills to more current research and debate in this field. In short, students should take from this class the critical thinking skills that will enhance their discriminating consumption of professional research and contemporary journalistic arguments in the field.  

Course Requirements  
Regular attendance and participation. I expect you to come to class each session and to come prepared. Students are expected to: 1) finish the assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned, 2) attend class regularly, 3) show up to class on time, and 4) participate in class discussion. Be sure to sign the attendance sheet each time that the class meets. Students may not miss more than two lectures without it negatively affecting their grade.  
Preparation. In assessing the various authors’ works, students should be able to answer the following questions: 1) What does the author seek to explain? 2) What evidence does the author
offer in support of the argument? 3) What are the key concepts? 4) From what theoretical perspective does each argument originate? 5) Are there counter-arguments that can be made? 6) What do you make of the author’s argument overall?

Grades
Grades will be based on the best two of three short quizzes (worth 8.33% each), participation (8.34%), attendance (10%), one midterm exam (worth 25%), and one final exam (worth 40%). Interested students may choose to write one six-page final analytical essay from a list of essays of my choosing. In which case, the final analytical essay is worth 20% and the final exam is worth 20% of the grade.

Each student must present on two class discussion questions and provide written commentary on another. Students presenting (or providing commentary) in a given week should talk to me after class the week before, in order to agree on what will be debated or discussed. Each student will prepare their own talking points and these presentation notes are due after class on the day that the presentation is made. Students providing commentary will also submit their notes after class discussion, and should be prepared to serve in the role of a discussant after the student presentations are made and/or during class discussion.

There will be no make-up quizzes, although one quiz may be dropped. No make-up midterm or final exams will be given without a medical or university excuse. Students must produce the appropriate documentation stating why they were not able to be in class at the exact time of the exam. If you have a problem or miss an exam, please contact me immediately (beforehand if possible).

If you miss the midterm exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam under any circumstances. For additional information about UWM University policies see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. This web site contains a list of University policies regarding such issues as incompletes, grade appeal procedures, and University policy governing academic misconduct, among other things.

The midterm exam will be given during the regular class period during the 7th week of class (Tuesday, March 4, 2014). The final exam is: Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 12:30-2:30 p.m. The optional six-page analytical essay is due on Thursday, May 8, 2014. It is due at the beginning of class at 12:30 p.m. I do not accept late analytical essay papers without a documented University accepted reason.

Students with special needs are responsible for making their needs known in the first two weeks of the semester, especially if accommodations are needed in order to meet any of the requirements of this course.

Required Readings

There are also a number of additional required readings for the course (i.e. articles, government documents and presidential speeches). All of these required readings are available on the D2L (Desire to Learn) course site. I have placed one copy of the required book on two-hour reserve at the UWM library.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments
The following schedule is subject to modification. Be sure to try to finish each day’s readings before class.

**Block I. The Nature of US National Security Policy (NSP)**

**Week #1 (1/21 Tuesday): Overview of the course.**

**Week #1 (1/23 Thursday): The Nature of US National Security Policy.**

**Week #2 (1/28 Tuesday): The Nature of US National Security Policy Continued.**

**Block II. The Domestic Setting**

**Week #2 (1/30 Thursday): The Constitution and Politics of NSP I: Bureaucratic Politics.**
The Obama Administration. Available at: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/cabinet](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/cabinet)

**Week #3 (2/4 Tuesday): The Constitution and Politics of NSP II: Public Opinion, Pressure Groups, and the Media.**
Block III. The History of NSP

Week #3 (2/6 Thursday): The Origins of Containment and NSP I. QUIZ #1

Week #4 (2/11 Tuesday): The Origins of Containment and NSP I.

Week #4 (2/13 Thursday): NSP II: During the Cold War.

Week #5 (2/18 Tuesday): NSP II: During the Cold War Continued.
Jean Jeane J. Kirkpatrick. “Dictatorship & Double Standards.” Commentary, November 1979. Bernell (pp.251-266) or D2L.
Freedom House. “Freedom in the World-Nicaragua (2012).” D2L. Note the political rights score, civil liberties score, and the status for both Iran and Nicaragua in 2012.

Week #5 (2/20 Thursday): The Beginning of the End of the Cold War.

Week #6 (2/25 Tuesday): The End of the Cold War. Why Did The Soviet Union Collapse?
Week #6 (2/27 Thursday): The End of the Cold War Continued. Why Did The Soviet Union Collapse?

Week #7 Midterm Exam: Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Week #7 (3/6 Thursday): The Early Post-Cold War Era.

Week #8 (3/11 Tuesday): The Post-Cold War Era.

Week #8 (3/13 Thursday): The Bosnia case study.

UWM Spring Recess: March 16-23, 2014

Block IV. The Contemporary Setting
Condoleezza Rice. “Rethinking the National Interest: American Realism for a New World.” Foreign Affairs, (July/August 2008). D2L.

Week #10 (4/1 Tuesday): The Threat of Terrorism I. **QUIZ #2**

Week #10 (4/3 Thursday): The Threat of Terrorism I Continued.

Week #11 (4/8 Tuesday): The War in Iraq.
Peter Wehner. “Liberals and the Surge: Wrong From the Beginning.” *Commentary,* (November 2008). D2L.

Weeks #11 (4/10 Thursday): The Threat of Terrorism Part II.


Week #12 (4/17 Thursday): Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Debate over Counterterrorism (CT) vs. Counterinsurgency (COIN).
Max Boot. “How We Can Win in Afghanistan.” Commentary. (November 2009). D2L.

Useful website: <http://www.longwarjournal.org>

Week #13 (4/22 Tuesday) Barack Obama QUIZ #3
Barack Obama. “Renewing American Leadership.” Foreign Affairs, (July/August 2007). D2L.

Week #13 (4/24 Thursday): Intelligence Collection: “Enhanced Interrogation” or “Torture?”

Week #14 (4/29 Tuesday): Intervention in Libya*


Andrew McGregor. “Special Commentary on Libya: It Didn’t Start This Way, But It’s a War For Oil.” *Jamestown Foundation,* (April 18, 2011). D2L.


**Week #14 (5/1 Thursday): The Arab Spring.**


**Week #15 (5/6 Tuesday): Soft Power**


**Week #15 (5/8 Thursday): The Drone Warfare Debate**


Useful website for tracking the number of drone strikes: <http://www.longwarjournal.org>

*Other readings may be assigned during the last two weeks of class.

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 12:30-2:30 p.m.**