Conduct of American Foreign Affairs
Political Science 423
Section 001

Professor: Steven B. Redd
Office: NWQ B 5414
Office Hours: T, R 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
(and by appointment)
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University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Spring Semester 2013
TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Chemistry 197
Prerequisite: Junior standing

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine U.S. foreign policy in detail. Specifically, we will be focusing on issues that face the United States and how the participants in the foreign policy process actually conduct foreign policy. To do so, we will briefly review key concepts that influence U.S. foreign policy such as the structure of the international system, power and capabilities, relevant actors, models of foreign policy decision making, perceptions, and historical perspectives or themes such as the Cold War. We will then concentrate on how U.S. foreign policy varies by region as well as what current regional issues are of most concern to U.S. policy makers. We will also discuss “hot topics” such as economic foreign policy, nuclear proliferation, human rights, terrorism, etc. The objective of this course is to help you understand how a knowledge of the past, the current actors, the environment, the decision process as well as the type of issue under consideration all help to determine how U.S. foreign policy will be carried out in the contemporary world arena and how U.S. foreign policy ultimately affects you.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


The required text can be purchased at the UWM Bookstore or at one of a couple of on-line vendors. I have included two links below: one to the publisher of the course book and one to Amazon. You can buy your textbooks through any source you choose. But be sure you get the right book! Also, be aware that sometimes online vendors are unreliable in shipping books in a timely manner—depending on the vendor and the mode of shipping you choose.

http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/American-Foreign-Policy-9E/9780205854721.page
COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your grade will be based on the following components: two exams, a crisis report, and a research paper. The calculation of your grade will be determined as follows:

MIDTERM: 20% (Thursday, March 14)
FINAL EXAM: 35% (Tuesday, May 14, 10:00-12:00 PM)
CRISIS REPORT: 20% (Due Tuesday, April 2, beginning of class)
RESEARCH PAPER: 25% (Due Thursday, May 2, beginning of class)

94%-100% = A 90%-93% = A-
87%-89% = B+ 84%-86% = B 80%-83% = B-
77%-79% = C+ 74%-76% = C 70%-73% = C-
67%-69% = D+ 64%-66% = D 60%-63% = D-
0%-59% = F

EXAMS: Both of the exams will cover material included in the assigned readings and class lectures. The midterm exam will include material covered up to that exam date. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive. Both exams may include true/false statements, multiple choice questions, matching sections, identifications, short answers, and essay questions. Absolutely no makeup exams will be given without a university-approved excuse. If you have a university-approved excuse and miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately, beforehand if possible. If you miss an exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam to schedule a make-up or you will not be allowed to take a make-up under any circumstances. Also, according to university policy, final examinations cannot be scheduled at a different time during the examination period or at a time preceding the examination period.

CRISIS REPORT: Each of you will write a 5-7 page report dealing with a U.S. foreign policy crisis, e.g. Haiti or Bosnia (I will provide a list of crises to choose from). All crisis report topics must be chosen and approved by my TA no later than Tuesday, February 8. Typically, these crises constitute instances in which the United States intervened in some fashion in another country. You are responsible for researching, describing, analyzing, and writing up an analytical research report dealing with your chosen crisis. Your report will need to address several basic aspects of each crisis: general description, major U.S. foreign policy goals, primary actors involved (domestic and international), U.S. domestic concerns and ramifications, U.S. international concerns and ramifications, the decision-making model employed by the primary decision makers, and positives and negatives associated with the crisis (what was done right/wrong, should we have been involved, etc.). U.S. domestic concerns and ramifications could include Congress, the media, interest groups, the public, election-year politics, etc. U.S. international concerns could include the UN, other international organizations, other countries in the region, important treaties, geopolitical factors such as geostrategic resources, locations, etc. The entire analytical report should be written from the standpoint of the U.S. decision makers involved in reacting to the given crisis. It should NOT simply be a descriptive report of the crisis itself.
This written assignment will be graded on clarity, organization, thoroughness of research, professionalism, and validity of assertions and conclusions. Naturally, it will also be graded on grammar, style, and format. It should be double-spaced, numbered, use a 12-point font, have margins of one inch on all four sides, and include a title page. In addition, all reports should include a bibliography, which should contain at least 3-5 citations from outside sources. These sources should be peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles, books, and book chapters (no Wikipedia, or similar-type internet resources, please). All reports should also contain in-text citations. Any report that does not contain in-text citations, or does so haphazardly, will receive a failing grade. Please refer to a style manual for instructions on how to cite both in text as well as in a bibliography. These reports will be graded not only for substantive content but also for grammatical and stylistic presentation as well. Therefore, I highly recommend the use of spell checks on word processors as a first step and some type of style manual for help with grammar, style, and other questions dealing with the use of English in written form. You should definitely proofread your paper before you turn it in. The purpose of this project is to provide a more detailed examination of how leaders “make” foreign policy, to determine what political, domestic, economic, and international factors contributed to the decision process and final foreign policy choice, and to compare and contrast different historical examples to see what, if anything, was learned.

Any crisis report turned in after the beginning of our class period on Tuesday, April 2, will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per day. If you have questions, please ask.

TERM PAPER: You will be required to write an 8-10 page term paper. This will take the form of a pro/con argument. I will provide a list of issues from which you may pick a topic of interest. The majority of this paper should provide a detailed analysis in support of either a pro or con position on a given issue. In other words, you must explain to me why your position is the “correct” one. One possible course of action would be to state your position, provide counter-evidence, and then refute that evidence with information that supports your position. This written assignment will be graded on clarity, organization, thoroughness of research, professionalism, and validity of assertions and conclusions. All paper topics must be chosen and approved by my TA no later than Tuesday, February 15. Papers are due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, May 3. The paper should be double-spaced, numbered, use a 12-point font, have margins of one inch on all four sides, and include a title page. In addition, all papers should include a bibliography that should contain at least 8-10 references from outside sources. These sources should be peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles, books, and book chapters (no Wikipedia, or similar-type internet resources, please). All papers should also contain in-text citations. Any paper that does not contain in-text citations, or does so haphazardly, will receive a failing grade. Please refer to a style manual (e.g., Turabian or APSA) for instructions on how to cite both in text as well as in a bibliography. The body of the paper is expected to be 8-10 pages long, which means that the bibliography is in addition to this 8-10 page limit. These papers will be graded not only for substantive content but also for grammatical and stylistic presentation as well. Therefore, I highly recommend the use of spell checks on word processors as a first step and some type of style manual for help with grammar, style, and other questions dealing with the use of English in written form. You should definitely proofread your paper before you turn it in. Any term paper turned in after the beginning of our class period on Thursday, May 2, will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per day. Again, if you have questions, please ask.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Attending class lectures is an integral part of succeeding in this course; therefore, I will take attendance each day. I understand that students get sick and have other bona fide reasons for missing class from time to time. However, if I feel that you are
missing too many classes I will inquire as to the reasons why. I also reserve the right to suggest that you drop the course or if it is too late to do so to penalize your grade appropriately. You will also be expected to contribute in a meaningful fashion to class discussions and/or answering questions concerning class readings. Of course, if you are not in attendance or have not done the assigned reading, then your grade will be negatively affected. Moreover, high grades on exams will be difficult to attain if attendance and participation are not regular because lectures and class discussions will cover material not included in the texts and test questions will also come from these lectures and discussions. I may give pop quizzes if I feel that attendance is slipping and/or the reading is not being done. No extra credit assignments will be given. You may also be invited to participate during a normal class period in a foreign policy experiment under my direction (this is actually a pleasant diversion from the normal class lectures and discussion 😊).

UWM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has several policies concerning students with disabilities, accommodations for religious observances, students called to active military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct and so forth available for you to read using the following link: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. I strongly encourage you to access this link and familiarize yourself with these policies and procedures. I specifically address the issue of academic conduct and plagiarism below.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND PLAGIARISM: Academic misconduct and plagiarism are not games, although many students treat them as such. You cheat, get caught, what’s the worst thing that could happen? A stern talking to? Failing the exam or paper? You can probably keep a straight face during the stern talking to. Heck, maybe you could even squeeze out a tear. And you might have failed anyway, so why not give it a try? Actually, failing the exam or paper is the best thing that could happen, and it is not very likely. Far more likely is that I will fail you for the course and notify the appropriate university authorities. If you want to play the “game,” please be very clear on what happens when you lose.

Plagiarism is a representation of other people's work as your own (for example, in directly quoting another source without using quotation marks). Plagiarism can be defined by using Alexander Lindley’s definition:

Plagiarism is the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own (Plagiarism and Originality [New York: Harper, 1957], p. 2). Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another.

I strongly urge you to access the following link to read a discussion of what plagiarism is and looks like http://www.ctlw.duke.edu (In the left-hand column, click on Programs, then UWP, then Plagiarism Tutorial). Another useful link concerning plagiarism as well as information pertaining to grammar and writing can be found by accessing the following link: http://webster.commnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml. See the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter UWS 14, entitled “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures,” for a discussion and range of available penalties. Severe penalties (up to the maximum allowed) should be expected for
plagiarism or other forms of cheating. Along these lines, you may NOT use a paper that you have written previously, or are currently writing for another course, for this class unless you clear it with me first. Doing so without first consulting me is considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding citation, please talk to me. While I am not looking for excuses to accuse you of plagiarizing, and therefore you need not be worried about honest mistakes, you should be aware that the following, and other similar, excuses will not work:

• “I didn’t know that I had to use quotation marks when I borrowed someone else’s prose.”
• “I used footnotes; I just didn’t use quotation marks.”
• “But I changed every fourth word.”
• “I didn’t realize that I couldn’t turn in the same paper for more than one class.”
• “I didn’t know how to reference internet sources, so I just pretended the words and ideas were my own.”
• “I thought that since you had it in your lecture notes, that I could take this idea and take credit for it as my own intellectual property.”

TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAM SCHEDULE:

The following is a tentative outline for the semester, including topics, reading assignments, and exams. Students should have read the assigned material by the class date shown.

Tuesday, 1/22: Class Introduction and basic overview of importance of studying American Foreign Policy

Thursday, 1/24: Ingredients of Foreign Policy
   Actors and the International System and Levels of Analysis; How to think about world politics: Realism, Idealism, or Radical?

Tuesday, 1/29: Structure of the International System; High Politics vs. Low Politics; Power and Capabilities (Hastedt Chp. 2)

Thursday, 1/31: U.S. Perceptions of the World and the American National Style (Hastedt Chp. 3)

Tuesday, 2/5: National Interest—what is it? What should it be? (Hastedt Chp. 1)

Thursday, 2/7: Brief History of U.S. Foreign Policy
   –1776-World War II
   –Cold War
   –Post Cold-War
   (Hastedt Chp. 1)

Tuesday, 2/12: Participants in U.S. Foreign Policy
   The Constitution and Foreign Affairs (Hastedt Chp. 6, pp. 144-153)

Thursday, 2/14: The Constitution and Foreign Affairs (cont.)
Tuesday, 2/19: The Presidency (Hastedt Chp. 7); Congress and Foreign Policy (Hastedt Chp. 6, pp. 153-171)

Thursday, 2/21: The Foreign Affairs Bureaucracy
   – State Department
   – Defense Department
   – CIA and Intelligence
   – Domestic Bureaucracies: Treasury, Commerce, and Agriculture
   (Hastedt Chp. 8)

Tuesday, 2/26: The Foreign Affairs Bureaucracy (cont.)

Thursday, 2/28: The Foreign Affairs Bureaucracy (cont.)

Tuesday, 3/5: Domestic Context of American Foreign Policy
   – Media, Public Opinion, Elections, and Interest Groups (Hastedt Chp. 5)

Thursday, 3/7: Domestic Context of American Foreign Policy (cont.); External Influences

Tuesday, 3/12: Catch-up; review for midterm exam

Thursday, 3/14: MIDTERM EXAM

Tuesday, 3/19 – Thursday, 3/21: SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, 3/26: Diplomacy and applying the Lessons of History (Hastedt Chps. 10, 4); Foreign Policy Decision Making (Hastedt. Chp. 9)

Thursday, 3/28: Foreign Policy Decision Making (cont.)

Tuesday, 4/2: Foreign Policy Issues
   Military Power, Nuclear Weapons and Strategy, and Nuclear Proliferation (Hastedt Chp. 12)

Thursday, 4/4: Military Power, Nuclear Weapons and Strategy, and Nuclear Proliferation (cont.)

Tuesday, 4/9: Arms Control, Disarmament, and Missile Defense (Hastedt Chp. 12)

Thursday, 4/11: Military Intervention, Covert Action, and the Political Use of Force (Hastedt Chp. 13)

Tuesday, 4/16: Terrorism, Drug Policy, United Nations, and Human Rights

Thursday, 4/18: International Trade/Economics (Hastedt Chp. 11)

Tuesday, 4/23: U.S. Foreign Policy: A Regional Approach
   Cold War
   Post-Cold War
   Western Europe and the European Union (EU)
Thursday, 4/25: Russia and Eastern Europe

Tuesday, 4/30: East and South Asia

Thursday, 5/2: Latin America

Tuesday, 5/7: Middle East, Africa

Thursday, 5/9: Catch-up; Review for final exam

Tuesday, 5/14: **FINAL EXAM**, 10:00-12:00 PM