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Office: 410 North Hall  
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Office hours: Fri 1:15-3:15

Political Science 359  
Problems in American Foreign Policy  
Spring Semester 2013  
MWF 12:05-12:55  
Birge 346

Course Overview

The purpose of this class is to undertake a historical and analytical examination of US foreign policy. The course is divided into three main topics. First, we will discuss the history of US foreign policy since World War II. We will examine topics such as how current US policy has evolved and what was the impetus behind our important foreign policy choices. Second, we will review some of the most salient foreign policy challenges facing the United States as it enters the 21st century. Finally, we will examine the institutions and processes that guide foreign policy formation and implementation. Questions we will examine include who are the important people setting the foreign policy agenda and what are the important institutions attempting to implement this agenda.

The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion, although the balance will be tilted slightly more toward lecture. I will typically present theories and background information in lecture format. We will use discussion format to analyze this information. I encourage everyone to participate when we engage in discussion, and I also encourage you to raise your hand with any questions when I am lecturing.

When I use PowerPoint slides, I will post outlines based on the slides on Learn@UW in advance to assist with note-taking. However, I will not use PowerPoint as much when we are engaged in discussion, and the explanations and analysis which will be raised in discussions are an important part of the course. Even when I do use PowerPoint, the outlines will not include everything in the lecture. Therefore, the outlines are a very poor substitute for attending class.

Course Grade

Your course grade will be based on a midterm exam (23%), a final exam (45%), a paper (30%), and class participation (2%).

- **Exams (23% and 45%)**: The midterm exam will be held on Friday, March 15 during our regular class meeting. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 10:05am-12:05pm, in a room to be announced. Both exams will consist of short answer questions. Please make sure that you are available to take the exams on these days. I will only allow you to take a make-up exam in case of genuine documented emergencies.

- **Paper (30%)**: The final paper will be due on May 8 in the Learn@UW drop box before the start of class (12:05). The paper assignment is to take a current issue in American foreign policy, present at least two different arguments regarding which policy the US should pursue on this issue, and make your own argument regarding which policy is best. You may
choose an issue which we discussed in class or a different issue. You are encouraged to consult with me on your paper topic, either in person or by e-mail. The paper should be approximately 4,000 words long. More details on requirements and grading criteria for the final paper will be provided in a separate document.

- **Participation (2%)**: Participation will be graded based on the quality and frequency of your participation in class discussions. For this portion of your grade, top contributors can expect to earn 2 points, regular contributors can expect to earn 1 point, and those who never or almost never contribute can expect to earn 0 points.

**Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct will be penalized with an F in this class and will be reported to the Dean of Student’s Office. To avoid such an outcome, make sure to follow written and oral instructions carefully when taking the exams and avoid using others’ work in your paper without proper citations and quotations. Questions about proper citation and quotation procedures can be addressed to me or the Writing Center.

**McBurney Center**

Students utilizing the McBurney Disability Resource Center must present their Verified Individualized Service and Accommodation (VISA) plan to me within the first two weeks of class. I am happy to work with you to arrange accommodations.

**Contacting Me**

I encourage you to visit me during my office hours (Fridays 1:15-3:15 in 410 North Hall), and I am also happy to make other appointments with 2 days’ notice. If your question is brief, you may also talk to me after class. In addition, you are welcome to contact me by email (rmcmmanus@wisc.edu).

**Readings**

The following three books are required:


Any readings which are not found in these three books will be available online at the Learn@UW website for the course. Go to https://learnuw.wisc.edu/ and log in. The course should be visible there, click on it and then go to the content section.

You are also encouraged to read the news on a regular basis. *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* are particularly recommended.
Course Outline

Note: Topics may sometimes spill over slightly between classes. I also reserve the right to make changes to this outline, but I will always notify you of this in advance.

INTRODUCTION

January 23  Course Overview

No required reading

PART I: HISTORY OF US FOREIGN POLICY

Jan 25: Pre-World War II Background
Rosati and Scott: 14-27

Jan 28: End of World War II and the Emergence of Containment
Hook and Spanier: Chapter 2

Jan 30 – Feb 1: Early Cold War
Hook and Spanier: Chapter 3 and pages 71-88

Feb 4: Vietnam
Hook and Spanier: Pages 88-100

Feb 6: Détente and Refreezing of the Cold War
Hook and Spanier: Chapters 5 and 6

Feb 8: The End of the Cold War
Hook and Spanier: Chapter 7

Feb 11: The New World Order
Hook and Spanier: Chapter 8 and pages 205-210

PART 2: CURRENT ISSUES

Feb 13: Humanitarian Intervention
Hook and Spanier: Pages 214-220 and 237-246
Feb 15-18: September 11 and Counterterrorism
Hook and Spanier: Pages 261-281, 325-329
Carter: Chapters 8 and 15

Feb 20: The Afghanistan War
Hook and Spanier: Pages 282-290 and 322-325

Feb 22-25: The Iraq War
Hook and Spanier: Pages 290-308 and 329-330
Carter: Chapter 2


Feb 27: Relations with the Middle East
Hook and Spanier: Pages 340-351

Mar 1: Libya and Syria
TBD – I may assign a brief reading on the latest situation in Syria.

Mar 4: Nuclear Proliferation: Iran
Carter: Chapter 4

Mar 6-8: Nuclear Proliferation: North Korea
Carter: Chapter 5

Mar 11: Relations with China
Hook and Spanier: Pages 351-354
Carter: Chapter 12

Mar 13: Review
No reading – Please bring questions.

Mar 15: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Mar 18: Relations with Russia
Hook and Spanier: Pages 246-251
Carter: Chapter 6

Mar 20: Globalization and Economic Crisis
Carter: Chapter 10

Mar 22: No Class

March 25-March 29: SPRING BREAK

Apr 1: Relations with Latin America
Carter: Chapters 3 and 9

Apr 3: Relations with Africa
Carter: Chapter 7

Apr 5: The US and International Law (Guest Lecturer: Jessica Clayton)
No reading

Apr 8: Future of US Role in the World

PART 3: INFLUENCES ON US FOREIGN POLICY

Apr 10: The President
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 3

Apr 12: No Class
(An excellent opportunity to work on your final paper)

Apr 15: The President and NSC
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 4

Apr 17: Congress and the Courts
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 10
Apr 19: The State Department
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 5

Apr 22: The Defense Department
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 6

Apr 24: The Intelligence Community
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 7

Apr 26: US Foreign Economic Policy
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 8

Apr 29: Models of Decision-Making
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 9

May 1-3: Public Opinion
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 11

May 6: Interest Groups
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 13

FINAL PAPER DUE May 8, 12:05

May 8: The Media
Rosati and Scott: Chapter 14

May 10: Review
No reading – Please bring questions.

May 15 FINAL EXAM, 10:05am-12:05pm, room TBA