

Formulation of American Foreign Policy

Professor Susan H. Allen

University of Mississippi

Political Science 338

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Contact Information

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Course Description

In this course, we will examine American foreign policy and the decision-making processes that have shaped our foreign policy in the past. Our discussion will cover the major theoretical approaches as well as important historical events. Knowing the history of American foreign policy provides insight into the current issues and controversies governing how policy is made today.

Because of the preeminent position of the United States in the international system, its foreign policy decisions have important implications for Americans as well as individuals in other states. What role should the United States play on the world stage militarily? What role should the U.S. play diplomatically? What is the interplay between those two roles?

Course Objectives

- Develop a basic understanding of the historical debates and competing perspectives that have shaped US foreign policy over time.
- Gain awareness of the diverse actors and interests that influence US foreign policy and their points of entry into the policy.
- Explain the Constitutional division of powers in foreign policy and compare that to the practice of foreign policy.
- Describe the historic tensions between the executive and legislature in foreign policy.

- Integrate theory when examining and discussing current policy as well as historical cases.
- Strengthen critical thinking skills and apply them to contemporary policy debates, including the ability to identify and analyze key issues in US foreign policy and offer practical solutions.
- Improve professional skills including clear and effective oral presentation, written argumentation, policy memo and policy brief formulation.

Expectations

- Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all class sessions. To do so, all of the readings must be completed in a timely fashion. This course will largely be driven by discussion and your insights on the readings. Be prepared to participate and engage the material. Preparation is a portion of your final grade.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good world citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with international events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), The Financial Times (www.ft.com), the Wall Street Journal (www.wsj.com), or the International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.

A Note about Classes in the Time of Pandemic

These are unprecedented times, and none of signed up for this. We didn't ask for a pandemic or social distancing or online learning. We've got to do the best we can, be flexible, and offer each other support and compassion. If you have questions, ask them – about course content, about anything. If you aren't feeling well, let me know. If something about the mechanism of this class isn't working for you, tell me. Communication is key in these weird times. I'm going to try to do as much as I can, but if there are ways I can help or do better, let me know. These are uncharted waters.

A Note about Office Hours

My office hours will take two different forms this semester. On Thursdays, I will hold zoom office hours from 11:30AM-12:30PM. This is will a pretty standard format for

lots of faculty this semester. I am going to hold an additional “office” hour each week on Monday from 12-1PM. I’ll be out walking at the South Campus trails. If you’d like to meet me in person, this is a chance to do so – but maybe give me some warning so that I know to look for you. Please feel free to check in during these periods. At the heart of the undergraduate experience are the relationships we build with others. Office hours are a chance to build more of a relationship with me, to take about questions about the readings or the class, to discuss how things are going for you more generally. Also if you are reading your syllabus carefully, you now know that you’ll get a small amount of extra credit for checking in once during the semester for at least fifteen minute during office hours. You never know when you might need a letter of recommendation, and the students I can write the best letters for are those who I have a relationship with. Office hours are a chance for us to communicate outside of the pressure and sometimes hurried nature of class. Plus office hours are super-boring if no one comes. I set aside these hours each for you. Feel free to take advantage of them.

Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. One book is required for the class:

- Kaufman, Joyce P. 2016. *A Concise History of U.S. Foreign Policy*

Other materials will be made available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

The requirements for this course include two exams, a short briefing paper, a longer collaborative National Security estimate, and solid class participation. These elements are weighted as follows:

- Midterm 25%
- Final 25%
- Individual Brief 20%
- Group Brief 15%
- Preparation and Participation in Class Activities 15%

Late Assignments: All work for the course must be handed in on time. All late assignments will be penalized one FULL LETTER GRADE for each day past the

deadline. If papers will be late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please let me know as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion.

Makeup Exams: Requests to take examinations at times other than those listed above must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to take an exam, the decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is again at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do some will result in a zero for the assignment at the very least.

ADA: Any student with a disability that might affect class performance should notify me as soon as possible. Ole Miss can make a variety of accommodations and arrangements that help insure equal opportunity. It is your right and we are glad to work with you on this. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

Grading for Political Science Majors and Minors: It is the policy of the political science department that no grade lower than a C can be counted towards either a major or minor in political science. This course will be graded using the plus/minus scale.

Attendance Verification: “The university requires that all students have a verified attendance at least once during the first two weeks of the semester for each course. If attendance is not verified, then a student will be dropped from the course and any financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. Please see <http://olemiss.edu/gotoclass> for more information.

Course Outline

January 19: Course Introduction

January 21: Where are We Now?

- Kaufman, Chapter 1
- In-Class Activity on USFP the day after the inauguration

January 26: Getting Started

- Kaufman, Chapter 1
- Activity on Reading for Political Science Classes

January 28: Founding to World War I

- Kaufman, Chapter 2
- Meade, Walter Russell. 2002. "The American Foreign Policy Legacy." *Foreign Affairs* 81(1): 163-176.

February 2: The Role of the Executive

- Saunders, Elizabeth N. "Transformative choices: leaders and the origins of intervention strategy." *International Security* 34, no. 2 (2009): 119-161.
- Wright, Thomas. "The Quiet Reformation of Biden's Foreign Policy" *The Atlantic*

February 4: Foundations

- U.S. Constitution Article 1 sections 8 & 10; Article 2 section 2
- Washington's Farewell Address
- Monroe Doctrine
- The Roosevelt Corollary
- Wilson's Fourteen Points

February 9: The Interwar Period to WWII

- Kaufman, Chapter 3

February 11: Congressional Authority

- Lindsay, James M. "Congress and foreign policy: Why the Hill matters." *Political Science Quarterly* 107, no. 4 (1992): 607-628.
- Howell, William G., and Jon C. Pevehouse. "When Congress stops wars: partisan politics and presidential power." *Foreign Affairs* (2007): 95-107.
- Schultz, Kenneth. "Perils of Polarization for U.S. Foreign Policy," *Washington Quarterly* 40, 4 (Winter 2018), 7-28.

February 16: The Cold War

- Kaufman, Chapter 4

February 18: Primary Documents from the Cold War Era

- The Atlantic Charter
- The Marshall Plan
- The Truman Doctrine
- The Sources of Soviet Conduct

February 23: Simulation – The Korean War

- Reading TBA

February 25: Simulation – The Korean War

- Reading TBA

March 2: The Influence of the International System

- Putnam, Robert D. “Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games.” *International organization* 42, no. 03 (1988): 427-460.
- Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. ”Transnational advocacy networks in international and regional politics.” *International Social Science Journal* 51, no. 159

March 4: Mid-term Exam

March 9: The Role of the Bureaucracy and the Cuban Missile Crisis

- Allison, Graham T. “Conceptual models and the Cuban missile crisis.” *American political science review* 63, no. 03 (1969): 689-718.
- Krasner, Stephen D. ”Are bureaucracies important? (or Allison Wonderland).” *Foreign Policy* 7:159-179.
- JFK, Speech to The Nation, October 22, 1962

March 11: The Vietnam War and its Lasting Impact on USFP

- Excerpt from Hook on Vietnam
- David Fromkin and James Chace, “What Are the Lessons of Vietnam?,” *Foreign Affairs* 63, no. 4 (1985)
- NSC68
- The Tonkin Gulf Resolution

- The War Powers Resolution
- In class discussion and practice session for writing and editing policy memos

March 16: The Late Stages of the Cold War

- Kaufman, Chapter 5, pp. 123-34

March 18: The Role of the Military and Civil Military Relations

- Zenko, Micah, and Michael A. Cohen. "Clear and Present Safety: The United States Is More Secure Than Washington Thinks." *Foreign Affairs* (2012): 79-93.
- Miller, Paul D. "National Insecurity: Just How Safe Is the United States? – Zenko and Cohen Reply." *Foreign Affairs* 91, no. 4 (2012): 146.
- Blankshain, Jessica. 2020. "A Primer on US Civil-Military Relations"

March 23: The New World Order

- Kaufman, Chapter 6, 135-46
- Fukuyama, Francis. "The end of history?" *The national interest* 16 (1989): 3-18.
- Nye, Joseph S. "What new world order?" *Foreign Affairs* 71, no. 2 (1992): 83-96.
- Rice, Condoleezza. "Promoting the national interest." *Foreign Affairs* 79 (2000): 45.

March 25: The Role of the Media

- Zaller, John, and Dennis Chiu. "Government's little helper: US press coverage of foreign policy crises, 1945– 1991." *Political Communication* 13, no. 4 (1996): 385-405.
- Hayes, Danny, and Matt Guardino. "Whose views made the news? Media coverage and the march to war in Iraq." *Political Communication* 27, no. 1 (2010): 59-87.

March 30: US Relations with China

- Audrye Wong, "China's Economic Statecraft Under Xi Jinping," *Brookings Institution* (January 22, 2019)
- Hal Brands and Jake Sullivan, "China's Two Paths to Global Domination," *Foreign Policy* (Summer 2020), 46-51

- Lee Hsien Loong, “The Endangered Asian Century: America, China, and the Perils of Confrontation,” *Foreign Affairs* 99, 4 (July/August 2020), 52-64

April 1: The Impact of Public Opinion

- Rathbun, Brian. ”Steeped in International Affairs?: The Foreign Policy Views of the the Tea Party.” *Foreign Policy Analysis* 9(1): 21-37.
- Kertzer, Joshua D. ”Making sense of isolationism: foreign policy mood as a multilevel phenomenon.” *The Journal of Politics* 75, no. 01 (2013): 225- 240.
- Saunders, Elizabeth N. ”War and the Inner Circle: Democratic Elites and the Politics of Using Force.” *Security Studies* 24, no. 3 (2015): 466-501.
- Peer Review of Individual Briefs

April 6: 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan and the War on Terror

- Kaufman, Chapter 6.
- Western, Jon. ”The war over Iraq: Selling war to the American public.” *Security Studies* 14, no. 1 (2005): 106- 139.
- Gershkoff, Amy, and Shana Kushner. ”Shaping public opinion: The 9/11-Iraq connection in the Bush administration’s rhetoric.” *Perspectives on Politics* 3(3):525-537
- 2002 State of the Union (Video)

April 8: Class Cancelled – Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association

- Individual Briefs Due by Midnight

April 13: Pandemic Preparedness and Response

- Stacey Abrams, “American Leadership Begins at Home: The Global Imperative to Rebuild Governance and Restore Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs* (May 1, 2020)
- James Crabtree et al., “How the Coronavirus Pandemic Will Permanently Expand Government Powers,” *Foreign Policy* (May 16, 2020)
- Shane Harris and Missy Ryan, “To Prepare for the Next Pandemic, the U.S. Needs to Change Its National Security Priorities, Experts Say,” *Washington Post* (June 16, 2020)
- Michael H. Fuchs, “A Foreign Policy for the Post-Pandemic World,” *Foreign Affairs* (July 23, 2020)

April 15: The Future of Iraq and Iran

- Seyed Hossein Mousavian, “The Strategic Disaster of Leaving the Iran Deal,” *Foreign Affairs* (May 10, 2018)
- Eric Edelman and Ray Takeyh, “The Next Iranian Revolution: Why Washington Should Seek Regime Change in Tehran,” *Foreign Affairs* 99(3): May/June 2020), 131-145.
- O’Sullivan, Meghan. 2020. “The US-Iraqi Relationship can Still Be Salvaged.” *Foreign Affairs*
- In class activity

April 20: Session to Work on Group Briefs

April 22: The Future of US Foreign Policy

- Kaufman, Chapter 8.
- Kathleen Hicks, “Getting to Less: The Truth about Defense Spending,” *Foreign Affairs* 99, 2 (March/April 2020), 56-63
- Ikenberry, John. “The Next Liberal Order: The Age of Contagion Demands More Internationalism, Not Less,” *Foreign Affairs* 99, 4 (July/August 2020), 133-142

April 29: Final Exam, 4PM