

American Foreign Policy: Processes and Outcomes

Instructor: Ole J. Forsberg, Ph.D.
Resident Assistant Professor: Creighton University

Course: PLS 341 (72845)
Location: Old Gym 312
Time: 10.30 – 11.20 MWF

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Catalog Description:

PLS 341 – Issues and Challenges in American Foreign Policy (3 Credits):

This course reviews key problems of contemporary American foreign policy. Terrorism, nuclear proliferation, economic and political reconstruction of Russia, economic crisis in Asia, China and human rights, US trade, US-Middle East relations, and others are typical of the topics the course will pursue. Course will also briefly review major institutions and actors in the American foreign policy process.

Purpose:

The purpose of this class is to give you a broad background in the various theories and outcomes of American foreign policy. This grounding provides you with the necessary skills to critically evaluate the current American policies.

The course has three major parts to it. In the first part, foreign policy theories are presented. Many questions will be proposed and answered: what works, what does not, what goals are valued, how do the goals and methods reflect the state's position in the international system? The second part of the course examines case studies of some foreign policy decisions in the past. The third and final part presents the class with the research of fellow classmates—presentations of your own research into foreign policy.

Requirements:

You are responsible for coming to class prepared—at the least having read the assignments. You are also responsible for a two examinations, two policy memoranda, five foreign policy briefs, one FP analysis, and class participation (which includes any in-class activities we may have).

Required Books:

Chittick, William O. 2006. *American Foreign Policy: A Framework for Analysis*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Hook, Steven W., and John Spanier. 2007. *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*, 17th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Additional Readings:

Other readings will be assigned as necessary and available by link on the class web site, in the electronic reserve section (ERes) of the library's website, or in the reserve section of the library. If you are unable to access any of the readings, please alert me as soon as possible.

Class Policies and Expectations

Taking Notes

Note taking is an essential part of any college course, especially any course that is introductory in nature. Not only does the act of taking notes reinforce the material in question (it is not merely read and heard, but physically reproduced), it creates a record essential to preparation for quizzes and exams. If you are forced by circumstance to miss class, you will be expected to catch up on all missed notes. Make friends in the class; they will be there for you if you miss a day.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked at the beginning of class. *Tardiness counts as absence*. Since participation is a component of your grade, it is very important that you show up for class on time and participate fully. Your participation indicates that you have read the assignment, applied it, and have grappled with some of the more obvious themes. I strongly urge you to come to class with deep questions on the readings.

Late Assignments

No late assignments will be accepted.

Preparation and Participation

This is a college course. You are expected to have not only done the homework and all of the readings, but you are to have thought about the readings and *implications*. Many classes will revolve around a lecture, many around discussions brought up by you from the readings or from current events. If you are not present, you cannot take part in classroom activities.

Conduct

All students are at all times expected to be attentive, to take part in class discussions, and above all else to be courteous and sensitive towards their fellow students. Impropriety will not be tolerated. Further, emotionally charged subject material may be dealt with in this course (ethical,

religious, political, etc.); such material requires maturity and openness to views which may conflict with one's own.

Writing

All assignments need to follow the style sheet for this class. All writings reflect you and your ability (thus, plagiarism will be strongly punished). Make sure that *you* are satisfied with your finished product. Your grade depends upon how well you write.

Athletics

Notify me as soon as possible if there is a conflict between an athletic performance and a class requirement. If notice is not made in a timely manner, no adjustments will be made. As an athletic calendar already exists, such notice should be forthcoming within the first week of classes. In any case, last-minute notification will not be accepted. It is your responsibility. Club athletics do not count as excused absences.

Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, contact the Director of the Office of Disability Accommodations at (402) 280-2749. Also, as soon as is reasonable, inform me of their response.

Making-up the Exams

If you miss an exam, you must speak to me on the day of return to arrange for a time and place to take the make-up test. If you fail to do this, you will receive a zero for the exam. The make-up exam may be different than the original, not only in actual content, but also in terms of format.

If your absence is pre-planned, you need to make arrangements to take the test before you leave. This replacement examination may also be different from the one given to the rest of the class.

Cheating, Plagiarism, & Academic Dishonesty

Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty will *at least* result in an automatic failure of the course (if not expulsion from the university) and will be dealt with according to those rules outlined in the Creighton University Student Handbook (pages 25–26).
What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is both theft and cheating. It is using the intellectual property (words and/or ideas) or product of someone else without giving proper credit. This includes (but is not limited to) not citing a quotation, not citing the underlying source of a paraphrase, and not placing quotation marks around a quotation. Such undocumented use of other's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is an extremely serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that will include failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

Grades

Grade reports will be emailed to your school email account at intervals throughout the semester. Your final letter grade will be based on the following percentage scale:

90 – 100%	A		
80 – 88%	B	88 – 90%	B+
70 – 78%	C	78 – 80%	C+
60 – 70%	D		

You are responsible for keeping track of your grades and ensuring that what I have emailed is correct.

Evaluation

Your grade is calculated as:

First Examination	100	20%
Second Examination	100	20%
First Policy Memoranda	50	10%
Second Policy Memoranda	50	10%
FPH Briefs	100	20%
FPH Briefs Analysis	50	10%
Class Participation	50	10%

The Foreign Policy Happenings (FPH) Briefs

Throughout the semester, several events will take place in the world that have an impact on US foreign policies. One important skill is to be able to take a news story and draw implications for future US actions from it. This is the primary purpose of this assignment.

On the course website, there is a link titled “Policy Index”, which will take you to a listing of all FPH briefs. Clicking on the appropriate link will take you to the submission page. On that page, you need to submit a title, a brief description of the event, the implications of the event for the United States, the location of the event, and the link to the relevant newspaper article. Your submission will be immediately posted to the web site, albeit without your email or name.

You need to post five FPH briefs on the online form. The five due dates are September 10, September 26, October 5, November 5, and November 14. You may post before those dates if you wish.

FPH Briefs Analysis

Throughout the semester, the members of the class will post FPH briefs to the course website. These writings are available to each and every member of the class. By the end of the semester, a

picture of this country's position in the world and how its decisions affect (and are affected) by the world will begin forming. This analysis paper will be your description of this picture.

In two pages or less (*hard upper limit*), describe a trend in our foreign policy that you detect. This trend could deal with humanitarian issues, similarities in how we deal with similar situations, differences in how we deal with similar situations, areas of the world that we affect more than others, etc. It is your decision as to what you emphasize.

Make sure that you properly cite and reference your sources. I cannot emphasize this enough. Its due date is December 5. There is no online place to put this. Print it out and hand it in at the beginning of class.

Policy Memoranda // Short Writing Assignments

To hone your analytical and communication skills, each student will write two policy memoranda on some current issue (of your choice) in US foreign policy.

Imagine you are an advisor to the president. In this capacity, you need to write a policy memorandum analyzing an issue in US foreign policy and recommend a specific course of action. For the assignment, you cannot simply summarize the issue or describe what your administration has done. Rather, you must make a reasoned argument in favor of a *specific policy action*. The policy memorandum will be 4 – 5 pages in length.

The due dates are October 12 and November 19.

Topic and Reading Calendar:

Remember that you are expected to keep abreast of the news on a daily basis; this includes days we do not meet. I read the following online sources: BBC International and Al Jazeera. I expect you to at least be familiar both of these newspapers and their news stories regarding international events. If this is an AMERICAN Foreign Policy course, why do you need to know what is happening in the world? International events both shape and reflect our foreign policy decisions. The events also give us opportunities to predict our responses.

The reading assignments listed below are assignments DUE ON THAT DATE. Thus, the Ch 1 (Chittick) reading assignment is to be done by class on 31 August.

The '(Chittick)' refers to *American Foreign Policy: A Framework for Analysis*, by William O. Chittick. The '(Hook)' refers to *American Foreign Policy since World War II*, by Steven Hook and John Spanier. Additional readings are provided in standard reference style.

SECTION 0: INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS

August 22

SECTION 1: THEORIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

August 24

Theory in International Relations: Realisms

→ For now, *focus* on the news

August 27

Theory in International Relations: Liberalisms

→ For now, *focus* on the news

August 29

Theory in International Relations: Idea-isms

→ For now, *focus* on the news

August 31

Chittick's Framework for Analysis

→ Chapter 1 (Chittick)

SECTION 2: AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

September 3 **Labor Day (No Classes)**

September 5

America's Approach to Foreign Policy

→ Chapter 1 (Hook)

September 7

Early History of American Foreign Policy

→ Chapter 2 (Chittick)

September 10

Isolation to Hegemony

→ Chapter 3 (Chittick)

⊙ **FPH Brief due**

SECTION 3: THE CONTEXT OF FOREIGN POLICY: THE COLD WAR AND BEYOND

September 12

From Hot War to the Cold War

→ Chapter 2 (Hook)

→ Pages 116 – 133 (Chittick)

September 14

The Hopes and Failures of Containment

→ Chapter 3 (Hook)

→ Pages 133 – 143 (Chittick)

September 17

The Era of Superpower Détente

- Chapter 6 (Hook)
- Pages 143 – 153 (Chittick)

September 19

The Reagan Era

- Chapter 7 (Hook)

September 21

And They All Come Tumbling Down

- Chapter 8 (Hook)
- Pages 153 – 160 (Chittick)

September 24

After the Fall

- Chapter 9 (Hook)

September 26

All Alone

- Chapter 10 (Hook)
- ⊙ **FPH Brief due**

SECTION 4: MODELS OF DECISION MAKING

September 28

Internal and External Actors

- Chapter 8 (Chittick)

October 1

The Institutional Model

- Chapter 9 (Chittick)

October 3

The Organizational Behavior Model

- Chapter 10 (Chittick)

October 5

The Governmental Politics Model

- Chapter 11 (Chittick)
- ⊙ **FPH Brief due**

October 8

The Majoritarian Model

- Chapter 12 (Chittick)

October 10

The Pluralist Model

- Chapter 13 (Chittick)

October 12

The Elitist Model

- Chapter 14 (Chittick)
- ⊙ **Policy Memoranda I due**

October 15 **No Classes (Fall Break)**

October 17 **No Classes (Fall Break)**

October 19 **No Classes (Fall Break)**

October 22

Other Analyses

→ Hermann, Margaret G., and Charles F. Hermann. 1989. "Who Makes Foreign Policy Decisions and How: An Empirical Inquiry." *International Studies Quarterly* 33(December): 361 – 387.

→ Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models of the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review*. 63(September): 689 – 718.

October 24

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October 26

Midterm Exam

SECTION 5: THE NEW FOREIGN POLICY

October 29

The World Community

→ Chapter 5 (Chittick)

October 31

Security Policy

→ Chapter 6 (Chittick)

November 2

No Class (Conference)

November 5

No Class (Conference)

⊙ **FPH Brief due**

November 7

Economic Policy

→ Chapter 7 (Chittick)

November 9

Economic Policy

→ Chapter 7 (Chittick)

November 12

Free Trade and Its Effects

→ Nollen, Stanley D., and Dennis P. Quinn. 1994. "Free Trade, Fair Trade, Strategic Trade, and Protectionism in the U.S. Congress, 1987-88." *International Organization*. 48(Summer): 491 – 525.

→ 2003. "U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement." *American Journal of International Law*. 97(July): 699 – 700.

November 14

International Law and Foreign Policy

→

⊙ **FPH Brief due (final one)**

SECTION 6: CASE STUDIES IN US FOREIGN POLICY

November 16

Eisenhower and the Suez Crisis

→ Shupe, Michael C., William M. Wright, Keith W. Hipel, and Niall M. Fraser. 1980. "Nationalization of the Suez Canal: A Hypergame Analysis." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 24(September): 477 – 493.

November 19

Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs

→ Gleijeses, Piero. 1995. "Ships in the Night: The CIA, the White House and the Bay of Pigs." *Journal of Latin American Studies*. 27(February): 1 – 42.

⊙ **Policy Memoranda II due**

November 21 Thanksgiving – No Classes

November 23 Thanksgiving – No Classes

November 26

Vietnam and Kennedy (and Johnson and Nixon and Ford)

→ Khong, Yuen Foong. 1987. "Seduction by Analogy in Vietnam: The Malaya and Korea Analogies." In *Institutions and Leadership: Prospects for the Future*, eds. Kenneth Thompson. (Catalogue number; E876 .I57 1987)

November 28

Carter and the Olympics

→ Bloomfield, Lincoln P. 1982. "From Ideology to Program to Policy: Tracking the Carter Human Rights Policy." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 2(Autumn): 1 – 12.

November 30

Reagan and Libya

→ Austin, Granville. 1986. "The Libya Raid and the Arab-Israel Dispute." *Journal of Palestine Studies*. 15(Summer): 99 – 111.

→ Stork, Joe. 1986. "Mad Dogs and Presidents." *MERIP Middle East Report*. 140(May): 6 – 10.

December 3*Clinton and Haiti*

- Foreign Policy Editors. 1996. "Was Intervening in Haiti a Mistake?" *Foreign Policy*. 102(Spring): 134.
- Rotberg, Robert I. 1996. "Clinton Was Right" *Foreign Policy*. 102(Spring): 135 – 141.
- Sweeney, John. 1996. "Stuck in Haiti." *Foreign Policy*. 102(Spring): 142 – 151.

December 5

- ⊙ **FPH Briefs Analysis due**

SECTION 7: BACK TO THE FUTURE.**December 7***What is the future of US foreign policy?*

- Chapter 13 (Hook)
- Chapter 15 (Chittick)

December 11 (8.00 – 9.40): Final Exam**End Matter****Changes and Supremacy**

Should it become necessary to change the syllabus, an announcement in class will be made that the new syllabus is posted on the class website. In the event of a discrepancy between this printed syllabus and the website's syllabus, the website will take precedence.

Class Website

All classroom documents can be found at the classroom website. This website will also contain supplemental notes and documents. Anything posted to the website will be assumed read by every member of the class.

The website address is

<http://oforsber.kvasaheim.com/courses/pls341/>