

PO SC 363
FALL 2009
COURSE SYLLABUS

Classes: 3:30-4:45 TTh
233 Brackett Hall

VLADIMIR MATIC
Office: 230 Brackett Hall
Hours: 12:30-2:00 TTh
or by appointment
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DESCRIPTION:

The course UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY will focus current developments in the world from the perspective of American interests, and in the framework of theories of realism, liberalism and constructivism. It will examine the challenges in the Post Cold War era and the U.S. position, role and strategies in this changing global environment. The issue of international terrorism and the U.S. response to this threat will be highlighted from that perspective including interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

An introduction to Foreign Policy – general theory of international relations and some specific characteristics of U.S. involvement in world politics and a concise survey of the history of the American diplomacy will be accompanied by analysis of major contemporary issues and a review of the American foreign policy today and the U.S. engagement in six regions of the world.

REQUIRED READINGS:

US Foreign Policy by Michael Cox & Doug Stokes, Oxford University Press 2008 and a course packet – a collection of articles and documents. In addition copies of newly published articles on the topics to be discussed will be handed out.

Since the subject of the course are current events and ongoing processes will be examined and analyzed students will be required to follow the news and to read related articles in major national newspapers (New York Times and/or Washington Post).

SUPPLEMENTARY SUGGESTED READINGS:

Use of the Clemson library is strongly recommended. A list of reference books and electronic resources with useful links is attached.

Reports and other papers published by the Woodrow Wilson Center, United States Institute of Peace, International Crisis Group, Foreign Affairs Council, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, Carnegie Endowment and Rand Corporation as well as other think tanks will provide major sources along with articles in Foreign Affairs, Current History, Foreign Policy and National Interest (a list of their and other useful websites is attached).

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

A mid-term examination – a test and an essay (Thursday, September 24) will be evaluated on the basis of demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of the related material in the text book, lectures and articles in the anthology.

There will be 2 tests/quizzes and 6 short papers.

An independent research of a topic related to the U.S. foreign policy in one of the six regions will be conducted by each student and the results presented in class and a summary (3 pages). The topic of this research, issues to be treated and a research plan will be required in advance.

The final exam – a test and an essay will focus both U.S. involvement in the world and underlying concepts of American foreign policy.

The final grade will be based on the following formula:

Mid-term exam 20%

2 tests/quizzes 10%

6 short papers 30%

Class presentation 10%

Final exam 30%

Regular attendance and participation in all class activities will be required. Unexcused or excessive absence (more than two) may adversely affect the final grade (one point deduction for each missed class after the first two excused). The excuses should be submitted (email) in advance. Students may be allowed to make up the work missed only after the reason of absence has been reviewed.

First class attendance policy will be strictly enforced.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Section 1

Introduction (August 25 & 27 and September 1):

1. Foreign Policy and Political Science
 2. Character of International Relations & Law
 3. Sovereignty and Foreign Affairs
 4. National Interest and Principles
 5. Instruments of Foreign Policy
 6. Diplomacy – Bilateral and Multilateral
- US Foreign Policy introduction
 - On American Principles by G. Kennan
 - The Sources of American Legitimacy by R. Tucker & D. Hendrickson
 - Redefining the National Interest by J. Nye

Foreign Policy Concepts and Theories of International Relations (September 3 & 8):

1. Realism
 2. Liberalism and Idealism
 3. Constructivism
 4. Unilateralism-Multilateralism
 5. Activism-Isolationism
- US Foreign Policy chapters 1 & 2

Decision Making and Decision Makers (September 10 & 15):

1. The Constitution and Historic Context
 2. The President
 3. The Congress
 4. Other Participants and Influences
- US Foreign Policy chapters 2, 6 & 9
 - A Struggle for the President's Heart and Mind by B. Woodward
 - How 3 weeks of War in Iraq Looked from the Oval Office (NYT article)

Foreign Policy till the End of XIX Century (September 17):

1. Early Foreign Policy Concepts; Washington, Hamilton-Jefferson
 2. Monroe Doctrine
 3. Growth of the Nation and Expansion
 4. Spanish-American War and Debates at the Turn of the Century
- US Foreign Policy chapters 2 & 3

Diplomacy in the XX Century (September 22 & 29 and October 1 & 6)

1. World War 1 and Paris Peace Conference
 2. World War 2 – Teheran, Moscow, Yalta, Berlin
 3. Cold War – Truman Doctrine & Marshall Plan, Korean War, Suez Crisis, Arms Race & Arms Control, Conflicts by Proxy
- US Foreign Policy chapters 3 & 4
 - Tapes: The Atlantic Charter, Cuban Missile Crisis

Beyond the Cold War – Continuity and Change (October 8 & 15):

1. United States as the Only Superpower
 2. Unilateralism or Multilateralism; Isolationism?
 3. Alliances and Bilateralism
 4. International Terrorism
- US Foreign Policy chapters 5, 17, 18, 20, 21 & 22
 - The Lonely Superpower by S. Huntington
 - Why Export Democracy by J. Ikenberry
 - U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq by J. Nye
 - After Iraq, Shrinking Horizons by M. Abramowitz
 - Bush's Revolution by I. Daalder & J. Lindsay
 - Think Again: Bush's Foreign Policy by M. Leffler
 - America and the Ambivalence of Power by J. Ikenberry
 - A Critique of the Bush Administration's National Security Strategy by L. Korb & C. Wadhams
 - The Age of Nonpolarity by R. Haass, Foreign Affairs, May/June 2008
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Section 2 – lectures will be followed by presentation of specific topics

U.S. Policy in the Middle East (October 20, 22 & 27):

- US Foreign Policy chapter 11

The U.S. and the European Union (October 29 and November 3):

- US Foreign Policy chapter 12

The U.S. and Russia (November 5):

- US Foreign Policy chapter 13

The U.S. and China (November 10 & 12):

- US Foreign Policy chapter 14

U.S. Policy in Latin America (November 17 & 19):

- US Foreign Policy chapter 15

U.S. Policy in Africa (November 24 and December 1):

- US Foreign Policy chapter 16

Class presentation:

The topic related to one of the regions or a major power will be selected by the student and the proposal submitted along with a research plan. After approval the class presentation and a written summary (3 pages) with a list of sources attached will be prepared. Use of power point, handouts and transparencies is recommended as well as prepared talking points but not reading. The grade will be based on use of resources, facts and arguments, quality of analysis and overall presentation of the topic.