

**Political Science 315**  
**American Foreign Policy**

Professor: Dr. Andrew Essig  
Office: Rm. 205 Tucker House  
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-9:50am  
                  T, Th. 11:00am-12:20pm  
                  or by appointment

Spring 2009  
Class: T, Th. 12:30 – 1:45pm  
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**Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an advanced understanding of American foreign policy. Throughout the semester you will be introduced to the range and complexity of interactions between the United States and other international actors. The goal is to enhance your ability to form critical, informed judgments on foreign policy issues. This course will focus on historical and contemporary events and their impact on America's ever-continuing search to find its place in the world. Grand strategies, revisionism/traditionalism, and the democratic peace thesis are a small sample of what will be discussed in this class.

By the end of this course I expect you to acquire the intellectual skills to view foreign policy more critically, and to understand the most significant challenges facing the United States and how it meets these challenges. Upon completing this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the types of evidence utilized by policy-makers and academics in their analysis of foreign policy.
2. Incorporate into your working vocabulary a number of terms and concepts used by scholars, policy-makers, and other actors in the area of foreign policy.
3. Acquire a working knowledge of current events in international affairs.
4. Express your knowledge of American foreign policy through written and oral communication.

This will require patience and fortitude on your part. If you are having difficulty with the material, the assignments, or simply want to talk about the course, please do not hesitate to take advantage of my office hours. If you cannot make regularly scheduled office hours, I will be happy to make an appointment with you.

**Required Readings**

The readings listed in the course schedule below should be read prior to class. Because of limited lecture time, the lectures will not necessarily repeat the readings. I will presume you have done the reading and will concentrate the lectures on clarifying key concepts and hitting analytic highlights.

1. Gaddis, John Lewis. Surprise, Security, and the American Experience, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004). ISBN 0674011740
2. Ikenberry, G. John. American Foreign Policy, Theoretical Essays: 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2005). ISBN 032115973X
3. The international section of the *New York Times* and *The Economist* are required reading for this course. These will provide you with excellent coverage of current events in the world. It is important to get into the habit of reading the newspapers and weekly journals on a daily basis if you wish to stay informed. Major current events will be material for exam questions.

## Student Obligations and Grading Procedures

As noted above students are required to have all reading assignments complete prior to class.

Attendance requirements are outlined in the 2007-2009 *Undergraduate Catalog*, p. 24. For upperclassmen, for every class missed over the permitted limit your final grade will be reduced by one full point.

Students are also required to follow those guidelines outlined in the 2007-2009 *Catalog* in relation to plagiarism, cheating, and other inappropriate behaviors, pp. 32-33.

***Please turn off cell phones, attend class on time, and no text-messaging during class!***

Your grade for this course will be based on the components listed here and explained in greater detail below:

1. Participation – 10% of final grade
  2. 2 In-Class Exams – each worth 15% of your final grade
  3. 1 major paper – 20% of your final grade
  4. 1 class presentation – worth 20% of your final grade
  5. Final Exam – worth 20% of your final grade
- Total = 100%

**Participation.** Active participation is strongly encouraged during each class. Debate and discussion are important aspects of learning and should help you attain a firm grasp on the course material. If at any time during the lecture you would like to contribute to the discussion, or you have a question, or something is unclear, please feel free to raise your hand.

**Exams.** You will have two in-class exams, and one final exam for this course. The format for each exam will be discussed prior to the designated exam period.

**NOTE:** Make-up exams will not be given unless you present evidence of a university-approved absence, and make arrangements for the make-up in advance of the regularly scheduled exam.

**Major Paper.** One major paper (8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, standard 1" margins, 12 point font size) is required for this course. The assignment will be an essay-type question for which you must present a clear thesis and support it using coherent arguments and evidence. This paper will focus on analytical concepts and theories from the course, and ask you to apply those concepts to some current problem in American foreign policy. The assignment will be handed out approximately four weeks before the paper is due. Late papers will be graded down **one full letter grade** for each day late.

**Presentation.** A presentation will be required for this course. You will select a topic in American foreign policy that interests you and give a 25-minute presentation on the main issues associated with this topic, what are the policy alternatives, and what is your policy prescription. A handout will be given in class outlining the exact requirements for this presentation four weeks prior to the presentation.

## Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	Below 60

**DISABILITIES:** Students with a documented disability who wish to request course accommodations should contact the Director of the Academic Resource Center (Dooling Hall, Room 23, extension 1239/1293)

**Course Schedule:** Please note that this schedule is subject to change, so please pay attention to announcements made in class.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
<b>Week 1</b> 13 Jan. – 15 Jan.	Introduction Major Documents	Major Documents (handouts)
<b>Week 2</b> 20 Jan. – 22 Jan.	Grand Strategies Levels of Analysis Components of power	Ikenberry, Intro Joseph Nye article
<b>Week 3</b> 27 Jan. – 29 Jan.	Traditionalism/Revisionism Realism/Liberalism	Holsti, pp. 14-34 Reisman, pp. 40-57
<b>Week 4</b> 3 Feb. – 5 Feb.	Determinants of Foreign Policy American National Security	Waltz, pp. 60-82 Leffler, pp. 84-107
<b>Week 5</b> 10 Feb. – 12 Feb.	Hegemonic Stability	Ikenberry, pp. 111-131
<b>Week 6</b> 17 Feb. – 19 Feb.	Economics and Foreign Policy Globalization	Bacevich, pp. 167-194 Waltz article
<b>Week 7</b> 24 Feb. – 26 Feb.	Values and Democracy Democratic Peace Thesis	Huntington, pp. 214-245 Ikenberry, pp. 268-286
<b>Week 8</b> 3 Mar. – 5 Mar.	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> 10 Mar. – 12 Mar.	<u>Surprise, Security, and the American Experience</u>	John Lewis Gaddis
<b>Week 10</b> 17 Mar. – 19 Mar.	America and Europe Divergent Course?	Robert Kagan “Power & Weakness”

**Week 11**

24 Mar. – 26 Mar.

Public Opinion and Foreign Policy George, pp. 333-355

**In-Class Exam #2 26 March**

**Week 12**

31 Mar. – 2 Apr.

The Lonely Superpower

Huntington, pp. 540-550

Unipolar Moment Revisited

Krauthammer, 550-563

**Week 13**

7 April

Huntington and Krauthammer cont.

**Major Paper Due In-Class 7 April**

**Week 14**

14 Apr. – 16 Apr.

America's Imperial Ambition

Ikenberry, pp. 564-575

The Bush Doctrine

Jervis, pp. 576-592

Presentations & Discussion

**Week 15**

21 Apr. – 23 Apr.

Presentations & Discussion

**Week 16**

28 Apr. - 30 Apr.

Presentations & Discussion

Review