



DESALES UNIVERSITY

Division of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Department of Social Sciences

**Political Science 315  
American Foreign Policy**

Professor: Dr. Andrew Essig  
Office: Rm. 205 Tucker House  
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00pm  
T, Th. 11:00am-12:20pm  
or by appointment

Spring 2015  
Class: T, Th. 9:30 – 10:59am  
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**Course Description:**

*A study of American foreign policy as it relates to Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Attention is given to the historical development of American foreign policy from 1945 to the present, but primary emphasis is placed on current U.S. economic and strategic interests.*

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.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

For the **Political Science major**, at the successful completion of this course the student will demonstrate the following Student Learning Outcomes with the exception of the item(s) in parentheses:

1. Understand the types of evidence used by political scientists in their analysis of the (four) sub-field(s) of political science: (American federal government, political thought,) international politics (and comparative politics).
2. Incorporate into their working vocabulary a number of terms and concepts used by scholars, policy-makers, and other actors to analyze politics.
4. Think in a critical manner about the foundations of government.
5. Express their knowledge of politics through written and oral communication.

At the successful completion of **this course** the student will demonstrate the following Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Utilize your intellectual skills to view world politics more critically.
2. Comprehend the most significant changes in our global political environment.
3. Incorporate into your working vocabulary a number of terms and concepts used by scholars, policy-makers, and other actors to analyze global affairs.
4. Acquire a working knowledge of current events and geography in international relations.
5. Express this knowledge through written and oral communication.

Achieving these outcomes 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 all the mediums through which this course will be taught: personally before, after, or during class (when appropriate); email; voicemail; telephone; discussion board; and office hours.

### **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. McCormick, James M. American Foreign Policy & Process. (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014). ISBN 978-1-4354-6272-4
3. The international section of the *New York Times* and *The Economist* are highly recommended 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 2014-2015 *Undergraduate Catalog*, pp. 17-18. 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 2014-2015 *Catalog* in relation to plagiarism, cheating, and other inappropriate behaviors, pp. 23-24.

***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 20% of your final grade
  3. 1 major paper – 20% of your final grade
  4. 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 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.

#### **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

**CoursEval:** CoursEval is the method of evaluating courses at DeSales University. If this course is selected for evaluation, the instructor will notify the students in a timely fashion. Students will be required to take this online survey towards the end of the semester. Upon completing the survey students **must** turn in a receipt of completion to the instructor. Anonymity will be maintained. All students who complete the survey will receive two points of extra credit on their final exam. All students should **make sure** that their DeSales email account is not full and that they do not forward their DeSales emails to their personal accounts (this may result in a garbled survey).

**DISABILITIES:** Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic adjustments should contact the Coordinator of Learning and Disability Services (Dooling Hall, Room 26, extension 1453)

**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
<b>Week 2</b> 20 Jan. – 22 Jan.	Historical Documents	Major Documents
<b>Week 3</b> 27 Jan. – 29 Jan.	Historical Documents	Major Documents
<b>Week 4</b> 3 Feb. – 5 Feb.	Grand Strategies Levels of Analysis Traditionalism/Revisionism	McC. Chap. 1 McC. Chap. 2
<b>Week 5</b> 10 Feb. – 12 Feb.	Realism v. Liberalism	McC. Chap 3
<b>Week 6</b> 17 Feb. 19 Feb.	<b>In-Class Exam #1</b> Int'l Roles of the U.S.	Reisman article
<b>Week 7</b> 24 Feb. – 26 Feb.	Reagan & Bush End of the Cold War	McC. Chap. 4
<b>Week 8</b> 2 Mar. – 6 Mar.	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> 10 Mar. – 12 Mar.	Clinton & Bush Post-Cold War & 9/11	McC. Chap. 5
<b>Week 10</b> 17 Mar. – 19 Mar.	<u>Surprise, Security, and the American Experience</u>	John Lewis Gaddis
<b>Week 11</b> 24 Mar. 26 Mar.	<b>In-Class Exam #2</b> America and Europe Divergent Course?	Robert Kagan “Power & Weakness”
<b>Week 12</b> 31 Mar. 2 Apr.	Obama’s Foreign Policy <b>HAPPY EASTER!!!</b>	McC. Chap. 6

<b>Week 13</b> 7 Apr. – 9 Apr.	The President and Foreign Policy	McC. Chap. 7
	<b>Major Paper Due In-Class</b>	<b>9 April</b>
<b>Week 14</b> 14 Apr. – 16 Apr.	Congress and Foreign Policy	McC. Chap. 8
<b>Week 15</b> 21 Apr. – 23 Apr.	Bureaucracies and Foreign Policy	McC. Chap. 9 McC. Chap. 10
<b>Week 16</b> 28 Apr. – 30 Apr.	Review	McC. Chap. 13